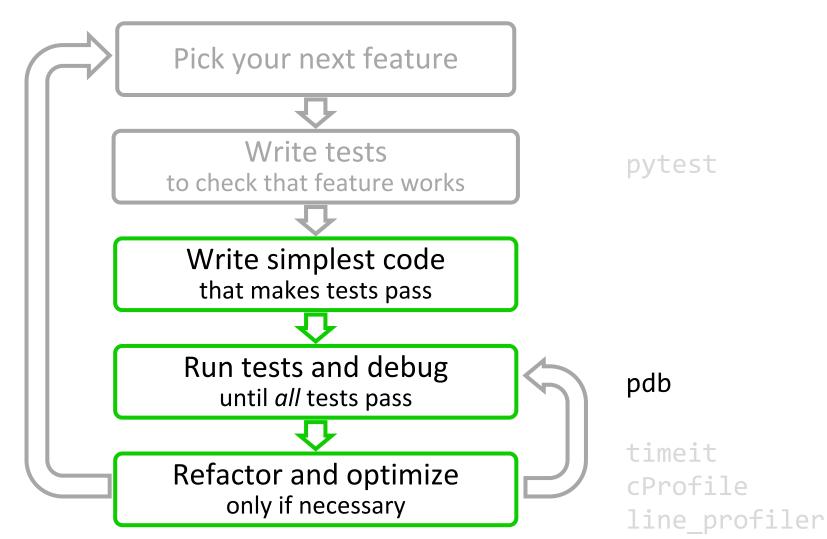
Debugging

Fix problems

Lisa Schwetlick and Pamela Hathway



The agile development cycle



What is Debugging?

- The best way to debug is to avoid bugs
 - By writing tests, you anticipate the bugs
- Your test cases should already exclude a big portion of the possible causes

 Core idea in debugging: you can stop the execution of your application at any point, look at the state of the variables, and execute the code step by step



pdb, the Python debugger

- Command-line based debugger
- pdb opens an interactive shell, in which one can interact with the code
 - examine and change value of variables
 - execute code line by line
 - set up breakpoints
 - examine calls stack

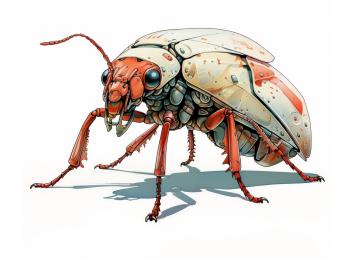


Entering the debugger

Enter debugger at the start of a file:
 python -m pdb myscript.py

• Enter at a specific point in the code (easy alternative to print):

```
# some code here
# the debugger starts here
breakpoint()
# rest of the code
```



Demonstration!

Debugging with pdb



Hands-on! — Issue #2

- 1) Go to local_maxima_part3_debug/local_maxima.py and execute it
- 2) Go to local_maxima_part3_debug/test_local_maxima.py and execute all the tests there using pytest
- 3) Fix the tests one by one and create a PR for each one you fix

pdb cheatsheet:

h (help) [command]	print help about command
n (next)	execute current line of code, go to next line
c (continue)	continue executing the program until next breakpoint, exception, or end of the program
s (step into)	execute current line of code; if a function is called, follow execution inside the function
l (list)	print code around the current line
w (where)	show a trace of the function call that led to the current line
p (print)	print the value of a variable
q (quit)	leave the debugger
b (break) [lineno function[, condition]]	set a breakpoint at a given line number or function, stop execution there if condition is fulfilled
cl (clear)	clear a breakpoint
! (execute)	execute a python command
<enter></enter>	repeat last command



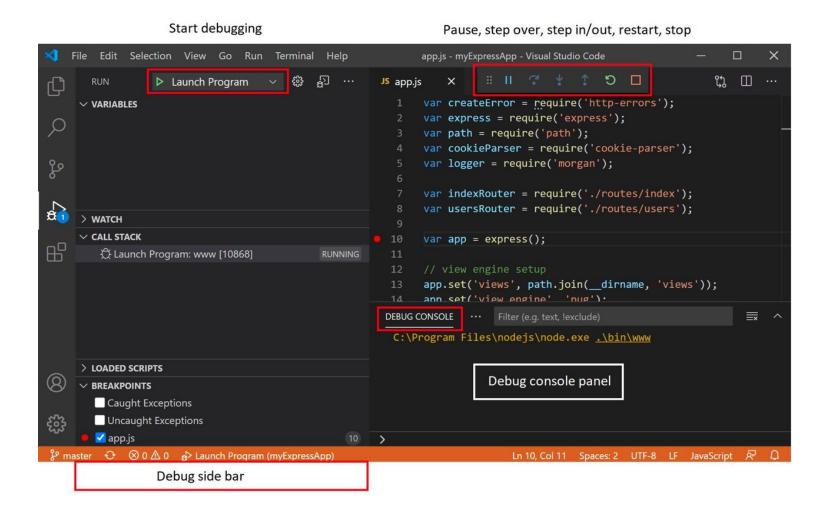
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Demonstration!

- Debugging with pdb
- Debugging from an IDE



Entering the debugger from VSCode





How to react to a bug

- 1. Add a test that matches the behavior you expect. It will fail and reproduce the bug
- 2. Debug and fix the the bug
- 3. Run the tests until they all pass (go back to 2 if necessary)

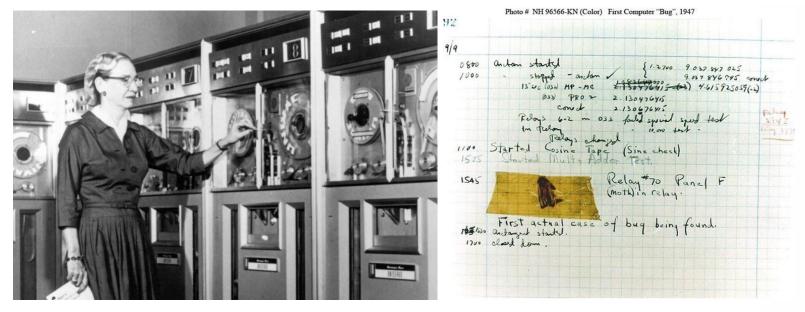
Now your bug is fixed *and* it will never occur again!



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Where does "debug" come from

Team around Grace Hopper at Harvard found a moth in their computer in 1947 in maybe the first description of a computer bug.





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Up next: Continuous Integration