Top-Down Programming Example: Rock, Paper, Scissors

Step #1: Goal and General Algorithm Idea

Goal: write a game to play “rock, paper, scissors”
   The user chooses one of these, the computer chooses the other
   • If the pair is “rock, paper”, the paper wins
   • If the pair is “scissors, paper”, the scissors wins
   • If the pair is “scissors, rock”, the rock wins
Specification: user enters selection of rock, paper, scissors
   Program prints computer’s selection, who wins
   At end, computer prints number of games human won and it won
High-level design:
   initialize score
   loop
      ask user for choice
      if quit, exit loop
      computer selects one
      select winner and increment win count
   endloop
   print number of games user won, computer won, ties

Step #2: Data Representation and Program Structure

Part #1: Data
   Represent the rock, paper, scissors using strings: “rock”, “paper”, “scissors” (sequence things)
   Represent commands as strings as above, plus “quit” (sequence cmdlist)
   Store the scores in a dictionary with keys “user”, “computer”, “tie” and integer values (initially set to 0)
Part #2: Functions
   • get user input – getuser()
   • get computer choice – getcomp()
   • determine winner – whowins()
Part #3: Refine algorithm
   while True:
      userchoice = getuser();
      if (userchoice == quit):
         break
      compchoice = getcomp();
      winner = whowins(userchoice, compchoice)
      score[winner] += 1
   print You won, score[“user”], game(s), the computer won, score[“computer”], game(s)
   print and you tied, score[“tie”], game(s)
Step #3: Figure out who wins

Represent \((\text{object}_1, \text{object}_2)\) where \(\text{object}_1\) beats \(\text{object}_2\) as list of tuples, \(\text{winlist}\). To see if user won, see if the \((\text{user-chosen object}, \text{computer-chosen object})\) tuple is in that list. This leads to:

```python
def whowins(user, comp):
    if user == comp:
        win = "tie"
    elif (user, comp) in winlist:
        win = "user"
    else:
        win = "computer"
    return win
```

Step #4: Get computer choice

Given the three objects in the sequence \(\text{things}\), choose randomly. This leads to:

```python
def getcomp():
    pick = random.choice(things)
    print("Computer picks", pick)
    return pick
```

Step #5: Get user input

Loop until you get a valid input. On end of file, act as though the user typed “quit”; report any other exceptions. This leads to:

```python
def getuser():
    while True:
        try:
            n = input("Human: enter rock, paper, scissors, quit: ")
            break
        except EOFError:
            n = "quit"
            break
        except Exception as msg:
            print("Exception:", msg)
            continue
    *** check input ***
    return n
```

To check input, we need to be sure it’s a valid command, so see if it’s in \(\text{cmdlist}\)

```python
if n not in cmdlist:
    print("Bad input; try again")
else:
    break
```

Put these together to get the user input routine.