Debugging

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Outline

- Debugging Basics
- Debugging with the command line: GDB
- Memory debugging with the command line: valgrind
- ▶ (Parallel) Debugging with DDT







Help, my program doesn't work!



Help, my program doesn't work! \$ gcc -03 answer.c \$./a.out Segmentation fault

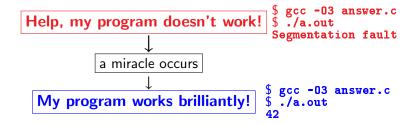




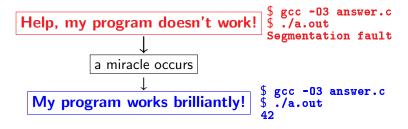












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Debugging:

Methodical process of finding and fixing flaws in software



Errors at compile time



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- ► Syntax errors: easy to fix
- Library issues
- Cross-compiling
- Compiler warnings



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Runtime errors



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Runtime errors

- Floating point exceptions
- Segmentation fault
- Aborted
- Incorrect output (nans)



Common issues

Arithmetic corner cases (sqrt(-0.0)), infinities

Memory access Index out of range, uninitialized pointers.

Logic Infinite loop, corner cases

Misuse wrong input, ignored error, no initialization

Syntax wrong operators/arguments

Resource starvation | memory leak, quota overflow

Parallel race conditions, deadlock



What is going on?

- ▶ Almost always, a condition you are sure is satisfied, is not.
- ▶ But your programs likely relies on many such assumptions.
- First order of business is finding out what goes wrong, and what assumption is not warranted.
- ▶ *Debugger:* program to help detect errors in other programs.
- ► You are the real debugger.



How to avoid debugging:

- Write better code.
 - Simpler, clear, straightforward code.
 - Modularity (no global variables or 10,000-line functions)
 - Avoid 'cute' tricks (no obfuscated C code winners)
- Don't write code, use existing libraries
- Write (simple) tests for each part of your code
- Use version control so you can 'roll back'.



Debugging Workflow

First things first:

- ► As soon as you are convinced there is a real problem, create the simplest situation in which it reproducibly occurs.
- ▶ This is science: model, hypothesis, experiment, conclusion.
- Try a smaller problem size, turning off physical effects with options, etc. until you have a simple, fast repeatable example of the bug.
- ► Try to narrow it down to a particular module/function/class. For fortran, switch on bounds checking (-fbounds-check.)
- Now you're ready to start debugging.





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 - ► Check your assumptions (e.g. use **assert**).



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- Add print statements



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- Inspect the exit code and read the error messages!
- Use a debugger
- ► Add print statements ← No way to debug!





Strategy

► Constant cycle:



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 - 1. strategically add print statements



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- Time consuming
- Error prone
- Changes memory, timing...



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- Time consuming
- Error prone
- ► Changes memory, timing. . . There's a better way!



Features



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- 1. Crash inspection
- 2. Function call stack
- 3. Step through code
- 4. Automated interruption
- 5. Variable checking and setting



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- 2. Function call stack
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Use a graphical debugger or not?

- Local work station: graphical is convenient
- Remotely (SciNet): can be slow

In any case, graphical and text-based debuggers use the same concepts.



Preparing the executable

- Add required compilination flags:
 - \$ gcc/g++/gfortran -g [-gstabs]
 - \$ icc/icpc/ifort -g [-debug parallel]
 - \$ nvcc -g -G
- ► Optional: switch off optimization **-00**



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Command-line based symbolic debuggers: gdb



GDB



What is GDB?

- Free, GNU license, symbolic debugger.
- Available on many systems.
- Been around for a while, but still developed and up-to-date
- ► Text based, but has a '-tui' option.

```
$ module load gcc/4.7.2
$ gcc -Wall -g -00 example.c -o example
$ module load gdb/7.6
$ gdb -tui example
...
(gdb)_
```



GDB basic building blocks



Demonstration of GDB features

- ▶ We will look at the features of gdb using a running example.
- Example reads integers from command line and sums them.
- ▶ There's a C and a Fortran version.

```
$ ssh USER@login.scinet.utoronto.ca -X
```

- \$ ssh gpc01 -X
- \$ qsub -1 nodes=1:ppn=8,walltime=8:00:00 -I -X -qteach
- \$ cp -r /scinet/course/ss2016/debug \$SCRATCH
- \$ source \$SCRATCH/debug/code/setup
- \$ cd \$SCRATCH/debug/code/bugexample
- \$ make bugexample #(or make bugexample_f)





Core = file containing state of program after a crash



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- needs max core size set (ulimit -c <number>)
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- can start gdb as gdb <executable>
- type run to start program
- gdb will show you where the program crashed if it does.



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Related gdb commands

run	run the executable from the start	
list	list code lines (where current execution is, or rang	(e)
		Nei

```
$ ulimit -c 1024
$ ./bugexample #(or ./bugexample_f)
Give some integers as command-line arguments
$ ./bugexample 1 3 5
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```



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\$ gdb ./bugexample core.2387 # core number varies



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Segmentation fault (core dumped)
$ gdb ./bugexample core.2387 # core number varies
GNU gdb (GDB) 7.6
Copyright (C) 2013 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
. . .
Reading symbols from debug/code/bugexample/bugexample...done.
[New LWP 3817]
warning: Can't read pathname for load map: Input/output error.
Core was generated by './bugexample 1 3 5'.
Program terminated with signal 11, Segmentation fault.
#0 0x4007d5 in sum_integers (n=3, a=0x4) at intlisttools.c:30
30
           s += a[i];
(gdb)
```

. . .

```
Program terminated with signal 11, Segmentation fault. #0 0x4007d5 in sum_integers (n=3, a=0x4) at intlisttools.c:30 30 s += a[i];
```

This points at the line where the error is detected.



. . .

```
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This points at the line where the error is detected. More context:



. . .

```
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```

This points at the line where the error is detected. More context:

```
(gdb) list
```



Program terminated with signal 11, Segmentation fault.

#0 0x4007d5 in sum_integers (n=3, a=0x4) at intlisttools.c:30

s += a[i];

This points at the line where the error is detected. More context:

```
(gdb) list

25 /* Compute the sum of the array of integers */
26 int sum_integers(int n, int* a)

27 {
28    int i, s;
29    for (i=0; i<n; i++)
30         s += a[i];
31    return s;
32 }
(gdb)</pre>
```



GDB building block #2: Function call stack Interrupting program

- ▶ Press Crtl-C while program is running in gdb
- gdb will show you where the program was.



GDB building block #2: Function call stack

Interrupting program

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Stack trace

- From what functions was this line reached?
- What were the arguments of those function calls?



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Interrupting program

- Press Crtl-C while program is running in gdb
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Stack trace

- From what functions was this line reached?
- What were the arguments of those function calls?

gdb commands

backtrace	function call stack
continue	continue
down	go to called function
up	go to caller



GDB building block #2: Function call stack

```
(gdb) list
25 /* Compute the sum of the array of integers */
26 int sum_integers(int n, int* a)
27 {
28 int i, s;
29 for (i=0; i<n; i++)
30
          s += a[i]:
31 return s;
32 }
(gdb) backtrace
#0 0x4007d5 in sum_integers (n=3,a=0x4) at intlisttools.c:30
#1 0x40082a in process (argc=4,argv=0x7fff0b89ce58) at process.c
#2 0x4006d3 in main (argc=4,argv=0x7fff0b89ce58) at bugexample.c
(gdb)
```



GDB building block #3: Variables

Checking a variable

- Can print the value of a variable
- Can keep track of variable (print at prompt)
- Can stop the program when variable changes
- Can change a variable ("what if ...")



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- Can change a variable ("what if . . . ")

gdb commands

print	print variable
display	print at every prompt
set variable	change variable
watch	stop if variable changes



GDB building block #3: Variables

Remember: We were looking at a seg fault in s += a[i].

```
(gdb) print i
     (gdb) print a[0]
     Cannot access memory at address 0x4
     (gdb) print a
     0x4
     (gdb) up
     #1 0x000000000040082a in process (argc=4, argv=0x7fff0b89ce58)
     11
            int s = sum_integers(n, arg);
     (gdb) print arg
     $1 = (int *) 0x4
     (gdb) list
     7 void process(int argc, char** argv)
     8 {
     9
           int* arg = read_integer_arguments(argc, argv);
     10
            int n = argc-1;
     11
            int s = sum_integers(n, arg);
     12 print_integers(n, arg);
13 printf("Sum of integers is: %d\n", s);
```

GDB building block #4: Automatic interruption

Breakpoints

- break [file:]<line>|<function>
- each breakpoint gets a number
- when run, automatically stops there
- can add conditions, temporarily remote breaks, etc.



Breakpoints

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- when run, automatically stops there
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Related gdb commands

deleteunset breakpointconditionbreak if condition metdisabledisable breakpointenableenable breakpointinfo breakpointslist breakpointstbreaktemporary breakpoint



```
(gdb) list
7 void process(int argc, char** argv)
8 {
      int* arg = read_integer_arguments(argc, argv);
9
10
       int n = argc-1;
11
       int s = sum_integers(n, arg);
12
      print_integers(n, arg);
13
       printf("Sum of integers is: %d\n", s);
14
       free(arg);
15 }
(gdb) break read_integer_arguments
Breakpoint 1 at 0x4006ec: file intlisttools.c, line 8.
```



```
(gdb) list
7 void process(int argc, char** argv)
8 {
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9
10
       int n = argc-1;
11
       int s = sum_integers(n, arg);
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      print_integers(n, arg);
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       printf("Sum of integers is: %d\n", s);
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       free(arg);
15 }
(gdb) break read_integer_arguments
Breakpoint 1 at 0x4006ec: file intlisttools.c, line 8.
(gdb) run 1 3 5
```



```
(gdb) list
     7 void process(int argc, char** argv)
     8 {
     9
            int* arg = read_integer_arguments(argc, argv);
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             int s = sum_integers(n, arg);
     12
            print_integers(n, arg);
            printf("Sum of integers is: %d\n", s);
     13
     14
             free(arg);
     15 }
     (gdb) break read_integer_arguments
     Breakpoint 1 at 0x4006ec: file intlisttools.c, line 8.
     (gdb) run 1 3 5
     Starting program: debug/code/bugexample/bugexample 1 3 5
     Breakpoint 1, read_integer_arguments (n=4, a=0x7ffffffffc9b8)
         at intlisttools.c:8
            int* result = malloc(sizeof(int)*(n-1));
27/41 – Ontar HPC Summerschool 2016 – Central Edition: Toronto
```

Stepping through code

- Line-by-line
- Choose to step into or over functions
- Can show surrounding lines or use -tui



Stepping through code

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gdb commands

list part of code
continue until next line
step into function
continue until function end
continue until line/function



```
(gdb) list 6,14
6 int* read_integer_arguments(int n, char** a)
7 {
      int* result = malloc(sizeof(int)*(n-1));
8
9
      int i:
10
      /* convert every argument, but skip '0', because it is ju
11
          executable name */
12 for (i=1;i<n;i++)
           result[i] = atoi(a[i]);
13
14 }
(gdb) display result
1: result = (int *) 0x0
(gdb) next
      for (i=1;i<n;i++)
1: result = (int *) 0x601010
(gdb) until 14
```



```
(gdb) until 14
read_integer_arguments (n=4,a=0x7ffffffffc9b8) at intlisttools.c:
14 }
1: result = (int *) 0x601010
(gdb) finish
Run till exit from #0 read_integer_arguments (n=4,
    a=0x7ffffffffc9b8) at intlisttools.c:14
0x00000000040080c in process (argc=4, argv=0x7ffffffffc9b8)
    at process.c:9
      int* arg = read_integer_arguments(argc, argv);
Value returned is $3 = (int *) 0x4
(gdb)
```



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(gdb) until 14
read_integer_arguments (n=4,a=0x7ffffffffc9b8) at intlisttools.c:
14 }
1: result = (int *) 0x601010
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      int* arg = read_integer_arguments(argc, argv);
Value returned is $3 = (int *) 0x4
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```

He, why is the result variable equal to **0x601010** while the value returned is **0x4**?



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Value returned is $3 = (int *) 0x4
(gdb)
```

He, why is the result variable equal to **0x601010** while the value returned is **0x4**?

Contradicts your assumption of what the program does. The program is always right, you are wrong.



Why is the result variable equal to 0x601010 while the value returned is 0x4?



Why is the result variable equal to 0x601010 while the value returned is 0x4?

```
(gdb) list read_integer_arguments,+7
7 {
8    int* result = malloc(sizeof(int)*(n-1));
9    int i;
10    /* convert every argument, but skip '0', because it is ju
11    executable name */
12    for (i=1;i<n;i++)
13        result[i] = atoi(a[i]);
14 }</pre>
```



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Aargh! Forgot the return statement!



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```

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Feeling like an idiot is a common side-effect of debugging.



GDB command summary

help	h	print description of
run	r	run from the start $(+args)$
backtrace/where	ba	function call stack
list	1	list code lines
break	ъ	set breakpoint
delete	d	delete breakpoint
continue	С	continue
step	s	step into function
next	n	continue until next line
print	р	print variable
finish	fin	continue until function end
set variable	set var	change variable
down	do	go to called function
tbreak	tb	set temporary breakpoint
until	unt	continue until line/function
up	up	go to caller
watch	wa	stop if variable changes
quit	q	quit gdb

Memory Debugging





Memory Checking: Valgrind

- ► Memory errors do not always give segfaults
- Commonly have to go way out of bounds to get a segfault.
- ▶ Write into other variable hard to find problem.
- ▶ Valgrind intercepts each memory call and checks them.
- ► Finds illegal accesses, uninitialized values, memory leaks.
- Warning: Quite verbose, typically, and, if you use external libraries, sometimes false positives. debugging too.





Valgrind example

```
$ valgrind ./bugexample 1 3 5
==909== Memcheck, a memory error detector
==909== Copyright (C) 2002-2013, and GNU GPL'd, by Julian Seward
==909== Using Valgrind-3.9.0 and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyr
==909== Command: ./bugexample 1 3 5
==909==
==909== Invalid write of size 4
==909==
           at 0x400741: read_integer_arguments (intlisttools.c:1
==909==
           by 0x40080B: process (process.c:9)
           by 0x4006D2: main (bugexample.c:12)
==909==
==909==
         Address 0x51c304c is 0 bytes after a block of size 12 a
==909==
           at 0x4C2636D: malloc (vg_replace_malloc.c:291)
==909==
           by 0x4006FF: read_integer_arguments (intlisttools.c:8
==909==
           by 0x40080B: process (process.c:9)
==909==
           by 0x4006D2: main (bugexample.c:12)
==909==
==909== Invalid read of size 4
```

Valgrind example (continued)

```
==909== HEAP SUMMARY:
==909==
            in use at exit: 12 bytes in 1 blocks
==909==
          total heap usage: 1 allocs, 0 frees, 12 bytes allocate
==909==
==909== LEAK SUMMARY:
==909==
           definitely lost: 12 bytes in 1 blocks
==909==
           indirectly lost: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==909==
             possibly lost: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==909==
           still reachable: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==909==
                suppressed: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==909== Rerun with --leak-check=full to see details of leaked me
==909==
==909== For counts of detected and suppressed errors, rerun with
==909== ERROR SUMMARY: 2 errors from 2 contexts (suppressed: 6 f
Segmentation fault
$_
```

Valgrind recommendations

- Using valgrind on mature codes often shows lots of errors. Now, some may not be an issue (e.g. dead code or false positives from libraries), but hard to know.
- So: start using valgrind early in development.
- Program modularly, and create small unit tests, on which you can comfortably use valgrind.
- Apart from this basic valgrind usage, there are other tools availble with valgrind to deal cache performance, to get more detailed memory leak information, to detect race conditions, etc. (some of which we'll discuss later).



Graphical symbolic debuggers



Graphical symbolic debuggers

Features

- Nice, more intuitive graphical user interface
- ▶ Front to command-line based tools: Same concepts
- ▶ Need graphics support: X forwarding (or VNC)



Graphical symbolic debuggers

Features

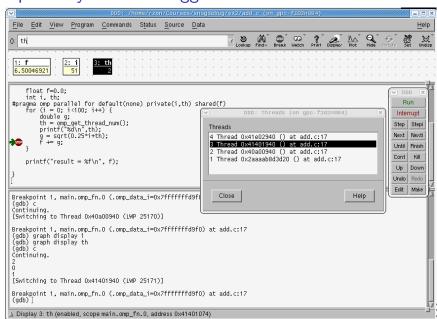
- Nice, more intuitive graphical user interface
- ▶ Front to command-line based tools: Same concepts
- Need graphics support: X forwarding (or VNC)

Available on SciNet: ddd and ddt

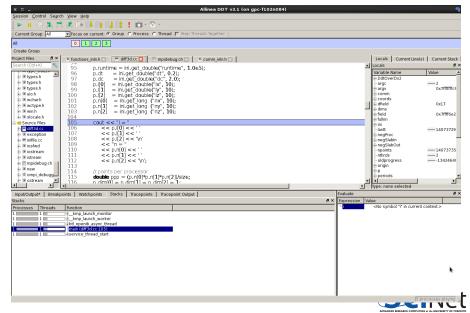
- ► ddd
 - \$ module load gcc ddd
 - \$ ddd <executable compiled with -g flag>
- ddt
 - \$ module load ddt
 - \$ ddt <executable compiled with -g flag>
 (more later)



Graphical symbolic debuggers - ddd



Graphical symbolic debuggers - ddt



DDT



DDT



- "Distributed Debugging Tool"
- ▶ Powerful GUI-based commercial debugger by *Allinea*.
- ▶ Supports C, C++ and Fortran
- Supports MPI, OpenMP, threads, CUDA and more
- Available on all SciNet clusters (GPC, TCS, ARC, P7)
- Available on SHARCNET's kraken, requin, orca and monk.
- Part of the "Allinea Forge" suite, which also includes a 'profiler' called MAP.

Launching ddt

- Load your compiler and MPI modules.
- ► Load the ddt module: \$ module load ddt
- Start ddt with one of these:
 - \$ ddt
 - \$ ddt <executable compiled with -g flag>
 - \$ ddt <executable compiled with -g flag> <arguments>
- ► First time: create config file: OpenMPI (skip other steps)
- Then gui for setting up debug session.



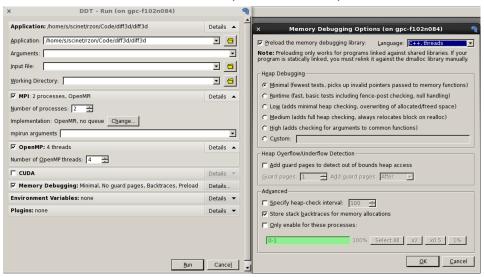
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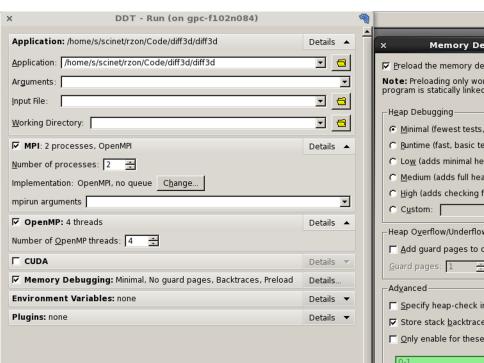


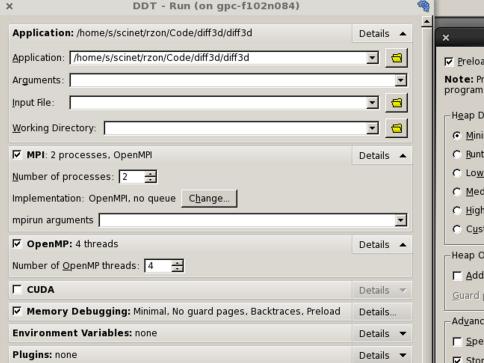
Run and Debug a Program (session setup)

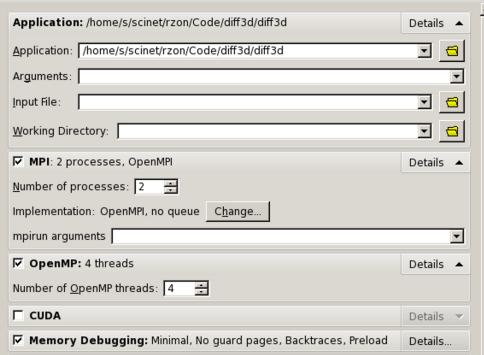


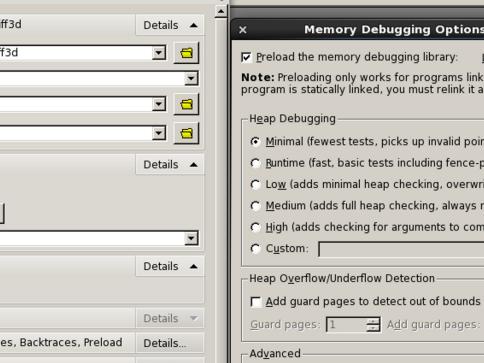


Riin and Dehiio a Program (se	ssion se	tun)
Application: /home/s/scinet/rzon/Code/diff3d/diff3d Application: /home/s/scinet/rzon/Code/diff3d/diff3d Arguments: Input File: Working Directory:	Details A	Memory Debugging Options (o Preload the memory debugging library: Lang Note: Preloading only works for programs linked a program is statically linked, you must relink it again Heap Debugging Minimal (fewest tests, picks up invalid pointers)
MPI: 2 processes, OpenMPI Number of processes: 2	Details A	Runtime (fast, basic tests including fence-post Low (adds minimal heap checking, overwriting Medium (adds full heap checking, always relounce) High (adds checking for arguments to common
✓ OpenMP: 4 threads Number of OpenMP threads: 4	Details Details	Heap Overflow/Underflow Detection Add guard pages to detect out of bounds hea Guard pages: 1
 ✓ Memory Debugging: Minimal, No guard pages, Backtraces, Preload Environment Variables: none Plugins: none 	Details Details ▼ Details ▼	Advanced Specify heap-check interval: 100 ###
<u>R</u> un	Cance <u>l</u>	Only enable for these processes: O-1



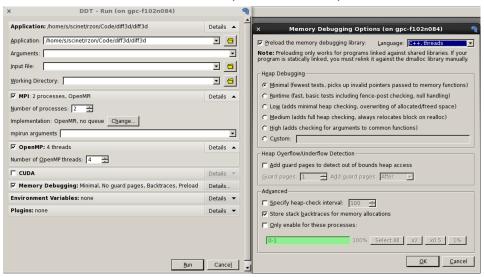






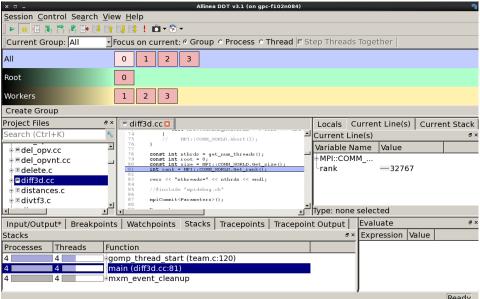
▲	
	× Memory Debugging Options (on gpc-f102n084)
	Preload the memory debugging library: Language: C++, threads ▼
	Note: Preloading only works for programs linked against shared libraries. If your program is statically linked, you must relink it against the dmalloc library manually.
	H <u>e</u> ap Debugging
	C <u>R</u> untime (fast, basic tests including fence-post checking, null handling)
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	C Medium (adds full heap checking, always relocates block on realloc)
	C High (adds checking for arguments to common functions)
	C Custom:
	Heap Overflow/Underflow Detection————————————————————————————————————
	☐ Add guard pages to detect out of bounds heap access
	Guard pages: 1 ♣ Add guard pages: After ▼
	- Ad <u>v</u> anced

Run and Debug a Program (session setup)

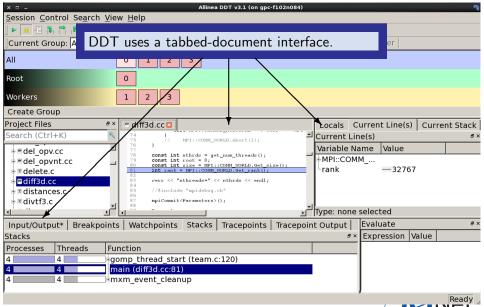




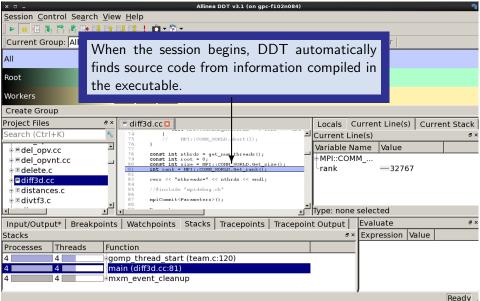
User interface (1)



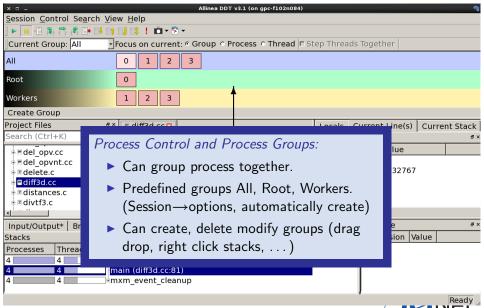
User interface (2)



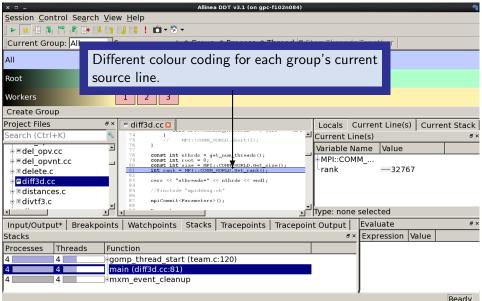
User interface (3)



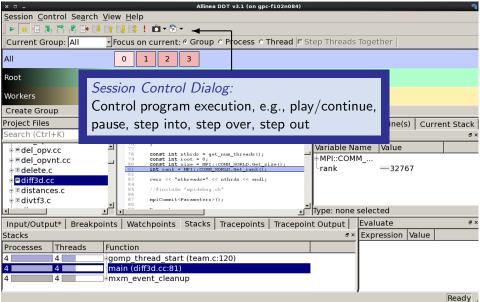
User interface (4)



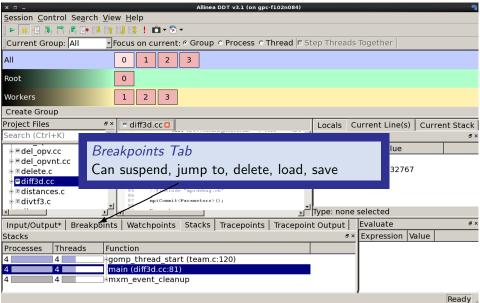
User interface (5)



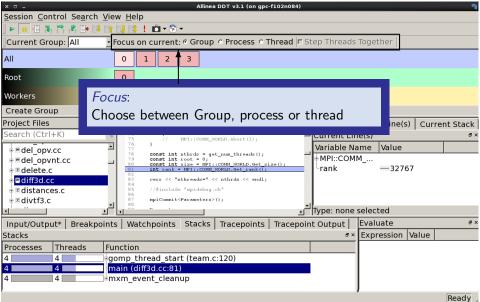
User interface (6)



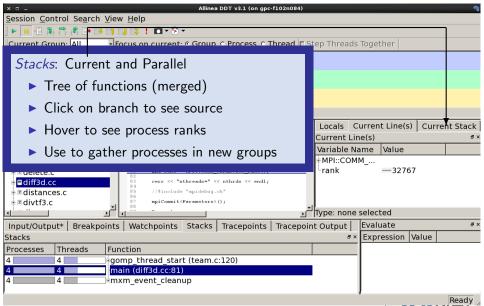
User interface (7)



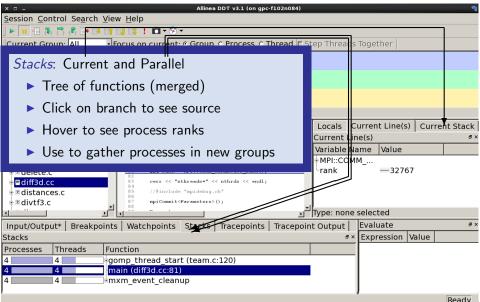
User interface (8)



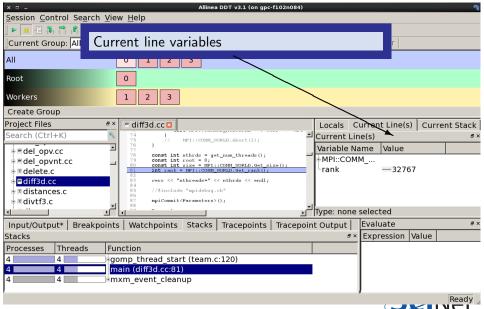
User interface (9)



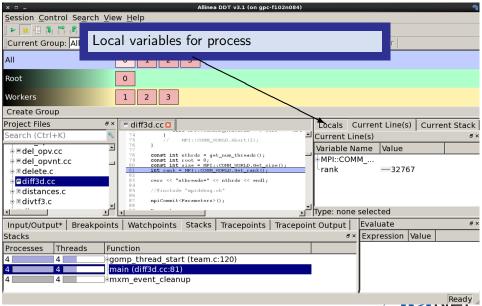
User interface (9)



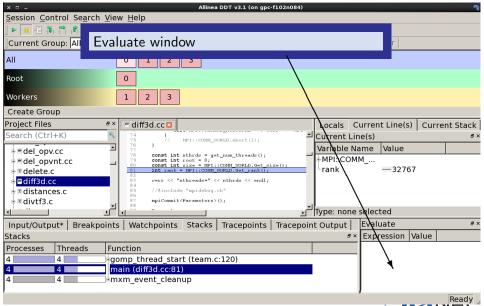
User interface (10)



User interface (11)



User interface (12)



First Demonstration DDT

- \$ cd \$SCRATCH/debug/code
- \$ source setup
- \$ cd bugexample
- \$ make
- \$ ddt bugexample



Other features of DDT (1)

- Some of the user-modified parameters and windows are saved by right-clicking and selecting a save option in the corresponding window (Groups; Evaluations)
- DDT can load and save sessions.
- Find and Find in Files in the Search menu.
- Goto line in Search menu (or Ctrl-G)
- ▶ Synchronize processes in group: Right-click, "Run to here".
- View multiple source codes simultaneously: Right-click, "Split"
- Right-click power!



Other features of DDT (2)

- Signal handling: SEGV, FPE, PIPE,ILL
- Support for Fortran modules
- Change data values in evaluate window
- Examine pointers (vector, reference, dereference)
- Multi-dimensional arrays
- Viewer



Other features of DDT (3)

Memory debugging

- Select "memory debug" in Run window
- Stops on error (before crash or corruption)
- Check pointer (right click in evaluate)
- View, overall memory stats

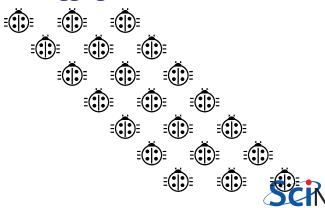


Demonstration Memory Debugging with DDT

- \$ cd \$SCRATCH/debug/code
- \$ source setup
- \$ cd ex4
- \$ make
- \$ ddt ex4



Parallel debugging



Parallel debugging - 1 Shared memory

Use gdb for

- Tracking each thread's execution and variables
- OpenMP serialization: p omp_set_num_threads(1)
- Stepping into OpenMP block: break at first line!
- Thread-specific breakpoint: b thread <n>



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Use helgrind for

Finding race conditions:

```
$ module load valgrind
```

- \$ valgrind --tool=helgrind <exe> &> out
- \$ grep <source> out

where **<source>** is the name of the source file where you suspect race conditions (valgrind reports a lot more)

Shared memory debugging with DDT

Or use DDT:

Thread debugging example

- \$ cd \$SCRATCH/debug/code
- \$ source setup
- \$ cd ex5
- \$ make
- \$ ddt ex5



Parallel debugging - 2 Distributed memory

Multiple MPI processes

- Your code is running on different cores!
- Where to run debugger?
- Where to send debugger output?
- Much going on at same time.
- No universal free solution.



Parallel debugging - 2 Distributed memory

Multiple MPI processes

- Your code is running on different cores!
- ▶ Where to run debugger?
- Where to send debugger output?
- Much going on at same time.
- ▶ No universal free solution.

Good approach:

- 1. Write your code so it can run in serial: perfect that first.
- Deal with communication, synchronization and deadlock on smaller number of MPI processes/threads.
- 3. Only then try full size.

Parallel debugging demands specialized tools: ddt



Demonstration MPI Debugging with DDT

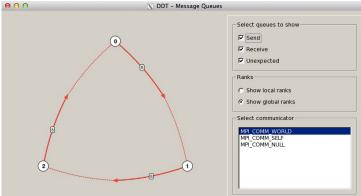
- \$ cd \$SCRATCH/debug/code
- \$ source setup
- \$ cd ex2
- \$ make
- \$ ddt ex2



Detecting deadlock with DDT

Message Queue

- View → show message queue
- produces both a graphical view and table for active communications
- ► Helps to find e.g. deadlocks





Demonstration MPI Message Queue in DDT

- \$ cd \$SCRATCH/debug/code
- \$ source setup
- \$ cd ex3
- \$ make
- \$ ddt ex3



Useful references

N Matloff and PJ Salzman The Art of Debugging with GDB, DDD and Eclipse

► GDB: sources.redhat.com/gdb

► DDT: www.allinea.com/knowledge-center/tutorials

► SciNet Wiki: wiki.scinethpc.ca: Tutorials & Manuals

