Top Down Design

Methodology for writing larger programs

Step 1: Divide problem into smaller, easy-to-solve subproblems

- Compile list of features
- Sketch high-level algorithm on paper
- Sketch program (in code) using **stubs** (e.g placeholder functions)

Step 2: Implement program bottom-up

- Use incremental development
- Refine design in step 1 and re-stub as necessary

Goals of TDD

Good design makes your program

- easy to build and test incrementally
- easy to debug
- well-organized
- easy for a human to read
- resistant to bugs

Rules of thumb:

NO CUT AND PASTED CODE BLOCKS!

Functions should do a single, clearly defined task

Algorithms should be clear from function and variable names

Top-down design - Analogies

Approach is the same as any you would take with a large project:

- Applying to schools
- Organizing an event
- Building a piece of furniture
- Writing a paper

TDD Example - checkbook

Step 1: List features

- Keep track of current balance
- Allow user to make deposits
- Allow user to make withdrawals
- Prevent user from withdrawing more than they have
- Print summary with current balance
- Press ‘q’ to quit

TDD Example - checkbook

Step 2: Sketch high-level algorithm on paper

Goal: subdivide program into small, easy steps

```
Get the starting balance from the user
while not timeToQuit:
    Ask the user what they want to do (withdraw,deposit,quit)
    if withdraw:
        withdraw
    elif deposit:
        deposit
    elif quit:
        timeToQuit = True
    else:
        Report an unrecognized command
```

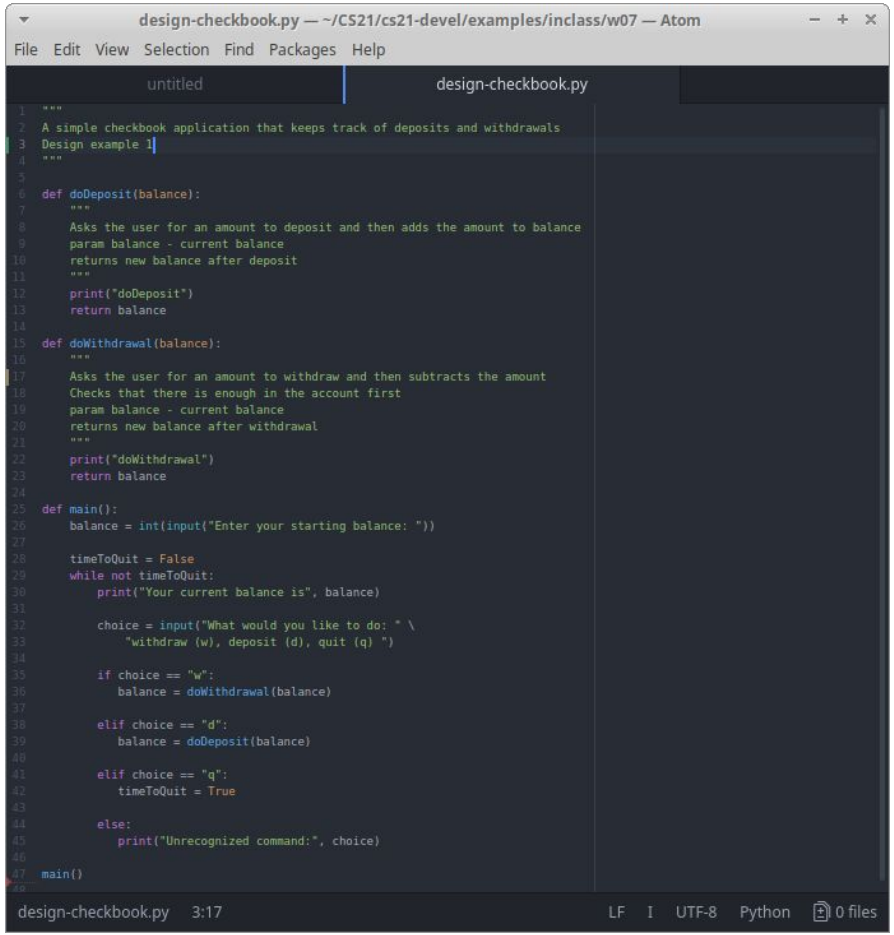
This is a small example, so we have only two functions we need to stub: withdraw() and deposit()

TDD Example - checkbook

Step 3: Sketch program using stubs

NOTE: There are multiple good potential designs (but watch out because also many bad designs that will make your life miserable!)

NOTE: This program runs!



TDD Example - checkbook

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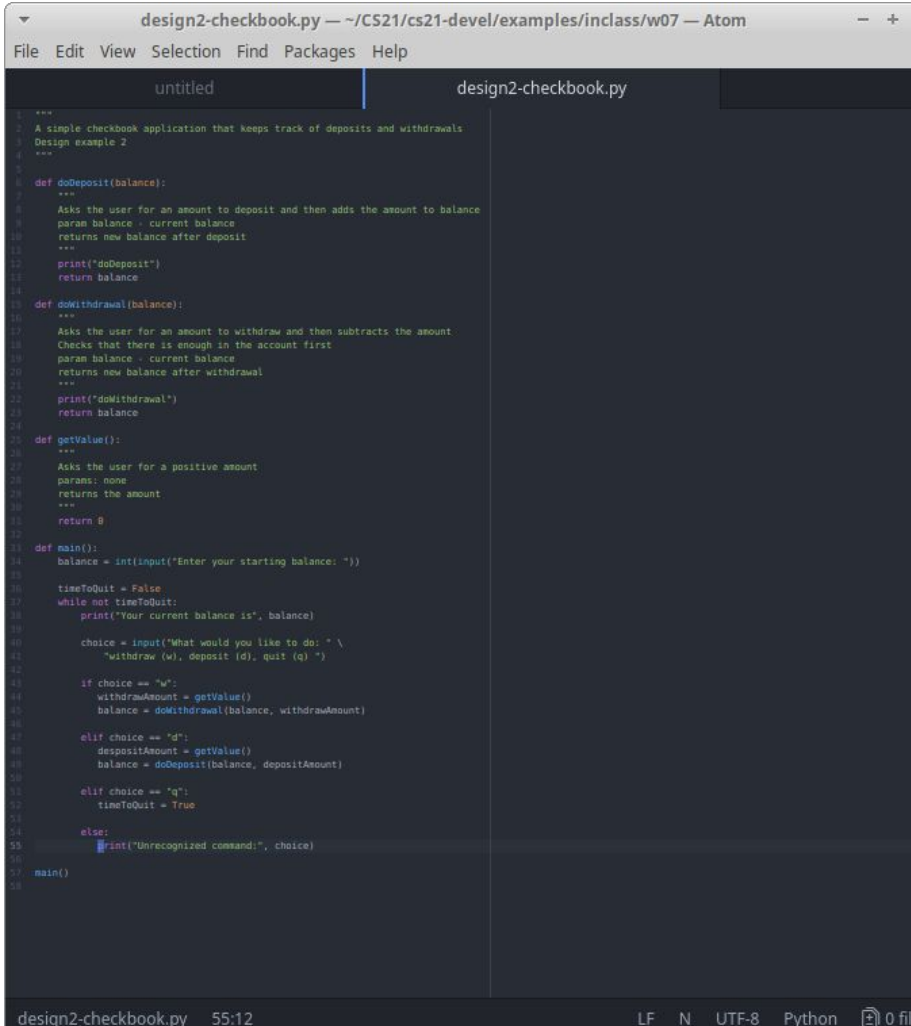

Code stubs - best practices

Your program with stubs should still **run**

Your stubs should have **comments** describing their function

Your stubs should have the **arguments** and **return type** that you expect it to use

All the stubs you define should be used somewhere in your program

TDD Example - checkbook

Bottom-up Implementation

Implement and test each stub one at a time! In class, we started with deposit and then implemented withdrawal