He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm.  
In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams.  
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Also, those involved with software development may at times engage in reverse engineering, which is the practice of seeking to understand an existing program so as to re-implement its function in some way.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
Relatedly, software engineering combines engineering techniques and principles with software development.  
Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages.  
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.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.