Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
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Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
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For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
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 The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.