

# Lab 8 – InLab

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**CSC 3320 SYSTEM LEVEL PROGRAMMING**

# Objective

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- To learn how to debug a C program using **`gdb`**

# *What is gdb?*

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- GNU Debugger
- The most popular debugger for UNIX systems to debug C and C++ programs.

# Features provided by gdb

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- Set up **breakpoints**
- Control the execution : Continue, Stepping over and in
- Printing the variable values
- Miscellaneous

# Set up breakpoints

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- **break** line\_number
  - E.g. Set up a breakpoint at line 10
  - Command: **break 10**

## Demo

```
(gdb) break 10
```

```
Breakpoint 1 at 0x400605: file debug.c, line 10.
```

# Control the execution

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- **run** (or **r**) : start a new execution until a breakpoint or to the end if no breakpoints.
- **continue**( or **c**) : continue executing until the next breakpoint
- **next** (or **n**) : execute next line as a single instruction (step over)
- **step** (or **s**) : same as next, but does not treat the function as a single instruction, instead it goes into function and executes it line by line (step in)

# Printing the variable values

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- **print** variable\_name

- E.g. `print i`

```
print j
```

- Or simply use **p** instead of **print**

```
p i
```

```
p j
```

# Print backtraces of all stack frame

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- **where**
  - Shows stack: sequence of function calls executed so far
  - Good for pinpointing location of a program crash
- **up**
  - Goes up one level in the stack



# Display the values of expressions at each step

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- **display** expression

- E.g. Show the value of expression of  $b + 1$  at each time your program stops

```
display b+1
```

## Demo

```
(gdb) display b+1
1: b+1 = 2
(gdb) n
7          scanf("%d",b);
1: b+1 = 2: file debug.c, line 10.
```

# Demo


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Step 1 : Compile the debug.c with -g debugging option

```
$gcc -o debug -g debug.c
```

Step 2: Launch gdb

```
$gdb debug
```



These two steps are very important!!!

# Demo

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Step 3: Set up breakpoint at line 6

```
(gdb) break 6
```

# Demo

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## Step 3: List the source code

```
(gdb) list
1      #include<stdio.h>
2
3      int main(void) {
4
5          int b=1,c=2;
6          printf("Please enter the value of
b:");
7          scanf("%d",b);
8          c=b/3;
9          printf("%d/3=%d \n",b,c );
10     }
```

# Demo

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## Step 4 :Run from start until the first breakpoint

```
(gdb) r
```

```
Starting program: /home/yulong4/public/debug
```

```
Breakpoint 1, main () at debug.c:6
```

```
6          printf("Please enter the value of b:");
```

## Step 5: Print out value stored in b

```
(gdb) p b
```

```
$1 = 1
```

# Control the execution

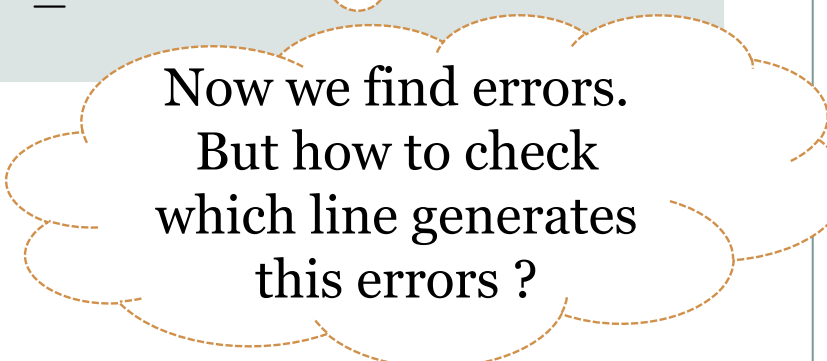
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## Step 6 : Run the next two instructions

```
(gdb) n
7  scanf ("%d",b);
(gdb) n
Please enter the value of b:5
```

Program received signal SIGSEGV, **Segmentation fault**.

0x00007ffff7a72122 in \_\_GI\_\_IO\_vfscanf from  
/lib64/libc.so.6



Now we find errors.  
But how to check  
which line generates  
this errors ?

# Print backtraces of all stack frame

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## Step 7 : Show stack and go up one level

(gdb) **where**

#0 0x00007ffff7a72122 in \_\_GI\_\_IO\_vfscanf () from /lib64/libc.so.6

#1 0x00007ffff7a80b59 in \_\_isoc99\_scanf () from /lib64/libc.so.6

#2 0x00000000004005d6 in main () at debug.c:7

(gdb) **up**

#1 0x00007ffff7a80b59 in \_\_isoc99\_scanf () from /lib64/libc.so.6

(gdb) **up**

#2 0x00000000004005d6 in main  
7 scanf ("%d", b);

This line generated  
error.  
What is the error?

# Other Resources

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- Online GDB

<https://www.onlinegdb.com>

- RMS's gdb debugging tutorial

<http://www.unknownroad.com/rtfm/gdbtut/gdbtoc.html>

- GDB Quickstart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yZIFmplXsw>