



# Chapter 7: Software Construction for Robustness

# 7.4 Debugging

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### Outline

- What is bug and debugging?
- Process for debugging
  - Reproduce the bug
  - Diagnosing the bug
  - Fix the bug
  - Reflection
- Debugging techniques and tools
  - Print debugging / stack tracing / memory dump
  - Logging
  - Compiler Warning Messages
  - Debugger: watch points, break points, etc
- Summary

## Bug? De-bug?

- The terms "bug" and "debugging" are popularly attributed to Admiral Grace Hopper in the 1940s.
- While she was working on a Mark II Computer at Harvard University, her associates discovered a moth stuck in a relay and

thereby impeding operation, whereupon she remarked that they were "debugging" the system.







# 1 What is Bug and What is debugging



(1) What is a Bug?

### What is a Bug?

### What is a Bug?

- A fault in a program, which causes the program to perform in an unintended or unanticipated manner.
- A program that contains a large number of bugs, and/or bugs that seriously interfere with its functionality, is said to be buggy.
- Reports detailing bugs in a program are commonly known as bug reports, fault reports, problem reports, trouble reports, defect reports etc.

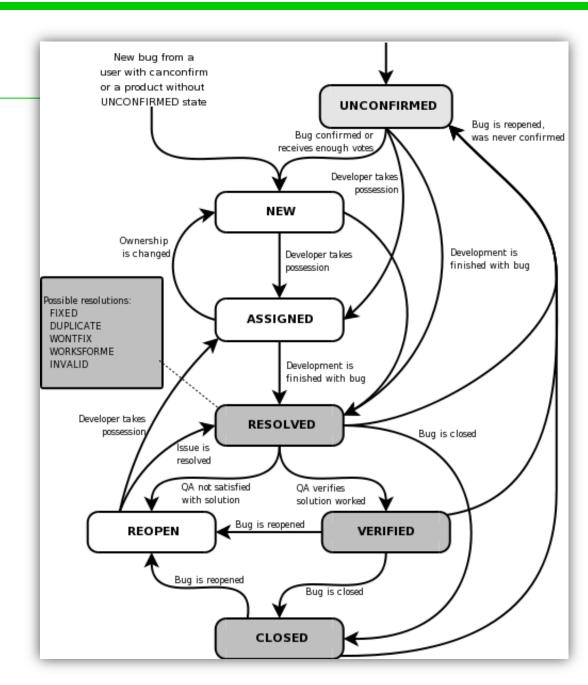
#### Why Bug Occurs?

- Code errors
- Unfinished requirements or not detailed enough
- Misunderstanding of user needs
- Logic errors in the design documents
- Lack of documentation
- Not enough sufficient testing

### Bug attributes

#### Attributes:

- Assigned to
- Q&A contact
- Priority / Severity
- Product / Component
- OS / Platform
- Version
- Target milestone
- CC count
- Bug dependencies
- dependent bugs
- Keywords / comments
- Lifetime (in days)

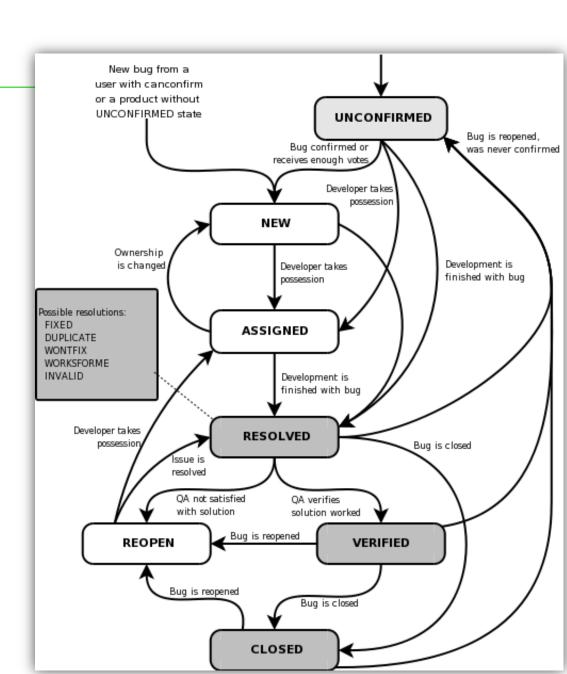




# (2) Bug Lifecycle

## Bug Lifecycle

- A bug should go through the life cycle to be closed.
   The bug attains different states in the life cycle.
- States of a bug:
  - New
  - Open
  - Assign
  - Tested/Verified
  - Deferred
  - Reopened
  - Rejected
  - Close



- New: When the bug is posted for the first time, its state will be NEW. This means that the bug is not yet approved.
- Open: After a tester has posted a bug, the lead of the tester approves that the bug is genuine and he changes the state as OPEN.
- Assign: Once the lead changes the state as OPEN, he assigns the bug to corresponding developer or developer team. The state of the bug now is changed to "ASSIGN".
- Resolved/Fixed/Test: When developer makes necessary code changes and verifies the changes then he/she can make bug status as 'Fixed' and the bug is passed to testing team.

- Deferred: The bug, changed to deferred state means the bug is expected to be fixed in next releases. The reasons for changing the bug to this state have many factors. Some of them are priority of the bug may be low, lack of time for the release or the bug may not have major effect on the software.
- Pending Reject: If the developers think that a particular behavior of the system, which the tester reports as a bug has to be same and the bug is invalid, in that case, the bug is rejected and marked as 'Pending Reject'.
- Rejected/Invalid: Some times developer or team lead can mark the bug as Rejected or invalid if the system is working according to specifications and bug is just due to some misinterpretation.
- Pending Retest: After the bug is fixed, it is passed back to the testing team to get retested and the status of 'Pending Retest' is assigned to it.

- Retest: The testing team leader changes the status of the bug, which is previously marked with 'Pending Retest' to 'Retest' and assigns it to a tester for retesting.
- Duplicate: If the bug is repeated twice or the two bugs mention the same concept of the bug, then one bug status is changed to "DUPLICATE".
- Verified: Once the bug is fixed and the status is changed to TEST, the tester tests the bug. If the bug is not present in the software, he approves that the bug is fixed and changes the status to VERIFIED.
- Could not reproduce: If developer is not able to reproduce the bug by the steps given in bug report by QA then developer can mark the bug as 'CNR'. QA needs action to check if bug is reproduced and can assign to developer with detailed reproducing steps.

- Reopened: If the bug still exists even after the bug is fixed by the developer, the tester changes the status to REOPENED. The bug traverses the life cycle once again.
- Closed: Once the bug is fixed, it is tested by the tester. If the tester feels that the bug no longer exists in the software, he changes the status of the bug to CLOSED. This state means that the bug is fixed, tested and approved.
- Postponed: Sometimes, testing of a particular bug has to be postponed for an indefinite period. This situation may occur because of many reasons, such as unavailability of Test data, unavailability of particular functionality etc. That time, the bug is marked with 'Postponed' status.



# (3) Common Types of Bugs

### Common Types of Bugs

- Maths bugs, such as Division by zero, Arithmetic overflow
- Logic bugs, such as Infinite loops and infinite recursion
- Syntax bugs, such as Use of the wrong operator, such as performing assignment instead of equality

#### Resource bugs

- Using an un-initialized variable
- Resource leaks, where a finite system resource such as memory or file handles are exhausted by repeated allocation without release.
- Buffer overflow, in which a program tries to store data past the end of allocated storage.

### Team working bugs

- Comments out of date or incorrect
- Differences between documentation and the actual product



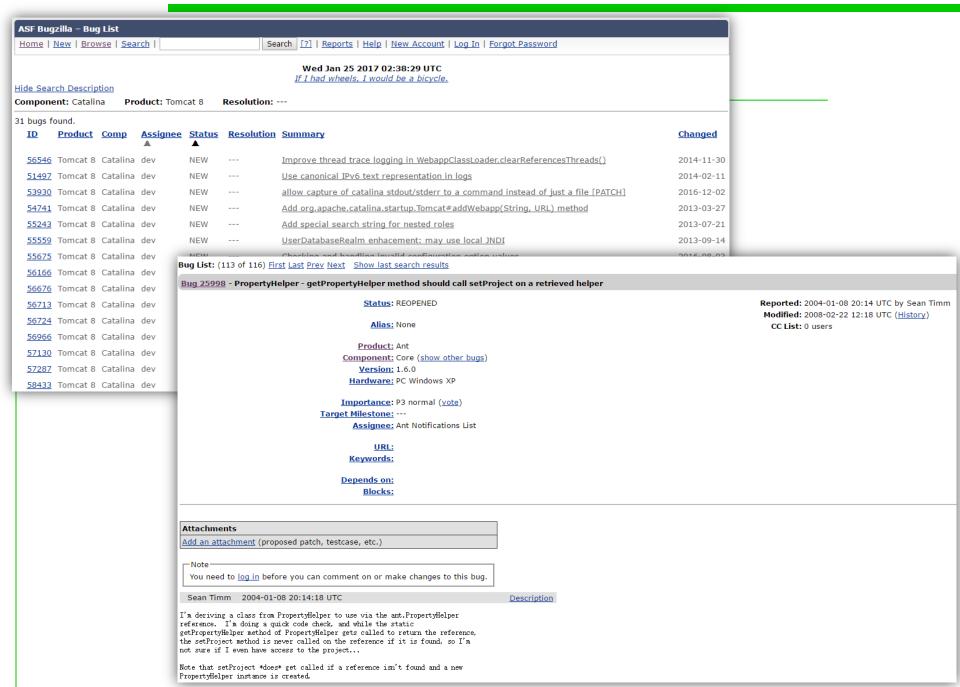


# (4) Bug report system and issue tracking system

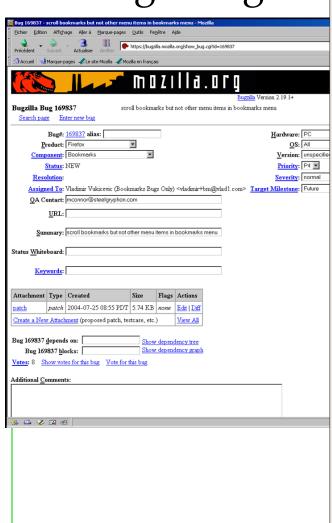
### Bugzilla

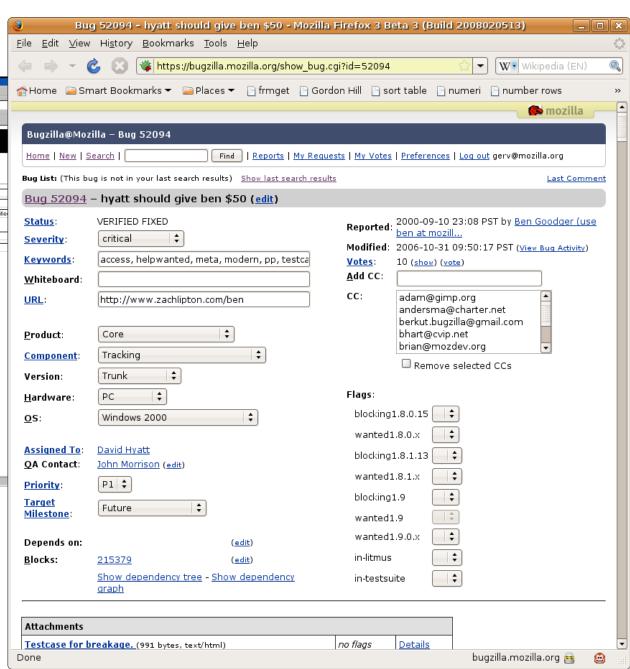


- Bugzilla is a web-based general-purpose bug tracker and testing tool originally developed and used by the Mozilla project
  - Report a new bug
  - Search for an existing bug
  - See summary bug reports and charts
  - Make contributions to bug fix
- First released in 1998, it has been adopted by a variety of organizations for use as a bug tracking system for both free and open-source software and proprietary projects and products.

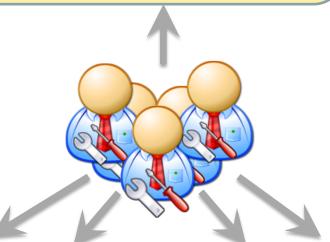


# Adding a bug













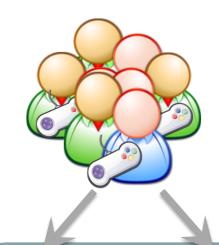




Source Control CVS/SVN/GIT

Bugzilla Mailing lists

**Historical Repositories** 







Crash Field
Repos Logs
Runtime Repos



# (4) Debugging

## Defensive Programming → Testing → Debugging

- Defensive Programming: to make bugs impossible at design time;
- Testing: to uncover problems in a program and thereby increase your confidence in the program's correctness.
- So what?
- What if some tests fail?

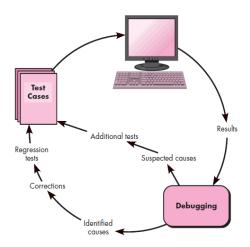
• You have no choice but to debug – particularly when the bug is found only when you plug the whole system together, or reported by a user after the system is deployed, in which case it may be hard to localize it to a particular module.

### What is Debugging?

- Debugging is the process of identifying the root cause of an error and correcting it.
- It contrasts with testing, which is the process of detecting the error initially, debugging occurs as a consequence of successful testing.
  - On some projects, debugging occupies as much as 50 percent of the total development time.
  - For many programmers, debugging is the hardest part of programming.
- Like testing, debugging isn't a way to improve the quality of your software, but it's a way to diagnose defects.
  - Software quality must be built in from the start. The best way to build a
    quality product is to develop requirements carefully, design well, and use
    high-quality coding practices.
  - Debugging is a last resort.

## Debugging vs. Testing

- Debugging is not testing but often occurs as a consequence of testing.
- The debugging process begins with the execution of a test case. Results are assessed and a lack of correspondence between expected and actual performance is encountered.
- In many cases, the noncorresponding data are a symptom of an underlying cause as yet hidden. The debugging process attempts to match symptom with cause, thereby leading to error correction.



## Variations in Debugging Performance

	Fastest Three Programmers	Slowest Three Programmers
Average debug time (minutes)	5.0	14.1
Average number of defects not found	0.7	1.7
Average number of defects made correcting defects	3.0	7.7

Source: "Some Psychological Evidence on How People Debug Computer Programs" (Gould 1975).

### Why is debugging so difficult?

- The symptom and the cause may be geographically remote.
  - The symptom may appear in one part of a program, while the cause may actually be located at a site that is far removed.
  - Highly coupled components exacerbate this situation.
- The symptom may disappear (temporarily) when another error is corrected.
- The symptom may actually be caused by non-errors (e.g., round-off inaccuracies).
- The symptom may be caused by human error that is not easily traced.

### Why is debugging so difficult?

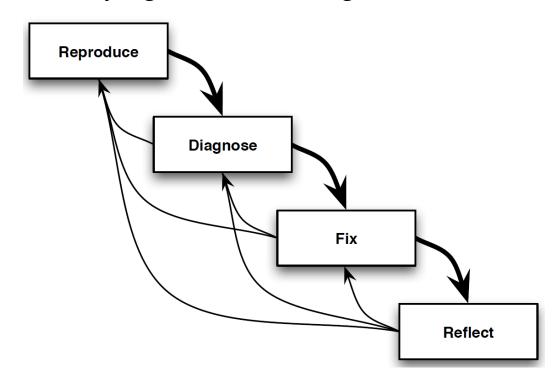
- The symptom may be a result of timing problems, rather than processing problems.
- It may be difficult to accurately reproduce input conditions (e.g., a real-time application in which input ordering is indeterminate).
- The symptom may be intermittent. This is particularly common in embedded systems that couple hardware and software inextricably.
- The symptom may be due to causes that are distributed across a number of tasks running on different processors.



# 2 Process for debugging

### Debugging Process

- Reproduce: Find a way to reliably and conveniently reproduce the problem on demand.
- Diagnose/Locating: Construct hypotheses, and test them by performing experiments until you are confident that you have identified the underlying cause of the bug.



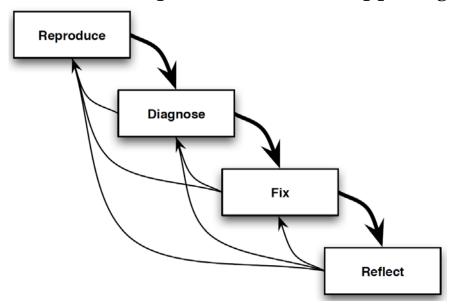
### Debugging Process

#### • Fix:

 Design and implement changes that fix the problem, avoid introducing regressions, and maintain or improve the overall quality of the software.

#### Reflect:

– Learn the lessons of the bug. Where did things go wrong? Are there any other examples of the same problem that will also need fixing? What can you do to ensure that the same problem doesn't happen again?



### Debugging Process

- Debugging consists of determining the exact nature and location of the suspected error and fixing the error.
- Debugging attempts to match symptom with cause, thereby leading to error correction.
- Locating the error represents about 95% of the debugging activity.

### The Scientific Method of Debugging

- Here are the steps you go through when you use the scientific method:
  - 1. Gather data through repeatable experiments.
  - 2. Form a hypothesis that accounts for the relevant data.
  - − 3. Design an experiment to prove or disprove the hypothesis.
  - 4. Prove or disprove the hypothesis.
  - 5. Repeat as needed.

### The Scientific Method of Debugging

### • An effective approach for debugging:

- Stabilize the error. (Reproduce)
- Locate the source of the error (Diagnose, bug localization).
  - Gather the data that produces the defect.
  - Analyze the data that has been gathered and form a hypothesis about the defect.
  - Determine how to prove or disprove the hypothesis, either by testing the program or by examining the code.
  - Prove or disprove the hypothesis using the procedure identified in 2(c).
- Fix the defect. (Fix)
- Test the fix.
- Look for similar errors.



# (1) Reproduce the bug

### Reproduce the Bug

- Start by finding a small, repeatable test case that produces the failure.
- If the bug was found by regression testing, then you're in luck; you already have a failing test case in your test suite.
- If the bug was reported by a user, it may take some effort to reproduce the bug.
- For graphical user interfaces and multithreaded programs, a bug may be hard to reproduce consistently if it depends on timing of events or thread execution. (to be discussed in Chapter 10)

### Reproduce

Why is reproducing the problem so important? Because if you can't, then it's almost impossible to make progress.

### Specifically:

- The empirical process relies upon our ability to watch the software executing in the presence of the bug. If we can't get the software to misbehave in the first place, then this, the most powerful weapon in our armory, is lost.
- Even if you do somehow manage to come up with a theory about why the software might be misbehaving, how are you going to prove it if you can't reproduce the problem?
- If you think that you've implemented a fix, how are you going to demonstrate that it really does fix the problem?

# Start reproducing from bug reports

- Start reproducing with the Obvious -- bug report (from testing).
  - The first thing to try is simply following the steps described (or implied) by the bug report.
  - Even if this simplistic approach doesn't bear fruit, then the nature of the bug will provide you with good clues about what to try next.

#### Successful reproduction is all about control

#### Successful reproduction is all about control

- If you control all the relevant variables, you will reproduce your problem.
- The trick, of course, is identifying which variables are relevant to the bug at hand, discovering what you need to set them to, and finding a way to do so.

#### As a developer, your situation is different from your users'.

- You're working with the very latest source code, whereas they're likely to be running something compiled several weeks, months, or even years ago.
- Your configuration will be different, as will your network environment, the peripherals you're using, and so on.
- One or more of these differences are what is stopping the bug from reproducing—your first task, therefore, is to identify and eliminate those differences.

### What to control in order to reproduce bugs?

#### The software itself

 If the bug is in an area that has changed recently, then ensuring that you're running the same version of the software as it was reported against is a good first step.

#### The environment it's running within

 If interaction with an external system (some particular piece of hardware or a remote server perhaps) is involved, then you probably want to ensure that you're using the same.

#### The inputs you provide to it

 If the bug is related to an area that behaves very differently depending upon how the software is configured, then start by replicating the user's configuration.

### (1) To control the software

#### Controlling the Software

- Firstly, compiling from the same source. You also need to ensure that you use the same compiler, configured in the same way, and the same runtime, libraries, and any third-party code that is integrated with your software.
- Of course, using the same tools gets you nowhere if you don't use them in exactly the right sequence and with the same configuration as the software was originally built with.
- The best way to ensure that you do is to create an automated build process.

## (2) Controlling the Environment

- What constitutes your software's environment depends on what kind of software it is.
  - For traditional desktop software, the operating system is probably most relevant.
  - For web software, it's the browser.
  - For network software, it's the other software you're communicating with,
  - and for embedded code, it's the hardware you're interfacing with.
- The key in all cases is first knowing what environment the bug manifests in.

# (2) Controlling the Environment

#### Two things have helped immeasurably with this issue.

- The first is hardware abstraction—some hardware in your computer might significantly affect your software's behavior, such as gaming.
   Hardware abstractions are sets of routines in software that emulate some platform-specific details, giving programs direct access to the hardware resources.
- The second is virtual machines—it's now possible to run many different operating systems and configurations on a single computer simultaneously, with very little effort indeed. This is of obvious use if you're working on cross-platform software, but it can also be helpful in a wide range of other circumstances.
- E.g., in web software, a wide range of different browsers(probably several different versions of each) need to be supported. Having a number of different virtual machines available, each configured with a different operating system and browser combination.

# (3) Controlling Inputs

- Your software's inputs may be files on disc, sequences of user interface operations, or responses from third-party servers or hardware.
- Whatever form they take, the key is to first identify them so that you can then replay them exactly.
- The most lucky thing is that the relevant inputs will be specified in the bug report.
- If you don't have all the information you need, you can
  - Infer what the inputs might be
  - record the inputs.

# (3) Controlling Inputs by Inferring

- The starting point for inferring the right inputs to reproduce the problem is to assume that the problem really does exist and then reverse engineer the necessary conditions that would lead to that behavior.
  - 1. Work Backward
  - 2. Explore the Landscape
  - 3. Force Error Conditions
  - 4. Introduce Randomness

# (3) Controlling Inputs by Recording Inputs

#### Logging

- If your software already has built-in logging, this may simply be a case of asking the user to switch it on and send you the results.
- Alternatively, you may have to ship them a custom build of the software or some other logging solution (such as a debugging shim or proxy).
- Whichever solution you decide to use, seeing exactly what the user is really doing can be worth its weight in gold.

#### An example for controlling inputs

```
/**
 * Find the most common word in a string.
 * @param text string containing zero or more words, where a word
 * is a string of alphanumeric characters bounded by nonalphanumerics.
 * @return a word that occurs maximally often in text, ignoring alphabetic case.
 */
public static String mostCommonWord(String text) {
    ...
}
```

- A user passes the whole text of Shakespeare's plays into your method and discovers that instead of returning a predictably common English word like "the" or "a", the method returns something unexpected, perhaps "e".
- Shakespeare's plays have 100,000 lines containing over 800,000 words, so this input would be very painful to debug by normal methods, like print-debugging and breakpoint-debugging.

### An example for controlling inputs

- Debugging will be easier if you first work on reducing the size of the buggy input to something manageable that still exhibits the same (or very similar) bug:
  - Does the first half of Shakespeare show the same bug? (Binary search! Always a good technique)
  - Does a single play have the same bug?
  - Does a single speech have the same bug?
- Once you've found a small test case, find and fix the bug using that smaller test case, and then go back to the original buggy input and confirm that you fixed the same bug.

### An example for controlling inputs

- Suppose a user reports that mostCommonWord("chicken chicken chicken chicken beef") returns "beef" instead of "chicken".
- To shorten and simplify this input before you start debugging, which of the following inputs are worth trying?
  - mostCommonWord("chicken chicken beef")
  - mostCommonWord("Chicken Chicken Chicken beef")
  - mostCommonWord("chicken beef")
  - mostCommonWord("a b c")
  - mostCommonWord("b b c")

## (3) Controlling Inputs by Load and Stress

#### Load and Stress

- Some bugs manifest only when the software is under some kind of stress.
- Software itself is having to do (handle a large number of simultaneous requests, for example, or particularly large data sets).
- Something within the environment (high levels of general network traffic, say, or restricted free memory).
- A load-testing tool executes a script that simulates a more-or-less realistic usage pattern.
  - Stress-testing tools are similar, except they generate load indirectly (E.g., you might use one to allocate and deallocate lots of memory while your software is running, or to consume lots of CPU time.)
  - QuickTest Professional and LoadRunner: <a href="http://www.hp.com/">http://www.hp.com/</a>
  - JMeter: <a href="http://jakarta.apache.org/jmeter/">http://jakarta.apache.org/jmeter/</a>
  - The Grinder: <a href="http://grinder.sourceforge.net/">http://grinder.sourceforge.net/</a>



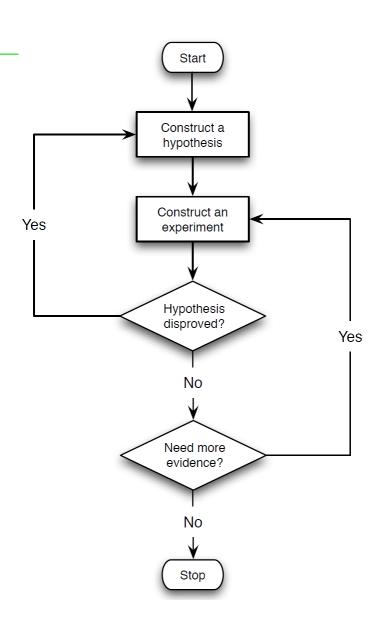
# (2) Diagnosing the bug

#### Diagnose

Diagnose: Understand the Location and Cause of the Bug

#### The scientific method:

- We start with an observation that doesn't fit with our current theory and as a result modify that theory or possibly even replace it with something completely different.
- In debugging, our theory (that the software behaves as we think it does) is disproved by an observation (the bug) that demonstrates that we are mistaken.



### Diagnosis process

- Study the data. Look at the test input that causes the bug, and the incorrect results, failed assertions, and stack traces that result from it.
- **Hypothesize.** Propose a hypothesis, consistent with all the data, about where the bug might be, or where it *cannot* be. It's good to make this hypothesis general at first.
- **Experiment.** Devise an experiment that tests your hypothesis. It's good to make the experiment an *observation* at first a probe that collects information but disturbs the system as little as possible.
- Repeat. Add the data you collected from your experiment to what you knew before, and make a fresh hypothesis. Hopefully you have ruled out some possibilities and narrowed the set of possible locations and reasons for the bug.

### Diagnose by experiments

#### Do Different Types of Experiments

- You can examine an aspect of the software's internal state (either by instrumenting it directly or by running it under a debugger).
- You can modify some aspect of how you run the software (modified inputs, for example, or an alternative environment) and see whether it behaves differently.
- You can change the logic encoded within the software itself and examine the effect of that change.
- Which of these you choose depends upon the nature of your hypothesis, and making the best choice comes down to experience and intuition.
- Whichever you choose, however, the most important thing to bear in mind is that your experiment must have a clear goal.

### Diagnose by experiments

#### Experiments Must Prove Something

 Experiments are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. There is no point performing an experiment unless it proves something.

#### One Change at a Time

- One of the basic rules of constructing experiments is that you should make only a single change at a time.
- This rule applies to any kind of change changes to the source, the environment, input files, and so on. It applies to anything, in fact, that might have an effect on the software.

#### Keep a Record of What You've Tried

#### Ignore Nothing

### Some example experiments

- Run a different test case. The test case reduction process discussed above used test cases as experiments.
- Insert a print statement or assertion in the running program, to check something about its internal state.
- Set a breakpoint using a debugger, then single-step through the code and look at variable and object values.
- **Swap components**. If you have another implementation of a module that satisfies the same interface, and you suspect the module, then one experiment you can do is to try swapping in the alternative.

### Diagnosis stratagem 1: Instrumentation

#### Instrumentation

- Instrumentation is code that doesn't affect how the software behaves but instead provides insight into why it behaves as it does.
- E.g., logging.
- Instrumentation isn't limited to simple output statements, however—you have the full facilities of the language at your disposal.
- You can collect and collate data, evaluate arbitrary code, and test for relevant conditions.

### Diagnosis stratagem 1: Instrumentation

```
Bug:
while(node != null) {
                                                 getNext() is returning
    node.process();
                                                 one or more nodes more
    node = node.getNext();
                                                   than once. It's not
                                                  clear which nodes are
                                                  being processed more
                                                        than once.
HashSet processed = new HashSet();
while(node != null) {
    if(!processed.add(node)) {
       System.out.println("The problem node is: " + node);
    node.process();
   node = node.getNext();
```

### Diagnosis stratagem 2: Divide and Conquer

- Divide and conquer, or binary chop / search, is a search strategy.
  - It is the Swiss Army knife of debugging it crops up again and again in a wide variety of situations.
  - It can provide you with a quick and easy way to exclude a large number of candidates.
  - E.g., perhaps your software contains a number of modules that can be enabled and disabled independently? If so, try disabling them all and see whether the bug still occurs. If it does, then you've eliminated a lot of code that you won't need to examine (and won't confuse matters). If it doesn't, then you can quickly identify the problem module by enabling half and rerunning your test.

### "Wolf fence" algorithm

- Edward Gauss described this simple but very useful and now famous algorithm in a 1982:
  - ——"There's one wolf in Alaska; how do you find it?
  - First build a fence down the middle of the state, wait for the wolf to howl, determine which side of the fence it is on.
  - Repeat process on that side only, until you get to the point where you can see the wolf."

### Diagnosis stratagem 3: Leveraging VCS

- Occasionally, a bug in functionality that used to work correctly but was broken by some subsequent change. To this kind of problem, there is one tool of particular value when regression hunting source control system.
  - The first step is to review check-in comments—it may be that the culprit is obvious.
  - If not, however, you can quickly pinpoint the change using the following procedure.
    - E.g., Imagine that you know that the bug wasn't present in version 2.3, but it is present in the current version, 3.0. In between 2.3 and 3.0 are 200 different checkins.
    - You know the drill by now—check out and build the middle revision, and see whether the bug is present. If not, it was introduced by a more recent change; otherwise, it was one of the earlier ones. A few iterations later, and you know exactly which change it was. binary chop
- Git source control system provides direct support for it in the form of the git bisect command ("Wolf fence")

### Diagnosis stratagem 4: Focus on the differences

- Your software normally works. So, the feature affected by the bug you're trying to diagnose probably works correctly in almost all situations or for almost everyone else.
- So, what you're looking for is something that makes this particular situation or customer special.
- Often these differences come to light when trying to reproduce the problem.
- Does it happen in only one particular environment? In that case, the problem is most likely in environment-specific code.
  - E.g., Does it happen only with large input files? Most likely you're looking for a resource leak or a limit being exceeded.

### Diagnosis stratagem 5: Learn from others

- Sometimes the bug will relate to a widely used technology (your compiler, for example, or a library or framework you're using) in which case there's a chance that someone else has run afoul of the same problem before you.
- In such instances, a little research on the Web can play dividends. Perhaps someone has asked a question about the same kind of failure module on a forum or has written a blog post describing the pitfall they fell into, which turns out to be exactly the one you find yourself in.

### Diagnosis stratagem 6: Debugger

#### Debugger

- Debuggers vary dramatically in both sophistication and capabilities, from simple command line-oriented examples to those that are fully integrated into a graphical IDE.
- What they all have in common is that they allow us to examine the code as it executes, setting breakpoints, single-stepping, and examining program state.

#### • It's particularly helpful at three different points of the development life cycle:

- During initial development, it's helpful when single-stepping through code helps to convince us that what it's really doing agrees with what we thought we were implementing.
- If we have a theory about why the code is behaving in a particular way,
   we can use the debugger to confirm or refute this theory.
- Finally, a debugger helps us explore code that is behaving in a way we simply don't understand.

## Validate Your Diagnosis

- Explain your diagnosis to someone else. They might spot a flaw, or the cardboard cutout effect might work its magic allowing you to do so.
- Check out a pristine copy of the source code, without any of the changes you've made along the way, and verify that your analysis still holds. You may have been careful not to introduce any unintended side effects, but nothing gives you more confidence that you succeeded than starting again from a known-good copy.
- Now that you understand the problem, are there any other ways in which you can prove that it really does work the way that you think it does? Try them quickly—do you see what you expect to?
- Play devil's advocate, and imagine that you are wrong—what mistake did you make?



# (3) Fix the bug

#### Fix: Start from a clean source tree

#### Start from a clean source tree

- Before diving in and starting to design your fix, the first order of business is to ensure that you start from a clean source tree.
- Work out how you're going to test your fix before making changes.
- Use testing to ensure that you're working on a clean source tree and fixing rightly.
  - 1. Run the existing tests, and demonstrate that they pass.
  - 2. Add one or more new tests, or fix the existing tests, to demonstrate the bug (in other words, to fail).
  - 3. Fix the bug.
  - 4. Demonstrate that your fix works (the failing tests no longer fail).
  - 5. Demonstrate that you haven't introduced any regressions (none of the tests that previously passed now fail).

### Fix and refactoring

#### Refactoring

- Refactoring is the process of improving the design of existing code without changing its behavior.
- Bug fixing often uncovers opportunities for refactoring. The very fact that you're working with code that contains a bug indicates that there is a chance that it could be clearer or better structured. It is very likely that you will spot areas of code that could be improved as you go.
- There will be occasions where you choose to refactor after fixing and other occasions where it makes sense to refactor first (because doing so gets you to a state where it's easier to fix the bug). Occasionally, when working on a particularly intricate fix, you'll iterate back and forth between refactoring and bug fixing.
- Refactor or change functionality one or the other, never both.

#### Fix and check-in

#### Checking In

- From the point of view of debugging, source control's main value is as an audit trail.
- If someone does introduce a regression, you should be able to find out exactly which change did so (and therefore what you need to do to fix it) by searching back through previous versions.
- The rule is one logical change, one check-in.
- Make one change at a time



# (4) Reflection

## Reflect: How to ensure It'll Never Happen Again

#### Requirements:

– Were the requirements complete and correct? Perhaps they were ambiguous, interpreted incorrectly, or misunderstood?

#### Architecture or design:

— Was there an oversight within the architecture or design—something we failed to take into account or allow for? Or perhaps they're fine, but we failed to follow the design correctly?

#### Testing:

– Did we have adequate tests covering this area? Or maybe the error was in the tests themselves?

#### Construction:

 Perhaps the author made a simple mistake when writing the code, or maybe they misunderstood some aspect of the underlying technology (libraries, compilers, and so forth).



# 3 Debugging tools

### Debugging techniques

- Debugging by Brute Force Attack
- Debugging by Induction
- Debugging by Deduction
- Debugging by Backtracking
- Debugging by Testing

## Debugging by Brute Force

- The most common scheme for debugging a program is the "brute force" method.
  - It is popular because it requires little thought and is the least mentally taxing of the methods, but it is inefficient and generally unsuccessful.
- Brute force methods can be partitioned into at least three categories:
  - Debugging with a memory dump.
  - Debugging according to the common suggestion to "scatter print statements throughout your program."
  - Debugging with automated debugging tools.

#### Debugging tools

- Syntax and Logic Checking (not covered in this course)
- Source-code comparator (See SCM in Chapter 2)
- Memory heap dump
- Print debugging / logging
- Stack trace
- Compiler Warning Messages
- Debugger
- Execution Profiler (See Chapter 8)
- Test Frameworks (See Section 7.5)





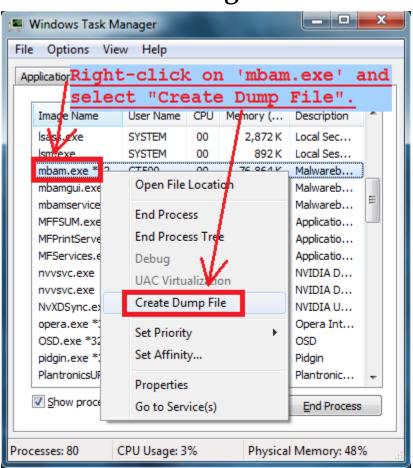
# (1) Post-mortem debugging: memory dump

## Post-mortem debugging

- Post-mortem debugging is debugging of the program after it has already crashed.
- Related techniques often include various tracing techniques and/or analysis of memory dump (or core dump) of the crashed process.
  - The dump of the process could be obtained automatically by the system (for example, when process has terminated due to an unhandled exception), or by a programmer-inserted instruction, or manually by the interactive user.

#### Memory dump

- Memory dump: a file on hard disk containing a copy of the contents of a process's memory of a specific time, produced when a process is aborted by certain kinds of internal error or signal.
- When a program aborts, a memory dump can be taken in order to examine the status of the program at the time of the crash.



#### Memory dump based debugging

- The programmer looks into the buffers to see which data items were being worked on when it failed.
- Counters, variables, switches and flags are also inspected.
- However, it is the most inefficient of the debugging methods:
  - There's a massive amount of data, most of which is irrelevant.
  - A memory dump is a static picture of the program, showing the state of the program at only one instant in time; to find errors, you have to study the dynamics of a program (state changes over time).
  - A memory dump is rarely produced at the exact point of the error, so it doesn't show the program's state at the point of the error.
  - There aren't adequate methodologies for finding errors by analyzing a memory dump.





# (2) Post-mortem debugging: stack trace

- A stack trace is a listing of all pending method calls at a particular point in the execution of a program.
- You have almost certainly seen stack trace listings—they are displayed whenever a Java program terminates with an uncaught exception.

```
java.lang.NullPointerException
    at MyClass.mash(MyClass.java:9)
    at MyClass.crunch(MyClass.java:6)
    at MyClass.main(MyClass.java:3)
```

You can access the text description of a stack trace by calling the printStackTrace method of the Throwable class.

```
Throwable t = new Throwable();
StringWriter out = new StringWriter();
t.printStackTrace(new PrintWriter(out));
String description = out.toString();
```

A more flexible approach is the getStackTrace method that yields an array of StackTraceElement objects, which you can analyze in your program.

```
public class WhoCalled {
      static void f() {
        // Generate an exception to fill in the stack trace
        try {
            throw new Exception();
         } catch (Exception e) {
            for(StackTraceElement ste : e.getStackTrace())
                  System.out.println(ste.getMethodName());
      static void g() { f(); }
      static void h() { g();}
      public static void main(String[] args) {
            f();
            System.out.println("----");
            g();
            System.out.println("----");
            h();
```

```
public class WhoCalled {
      static void f() {
         // Generate an exception to fill in the stack trace
         try {
             throw new Exception();
         } catch (Exception e) {
             for(StackTraceElement ste : e.getStackTrace())
                  System.out.println(ste.getMethodName());
       static void g() { f(); }
       static void h() { g();}
       public static void main(String[] args) {
            f();
            System.out.println("----");
            g();
            System.out.println("----");
            h();
```

```
Output:

f
main

f
g
main

f
g
h
main
```

The StackTraceElement class has methods to obtain the file name and line number, as well as the class and method name, of the executing line of code. The toString method yields a formatted string containing all of this information.

• The static Thread.getAllStackTraces method yields the stack traces of all threads. Here is how you use that method:

```
Map<Thread, StackTraceElement[]> map = Thread.getAllStackTraces();
for (Thread t : map.keySet())
{
    StackTraceElement[] frames = map.get(t);
    analyze frames
}
```



# (3) Printf debugging

#### From memory dump to printf

 Scattering statements throughout a failing program to display variable values is better than a dump as it is not static and shows the dynamics of a program.

## Print debugging/tracing

- Print debugging (or tracing) is the act of watching (live or recorded) trace statements, or print statements, that indicate the flow of execution of a process. This is sometimes called printf debugging, due to the use of the printf function in C.
- It is to add trace code to the program to print out values of variables as the program executes, using printf() or System.out.println() statements, for example. It's Simple but effective.

```
System.out.println("Entering callMethod");
result = callMethod();
System.out.println("The result is " + result);
```

## A tip for print debugging

- Once the cause of trouble is figured out or the program will be released, the printing statements for debugging should be removed or disabled.
- Method1- comment the print code

```
//System.out.println("Entering callMethod");
result = callMethod();
//System.out.println("The result is " + result);
```

Method2

```
public static void MyPrint(String in) {
    System.out.println(in);
}

MyPrint("Entering callMethod");
result = callMethod();
MyPrint("The result is " + result);

public static void MyPrint(String in) {
    //System.out.println(in);
}

MyPrint("Entering callMethod");
result = callMethod();
MyPrint("The result is " + result);
```



# (4) Logging

#### Logging

- At its simplest level, System.out.println() or similar throughout the code is enough.
- If your logging requirements are at all complex, however, you should consider using one of the many logging frameworks.
- Logging frameworks provide the ability for your code to contain configurable logging that can be enabled, disabled, or increased in detail, typically at runtime and by individual feature.

## Logging frameworks

- A logging framework provides you with a great deal of useful functionality for free:
  - The ability to switch logging on or off in particular areas as needed.
  - Different log levels, allowing you to fine-tune the amount of logging generated: occasions where the software hit a fatal error or just the headlines of what the software is up to without any of the detail → increase it to generate more detail, perhaps even to the extent of creating a detailed trace of exactly which functions were called when and with what parameters.
  - Log messages that can be decorated with useful information such as which log level or module the message is associated with or even the exact source file line number.
  - Standard tools to help analyze log files.
  - Automatic logging of certain events, like unhandled exceptions.

#### Logging frameworks

- java.util.logging
  - http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/guide/util/logging/
  - As of 1.4.2, Java includes a standard logging API java.util.logging, commonly known as JUL.
- Log4j
  - http://logging.apache.org/log4j/
  - Apache log4j is probably the best-known Java logging library, and ports exist to most major languages.
- Logback: <a href="http://logback.gos.ch/">http://logback.gos.ch/</a>
- SLF4J: <a href="http://www.slf4j.org/">http://www.slf4j.org/</a>
- syslog-ng: <a href="http://www.balabit.com/network-security/syslog-ng/">http://www.balabit.com/network-security/syslog-ng/</a>

#### java.util.logging API:

- It is easy to suppress all log records or just those below a certain level, and just as easy to turn them back on.
- Suppressed logs are very cheap, so that there is only a minimal penalty for leaving the logging code in your application.
- Log records can be directed to different handlers for displaying in the console, writing to a file, and so on.
- Both loggers and handlers can filter records. Filters can discard boring log entries, using any criteria supplied by the filter implementor.
- Log records can be formatted in different ways for example, in plain text or XML.
- Applications can use multiple loggers, with hierarchical names such as com.mycompany.myapp, similar to package names.
- By default, the logging configuration is controlled by a configuration file.
- Applications can replace this mechanism if desired.

#### Basic Logging

For simple logging, use the global logger and call its info method:

```
import java.util.logging.*;
Logger.getGlobal().info("File->Open menu item selected");
Results:
May 10, 2013 10:12:15 PM LoggingImageViewer fileOpen
INFO: File->Open menu item selected
```

 You can call the below code at an appropriate place (such as the beginning of main), then all logging is suppressed

```
Logger.getGlobal().setLevel(Level.OFF);
```

- Advanced Logging -- define your own logger
  - In a professional application, you wouldn't want to log all records to a single global logger. Instead, you can define your own loggers.
  - Call the getLogger method to create or retrieve a logger:

```
import java.util.logging.*;

private static final Logger myLogger = Logger.getLogger("com.mycompany.myapp");
  //often using class name as logger name

Or

public class LogTest {
    static String strClassName = LogTest.class.getName(); //get class name
    static Logger myLogger = Logger.getLogger(strClassName);
    // using class name as logger name
    .....
    myLogger.info(" XXXX ");
}
```

- There are seven logging levels for logger:
  - SEVERE
  - WARNING
     By default, the top three levels are actually logged.
  - INFO
  - CONFIG
  - FINE
  - FINER
  - FINEST
- Set logging level setLevel(): E.g., logger.setLevel(Level.FINE);
  - Now FINE and all levels above it are logged.
  - You can also use Level.ALL parameter to turn on logging for all levels
  - Level.OFF parameter to turn all logging off.

```
import java.util.logging.Logger;
public class LevelTest {
   private static String name = HelloLogWorld.class.getName();
   private static Logger log = Logger.getLogger(name);
   public void sub(){
        log.severe("severe level");
        log.warning("warning level");
        log.info("info level");
        log.config("config level");
        log.fine("fine level");
        log.finer("finer level");
        log.finest("finest level");
   public static void main(String[] args){
        LevelTest test = new LevelTest();
        test.sub();
```

#### Logging Handlers

- By default, loggers send records to a ConsoleHandler(which control what to show in console) that prints them to the System.err stream.
- Like loggers, handlers have a logging level (also the 7 levels). For a record to be logged, its logging level must be above the threshold of both the logger and the handler.
- The log manager configuration file sets the logging level of the default console handler as
  - java.util.logging.ConsoleHandler.level=INFO

 Alternatively, you can bypass the configuration file altogether and install your own handler.

```
import java.util.logging.*;
public class LevelTest {
 private static String name = test.class.getName();
 private static Logger log = Logger.getLogger(name);
 public void sub() {
         log.setLevel(Level.FINEST);
         log.setUseParentHandlers(false);
         Handler handler = new ConsoleHandler();
         handler.setLevel(Level.FINEST);
         log.addHandler(handler);
         log.severe("severe level");
         log.warning("warning level");
         log.info("info level");
         log.config("config level");
                                              public static void main(String[] args) {
         log.fine("fine level");
                                                 LevelTest test = new LevelTest();
         log.finer("finer level");
                                                 test.sub();
         log.finest("finest level");
                                               }
```

- To send log records elsewhere, add another handler. The logging API provides two useful handlers for this purpose: a FileHandler and a SocketHandler.
- The SocketHandler sends records to a specified host and port.
- Of greater interest is the FileHandler that collects records in a file.
  - By default, the records are formatted in XML.

```
FileHandler handler = new FileHandler();
logger.addHandler(handler);
```

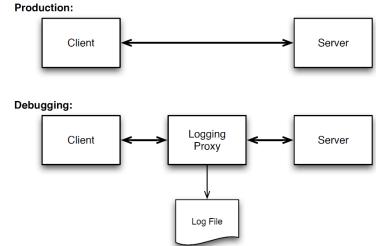
## Log4j

- Apache Log4j is a Java-based logging utility.
  - http://logging.apache.org/log4j/
  - Apache log4j is probably the best-known Java logging library, and ports exist to most major languages.

Framework	Supported log levels	Standard appenders	Popularity	Cost/license
Log4J	FATAL ERROR WARN INFO DEBUG TRACE	AsyncAppender, JDBCAppender, JMSAppender, LF5Appender, NTEventLogAppender, NullAppender, SMTPAppender, SocketAppender, SocketHubAppender, SyslogAppender, TelnetAppender, WriterAppender	Widely used in many projects and platforms	Apache License, Version 2.0
Java Logging API	SEVERE WARNING INFO CONFIG FINE FINER FINEST	Sun's default Java Virtual Machine (JVM) has the following: ConsoleHandler, FileHandler, SocketHandler, MemoryHandler		Comes with the JRE

#### **External Logging**

- You can obtain useful information(External Logging) from outside the software by intercepting traffic between it and elsewhere.
- You can insert a proxy in between the client&server. If a proxy doesn't exist for the protocol that you're using or you can't find a way to configure things so that the proxy can intercept traffic, you can consider using a network analyzer to capture all network traffic
  Production:
- Network Analyzers
  - TCPDUMP: <a href="http://www.tcpdump.org/">http://www.tcpdump.org/</a>
  - Wireshark: <a href="http://www.wireshark.org/">http://www.wireshark.org/</a>
- Debugging Proxies
  - Charles: <a href="http://www.charlesproxy.com/">http://www.charlesproxy.com/</a>
  - Fiddler: <a href="http://www.fiddlertool.com/">http://www.fiddlertool.com/</a>







# (5) Compiler Warning Messages

#### Compiler Warning Messages

- One of the simplest and most effective debugging tools is your own compiler.
- Set your compiler's warning level to the highest, pickiest level possible and fix the code so that it doesn't produce any compiler warnings.
  - Assume that the people who wrote the compiler know a great deal more about your language than you do. If they're warning you about something, it usually means you have an opportunity to learn something new about your language. Make the effort to understand what the warning really means.

#### Compiler Warning Messages

#### Treat warnings as errors

- Some compilers let you treat warnings as errors.
- One reason to use the feature is that it elevates the apparent importance of a warning. Setting your compiler to treat warnings as errors tricks you into taking them more seriously.
- Another reason is that they often affect how your program compiles. When you compile and link a program, warnings typically won't stop the program from linking but errors typically will. If you want to check warnings before you link, set the compiler switch that treats warnings as errors.

#### Initiate project wide standards for compile-time settings

Set a standard that requires everyone on your team to compile code using the same compiler settings. Otherwise, when you try to integrate code compiled by different people with different settings, you'll get a flood of error messages and an integration nightmare.



(6) Debugger: breakpoints, etc

#### Debugger

 Debuggers are software tools which enable the programmer to monitor the execution of a program, stop it, restart it, set breakpoints, and change values in memory.

#### Main Debugger Operations

- Stepping Through the Source Code
  - Breakpoints
  - Single-stepping
  - Resume operation
  - Temporary breakpoints
- Inspecting Variables
- Issuing an "All Points Bulletin" for Changes to a Variable
  - A watchpoint combines the notions of breakpoint and variable inspection.
- Moving Up and Down the Call Stack

- In software development, a breakpoint is an intentional stopping or pausing place in a program, put in place for debugging purposes. It is also sometimes simply referred to as a pause.
- A breakpoint is like a tripwire within a program: You set a breakpoint at a particular "place" within your program, and when execution reaches that point, the debugger will pause the program's execution, and then the programmer can examine the current state of the program.

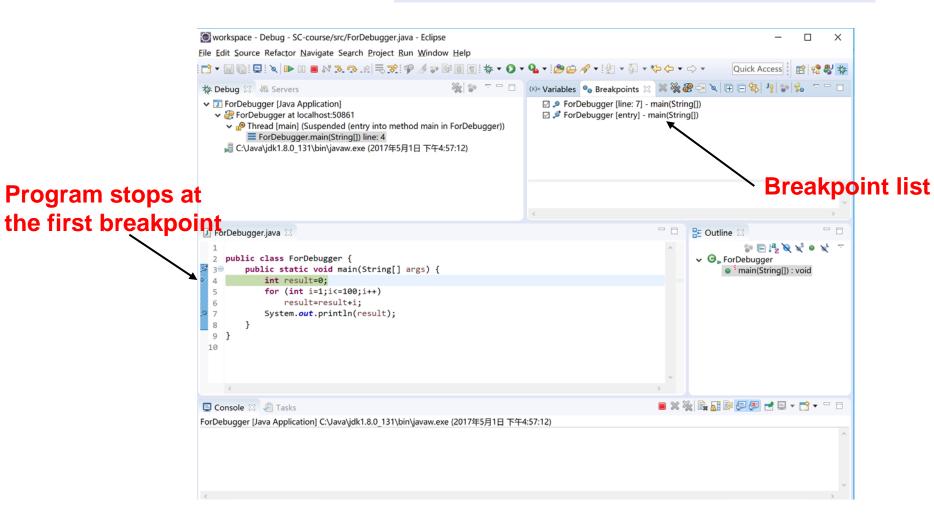
#### Setting Breakpoints in Eclipse

- To set a breakpoint at a given line in Eclipse, double-click on that line.
- To delete a breakpoint at a given line in Eclipse, double-click the breakpoint symbol on that line.
- To disable a breakpoint in Eclipse by right-clicking the breakpoint symbol in the line in question. A menu will pop up. Note that the Toggle option means to delete the break-point, while Disable/Enable means the obvious.

```
public class ForDebugger {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int result=0;
        for (int i=1;i<=100;i++)
            result=result+i;
        System.out.println(result);
    }
}</pre>
```

Click this button "Debug ...", let program run in debugging mode

Debugging



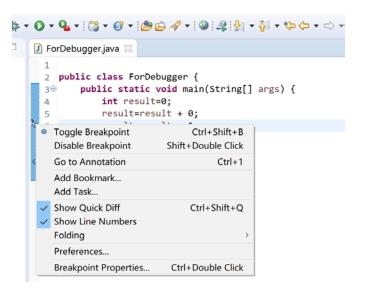
#### Resuming Execution

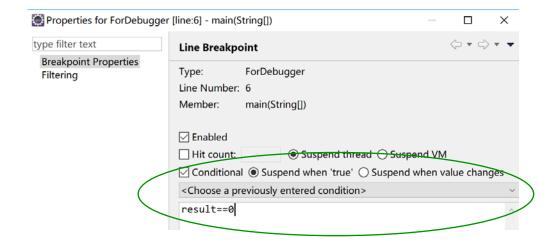


- Resume the debugger will run to the next breakpoint and pause.
- Debugging step-by-step
- Step Over will just execute the line and go to the next one. If a method is about to be invoked in this line, the debugger will not debug into the code of that method, and execute that method completely as one entire step.
- Step Into will just execute the line and go to the next one. If a method is about to be invoked in this line, the next step is to go into that method and continue debugging step-by-step.
- Step Return If debugger is debugging a method step-by-step, "step return" will let the debugger run the entire method(to the end of this method) until it returns as one entire step.

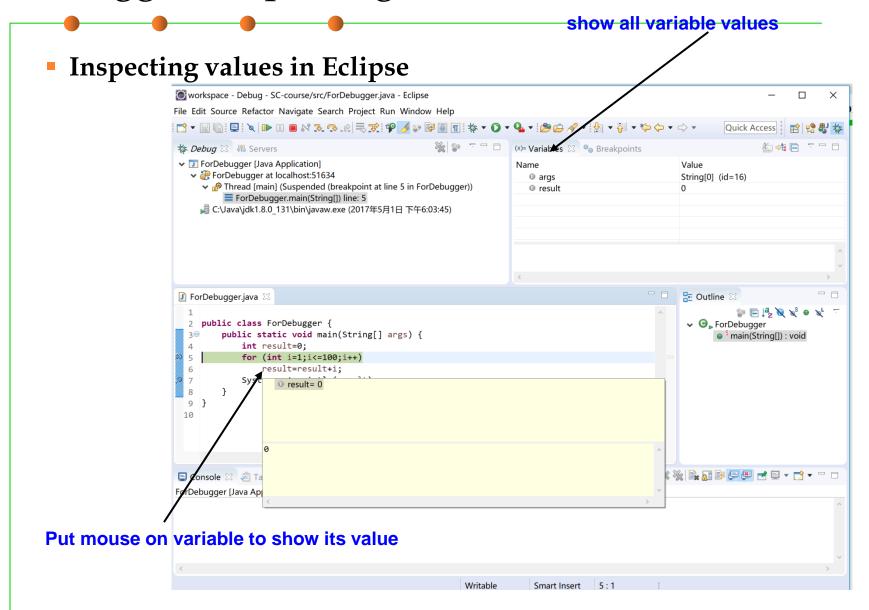
#### Debugger: watchpoint

- A watchpoint combines the notions of breakpoint and variable inspection.
- The most basic form instructs the debugger to pause execution of the program whenever the value of a specified variable changes.
- Conditional breakpoints in Eclipse:



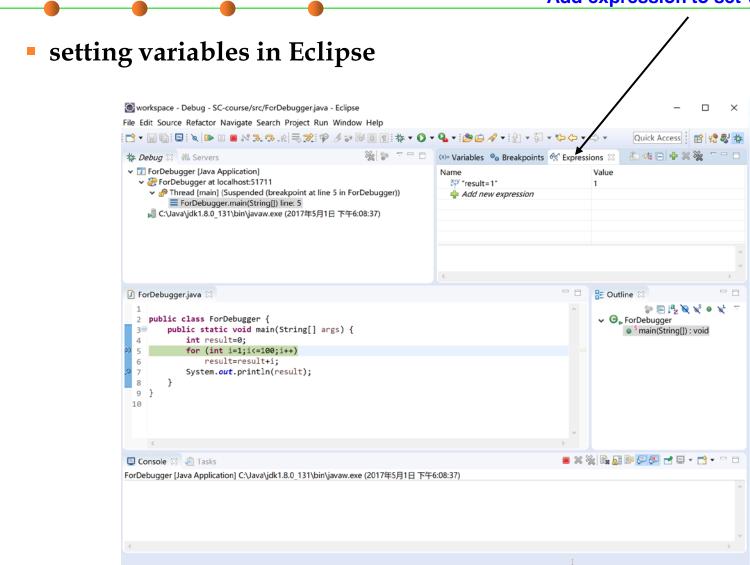


#### Debugger: inspecting variables



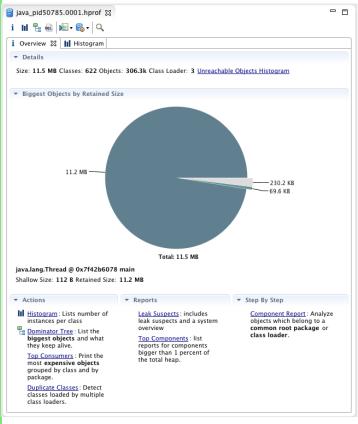
#### Debugger: setting variables

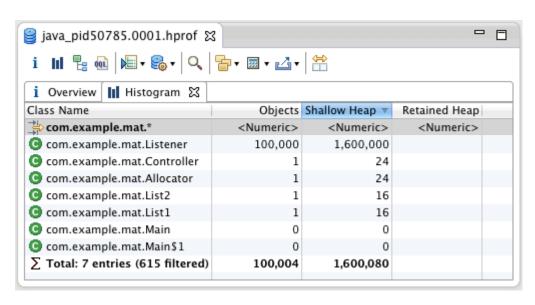
Add expression to set variable value



#### Debugger: Eclipse Memory Analyzer (MAT)

The Eclipse Memory Analyzer (MAT) can help provide details of an application's memory use. The tool is useful for both tracking memory leaks and for periodically reviewing the state of your





#### 放到第8章,或者不讲(弄不明白)

eclipsesource.com/blogs/2013/01/21/10-tips-for-using-the-eclipse-memory-analyzer/



## Summary



#### The end

April 28, 2018