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Cpre 308 Lab 1:

The first lab for Cpre 308 was rather informative. It started with a basic introduction to the linux commands which would be used throughout the semester. I knew some of the commands but had forgotten most of them. It was rather refreshing to go over all of them and use them to check if I remembered how they work.

One very useful thing I learnt was how to use a debugger. I have never used a debugger before because I used to think they were tedious. Though, surprisingly, GNU does not seem all that tedious. One of the most common errors in C which is the segmentation fault, which in most cases seems unsolvable can be detected and solved using GNU. I was rather surprised by its accuracy. I am not very good at using it yet but I think by the end of the class, I would have used this tool at least twice for each lab.

Another interesting tool that we used was Valgrind. Valgrind seems to output the memory allocation problems or other memory leaks problems. It seems useful but I think I will be able to understand its full capabilities after I have used it a few more times.

More than using fancy debugging tools, the biggest thing I learnt in this lab was how to use GitHub. I have had to use it in a few other classes but I have always really struggled with it and I never understood it completely. The first lab was a comprehensive guide towards using github. I really appreciate that.

Finally, we had to debug a faulty program. The program had segmentation fault problem. I used GNU to debug it. I set a break point and tried to run it. I was successfully able to solve the problem. The problem was using 11 spaces in an array of 10. Hence, I removed the `<= size` in the "for loop" and replaced it with `<`.

My overall learning experience of this lab was great. I can definitely say that I learnt a lot more than I expected.