# Portability of Early Computer Algebra Systems: First Thoughts

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May 26, 2025

**Abstract**

We have been involved in the creation of multiple software systems for computer algebra, including Reduce, Maple, Axiom and Aldor as well as a number of smaller specialized programs. We relate some personal observations on how software portability was achieved over from the 1970s to the present day. We focus on the roles of Lisp and the BCPL family of programming languages and provide a demonstration of Reduce as it was in 1973.