

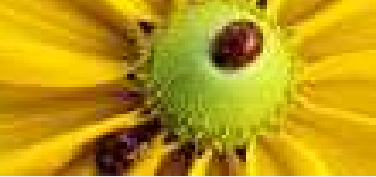
Programming Tools on *n?x

make, gdb, shell, etc.

LUG

BITS, Pilani - K. K. Birla Goa Campus

<http://www.bits-go.a.ac.in/CSIS/CSIS.htm>



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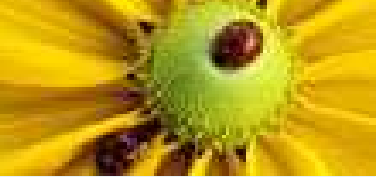
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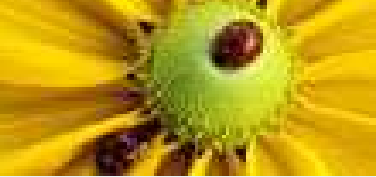
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Programming on a GNU/Linux is fun as well as efficient. The rich repertoire of tools available (as free software) makes it both.

- The `gcc` system is actually much more than a C compiler: it is a posse of compilers – C, C++, Java, Fortran, Common Lisp, and more



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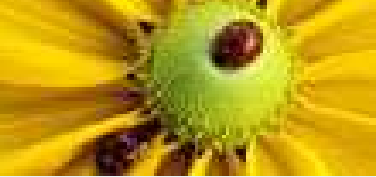
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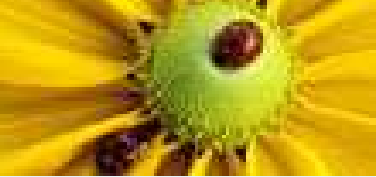
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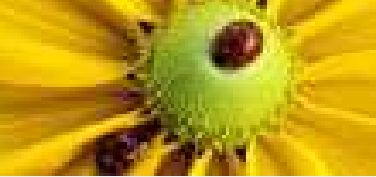
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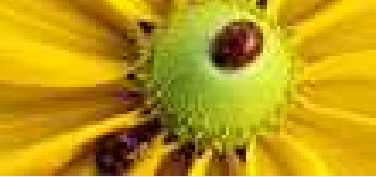
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- We are going to discuss:
 - ◆ How to write programs that need not be tested interactively
 - ◆ How to construct test files
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 - ◆ How to debug using `gdb`
 - ◆ Shell basics



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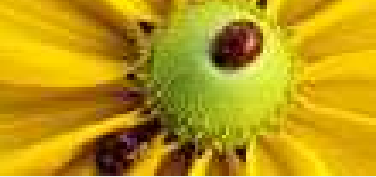
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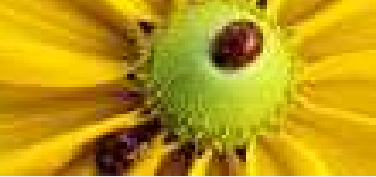
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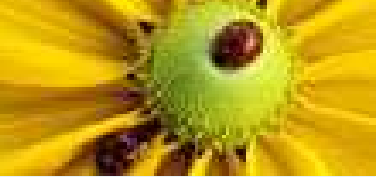
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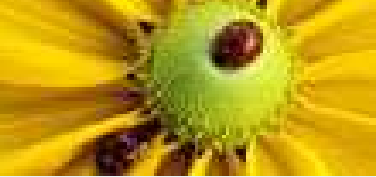
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- `scanf` automatically consumes all and any whitespace, however long
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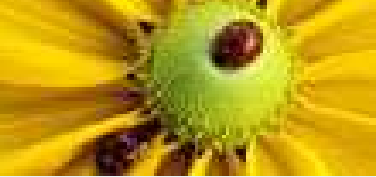
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- `scanf` automatically consumes all and any whitespace, however long
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- Such a program can then be run with input redirection



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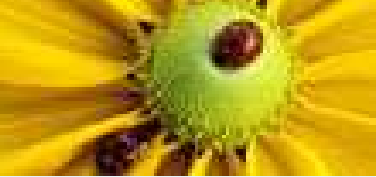
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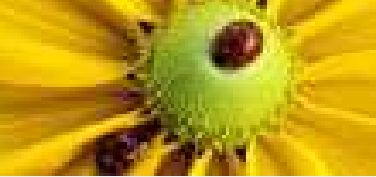
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- This makes your testing faster too: repeated trials with small changes to the code are now possible easily with a ready test input



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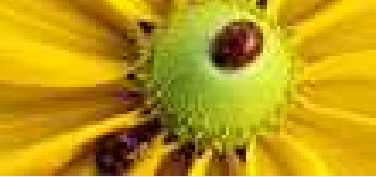
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- ***USE SHELL HISTORY***



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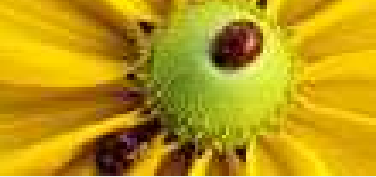
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- Always read input sizes and other parameters that decide how to read the input at the beginning



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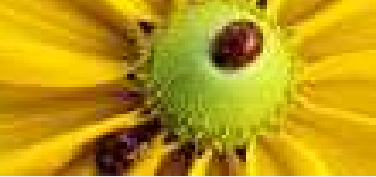
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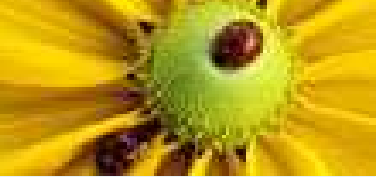
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- Never use prompts. Instead, prepare test files incrementally with the smallest or shortest input in one file, medium-sized in another, etc.



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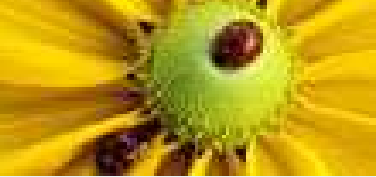
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- Never use prompts. Instead, prepare test files incrementally with the smallest or shortest input in one file, medium-sized in another, etc.
- Use a random number generator program for generating test files with varying sizes and combinations (I'll share mine)



Planning the tests

- When writing a complex program, first write a skeleton that pretends to follow the same sequence of major steps except the actual computations

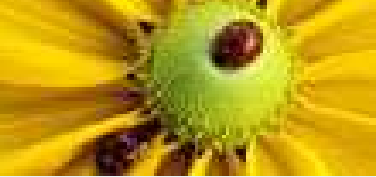
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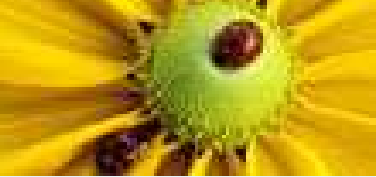
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- Prepare the test files and run the skeletal program on them to see if the input-output part is alright



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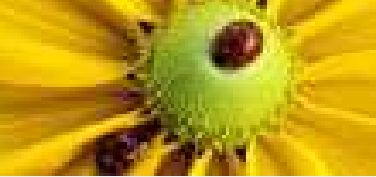
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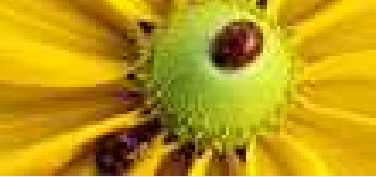
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- And compile with the debug macro defined while testing



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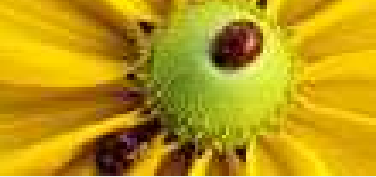
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See the sample makefile.

- `CC`, `LD`, `RM`, `CFLAGS`, `LDFLAGS`, `MAIN` are shell-like variables



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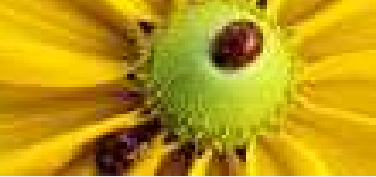
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See the sample makefile.

- `CC`, `LD`, `RM`, `CFLAGS`, `LDFLAGS`, `MAIN` are shell-like variables
- `OBJS` is a pattern substitution formula, a special `make` variable



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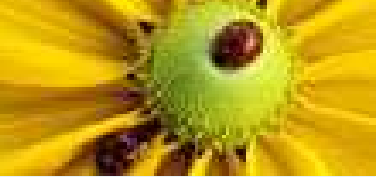
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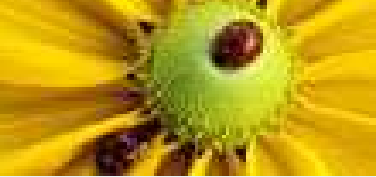
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- Anything that ends with a colon `:` is a target
- A target is followed by its dependencies on the same line
- On the following line, the means to achieve the target, using the variables and shell commands, and other targets



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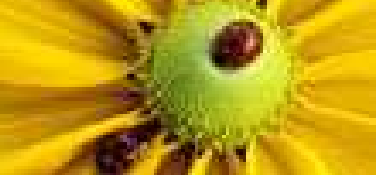
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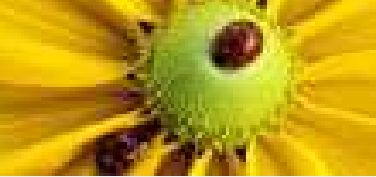
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- We may not be, but `*n?x` systems *are* multitasking, and this is not a marketing gimmick
- Very rarely these systems hang because of overload. Not much overheating too, unless the PC is bad. I have run laptops on GNU/`Linux` for weeks at a stretch doing hard numbercrunching unattended, handling even long powerdowns without need to rerun, *unattended*. All you need to do is organize and do some shell-programming.



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- First, open many terminals. One runs a `vi` clone. The C-program is always open in it, and you save it (`:w` and *not* `:wq`) everytime you switch to another window (but **not** close this one).



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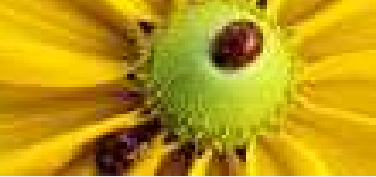
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- In another terminal, run `gcc` or better `make` everytime you modify and save the program, to test the effect of the change.
- In yet other terminals, you can keep open (running `vi` clones) your test input files, modify them time to time, save and test their effects in a similar manner. Of course, if you only change input, you do not need to recompile.



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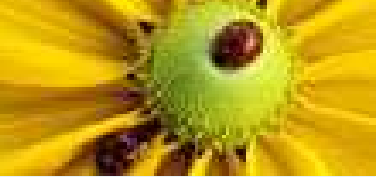
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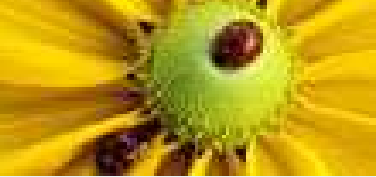
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- You need to compile with the `-g` flag, among others. (i.e. `$ gcc -g . . .`)



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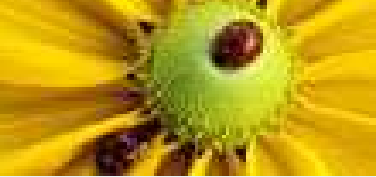
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- You need to compile with the `-g` flag, among others. (i.e. `$ gcc -g ...`)
- Then the executable binary generated can be debugged with `gdb`. Or `ddd`.



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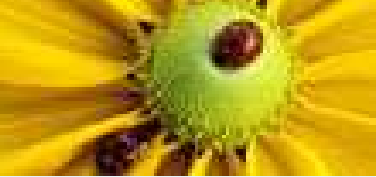
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- You need to compile with the `-g` flag, among others. (i.e. `$ gcc -g ...`)
- Then the executable binary generated can be debugged with `gdb`. Or `ddd`.
- For all languages compiled by the GCC, the GNU COMPILER COLLECTION, `gdb` can be used.



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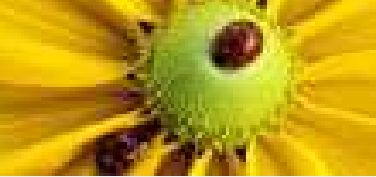
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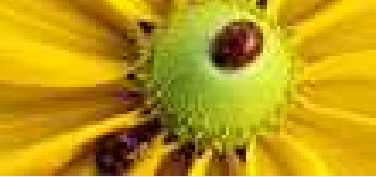
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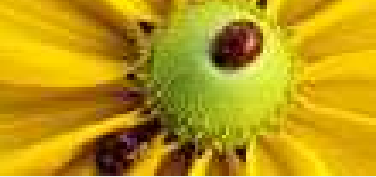
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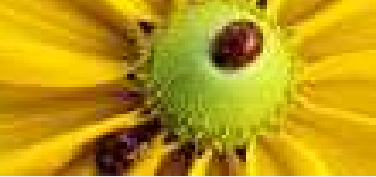
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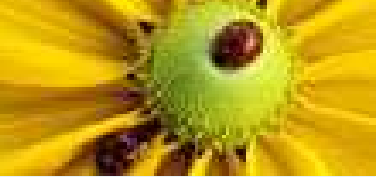
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- - lets you set breakpoints and run up till any of them is encountered
- - lets you finish the current function (all the remaining lines in it as a single step)



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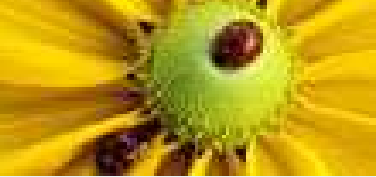
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- gdb lets you interrupt a program without loss of data



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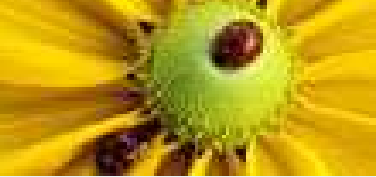
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- gdb lets you interrupt a program without loss of data
- - then examine and possibly modify contents of registers and variables



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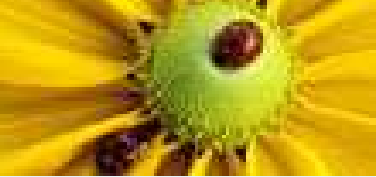
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- gdb lets you interrupt a program without loss of data
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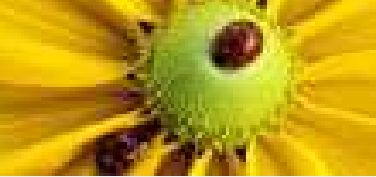
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- gdb lets you interrupt a program without loss of data
- - then examine and possibly modify contents of registers and variables
- - and continue running un interrupted again or step by step thenceforth.
- - And do many many many more things, including scripting and off-line unattended debugging!



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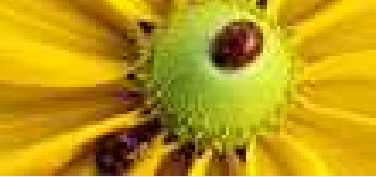
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■ Seeing is believing ...



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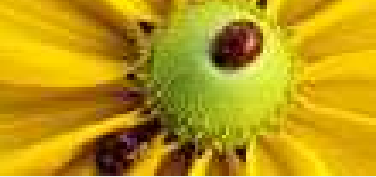
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- Seeing is believing ...
- The taste of the pudding is in eating it ...



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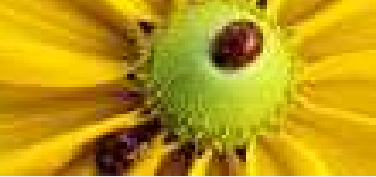
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- Seeing is believing ...
- The taste of the pudding is in eating it ...
- The test of the program is after gdbing it ...



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- Look at the program BubbleSort.c bundled with this.

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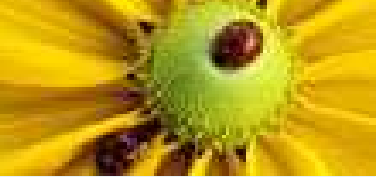
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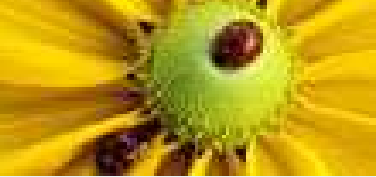
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- Look at the program `BubbleSort.c` bundled with this.
- Also see the `Makefile`. It is written to compile any standalone C source file into an executable.



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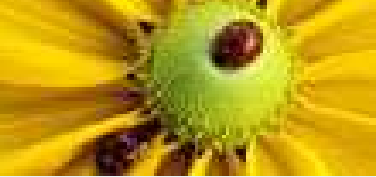
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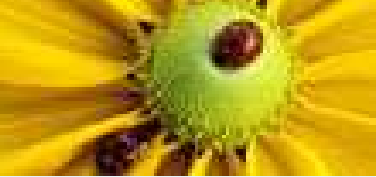
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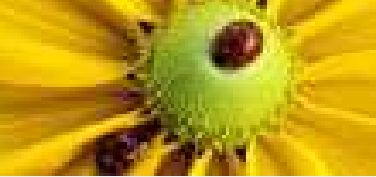
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- Issue `make debug` and build debug versions of the programs



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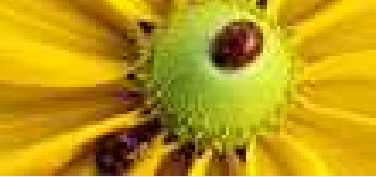
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- In `BubbleSort`, there are “`assert`”s to check correctness at various important points
- Issue `make debug` and build debug versions of the programs
- Then use `gdb` to trace their executions to check how the `assert`s work.



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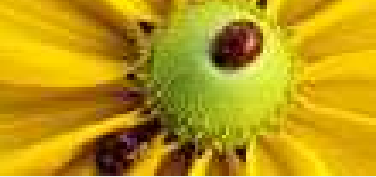
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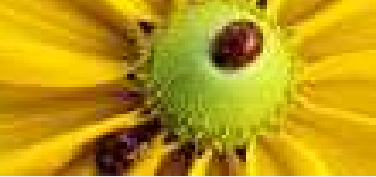
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■ `$ make debug`



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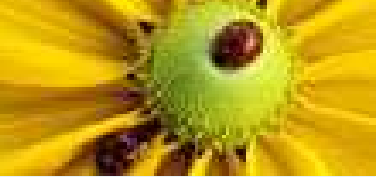
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- Issue the following commands in a `bash` shell when the `pwd` is the directory containing the Makefile and `BubbleSort.c` bundled here:

- `$ make debug`

- `$ for ((i=1; i<=1000; i++)) ; do`



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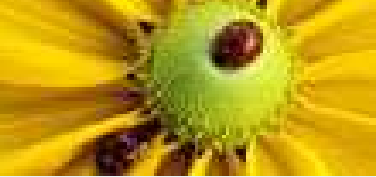
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■ `$ make debug`

■ `$ for ((i=1; i<=1000; i++)) ; do`

■ `$ ((n=$RANDOM % 1000)) ; echo $n > sortest.in`



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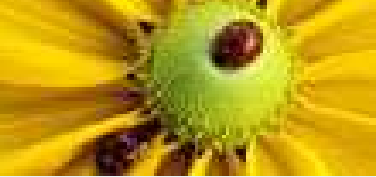
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- `$ for ((i=1; i<=1000; i++)) ; do`

- `$ ((n=$RANDOM % 1000)) ; echo $n > sorttestin`

- `$ for ((i=0; i<$n; i++)) ; do echo $RANDOM ;
done » sorttestin`



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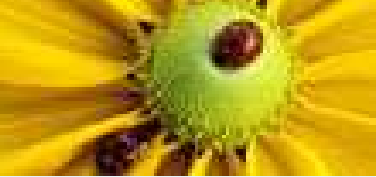
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- `$./xBubbleSort < sortest.in`



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- `$./xBubbleSort < sortest.in`

- `$ done > sortest.out`

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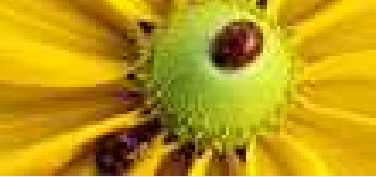
- `$ ((n=$RANDOM % 1000)) ; echo $n > sortest.in`

- `$ for ((i=0; i<$n; i++)) ; do echo $RANDOM ; done » sortest.in`

- `$./xBubbleSort < sortest.in`

- `$ done > sortest.out`

- Wait patiently. Now (after quite some time) you get in `sortest.out` two columns: `n` and the no. exchanges of BubbleSort on the randomly generated input of size `n`. To speed up, use just `make` instead of `make debug` above.



Plotting the Graph

- Now plot the graph by taking the two columns in `sortestout` as x and y columns

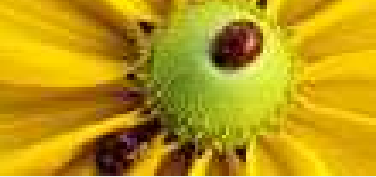
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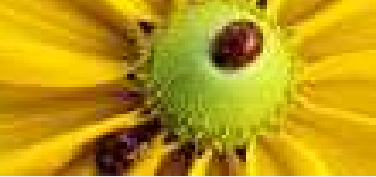
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- Now plot the graph by taking the two columns in `sortestout` as x and y columns
- Use `gnuplot` or, if you are weak-hearted, LibreOffice Calc



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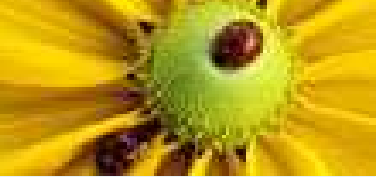
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■ Stop

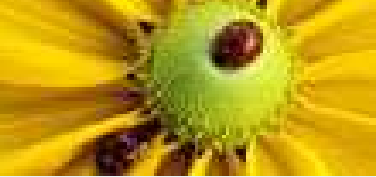
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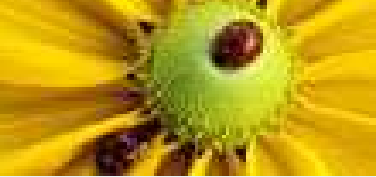
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■ Stop

■ Watch



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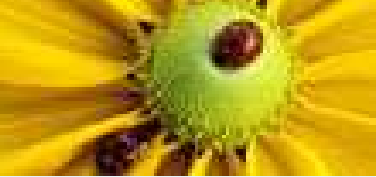
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- Stop
- Watch
- and



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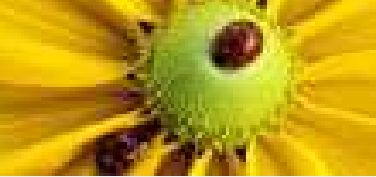
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- Stop
- Watch
- and
- Do not go



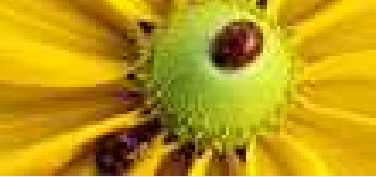
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- Stop
- Watch
- and
- Do not go
- Until you do what this tells you to do
 - ◆ Work
 - ◆ in
 - ◆ Progress



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- Stop
- Watch
- and
- Do not go
- Until you do what this tells you to do
 - ◆ Work
 - ◆ in
 - ◆ Progress
- Or regress ? ;-)