



2. Debug C/C++ by using gdb in VScode

• 2.1 Install “gdb” (the debug tool of C/C++)

- using cmd “**which gdb**” to check whether gdb is installed or no
 - ✓ if there is no info about gdb after running command “**which gdb**”, it means that gdb is not installed, then
 - 1. using “**sudo apt undate**” to update package list
 - 2. using “**sudo apt install gdb**” to install gdb
 - ✓ If the installation directory of gdb is displayed after running command “**which gdb**” is executed, it means that gdb has been successfully installed.

```
PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  DEBUG CONSOLE  TERMINAL  PORTS
ww2@DESKTOP-S3ETMIR:/mnt/d/2025/c_cpp$ which gcc
/usr/bin/gcc
ww2@DESKTOP-S3ETMIR:/mnt/d/2025/c_cpp$ which g++
/usr/bin/g++
ww2@DESKTOP-S3ETMIR:/mnt/d/2025/c_cpp$ which gdb

```

```
ww2@DESKTOP-S3ETMIR:/mnt/d/2025/c_cpp$ which gdb
/usr/bin/gdb
```



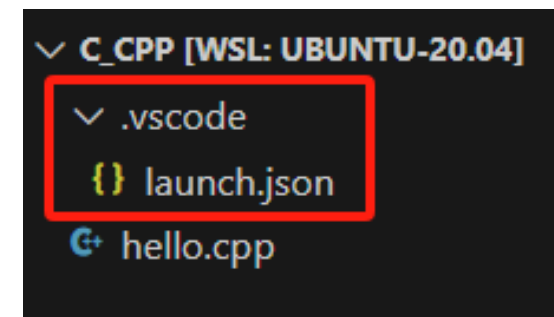
commands for install gdb

```
ww2@DESKTOP-S3ETMIR:/mnt/d/2025/c_cpp$ sudo apt update
[sudo] password for ww2:
Hit:1 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal InRelease
Get:2 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates InRelease [128 kB]
Get:3 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-backports InRelease [128 kB]
Get:4 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main amd64 Packages [3778 kB]
Get:5 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security InRelease [128 kB]
Get:6 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/main amd64 Packages [3396 kB]
Get:7 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/main Translation-en [496 kB]
Get:8 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/restricted amd64 Packages [3406 kB]
Get:9 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/restricted Translation-en [477 kB]
Get:10 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/universe amd64 Packages [1032 kB]
Get:11 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security/universe Translation-en [219 kB]
Get:12 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/main Translation-en [576 kB]
Get:13 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/restricted amd64 Packages [3553 kB]
Get:14 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/restricted Translation-en [497 kB]
Get:15 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/universe amd64 Packages [1254 kB]
Get:16 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates/universe Translation-en [301 kB]
Fetched 19.4 MB in 6min 8s (52.7 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
165 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
ww2@DESKTOP-S3ETMIR:/mnt/d/2025/c_cpp$ sudo apt install gdb
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  gdbserver libbabeltrace1 libc-dev-bin libc6 libc6-dbg libc6-dev libdw1 libelf1
Suggested packages:
  gdb-doc glibc-doc
The following NEW packages will be installed:
```



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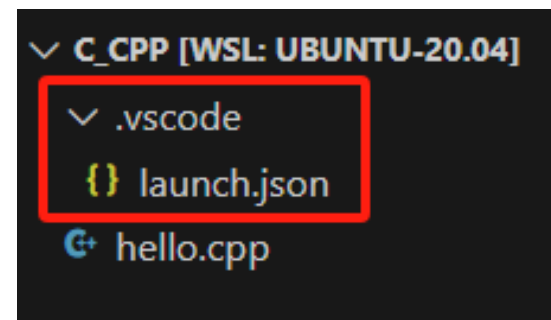
- 2.2 configure VSCode for using gdb to debug C/C++ code
 - create and edit “.vscode” folder and json files
 - ✓ step1. create a new folder named “.vscode” in the directory of C/C++ codes
 - ✓ step2. create a new json file named “launch.json” in the “.vscode” folder which is created in step1
 - edit “launch.json” to set gdb for debugging the execute file which is created by “g++ -g” / “gcc -g”
 - tips: option “-g” used with gcc/g++ is to generate information for debugging while compiling the C/C++ source code.





```
{
  "version": "0.2.0",
  "configurations": [
    {
      "name": "(gdb) Launch",
      "type": "cppdbg",
      "request": "launch",
      "program": "${fileDirname}/${fileBasenameNoExtension}",
      "args": [],
      "stopAtEntry": false,
      "cwd": "${workspaceFolder}",
      "environment": [],
      "externalConsole": false,
      "MIMode": "gdb",
      "setupCommands": [
        {
          "description": "Enable pretty-printing for gdb",
          "text": "-enable-pretty-printing",
          "ignoreFailures": true
        },
        {
          "description": "Set Disassembly Flavor to Intel",
          "text": "-gdb-set disassembly-flavor intel",
          "ignoreFailures": true
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```


<--- An example of launch.json



<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/cpp/config-linux>



2. Debug C/C++ by using gdb in VScode

- 2.3 lunch gdb to debug in VS Code by “Run and Debug” 
 - compile the souce code with “-g” option to generate information for debug and generate the executable file

```
ww2@DESKTOP-4NIH4UK:/mnt/c/Users/sustech/Desktop/C_CPP_CODE$ ls -a
. . .vscode hello.cpp
ww2@DESKTOP-4NIH4UK:/mnt/c/Users/sustech/Desktop/C_CPP_CODE$ g++ -g -o hello hello.cpp
ww2@DESKTOP-4NIH4UK:/mnt/c/Users/sustech/Desktop/C_CPP_CODE$ ls -a
. . .vscode hello hello.cpp
ww2@DESKTOP-4NIH4UK:/mnt/c/Users/sustech/Desktop/C_CPP_CODE$
```

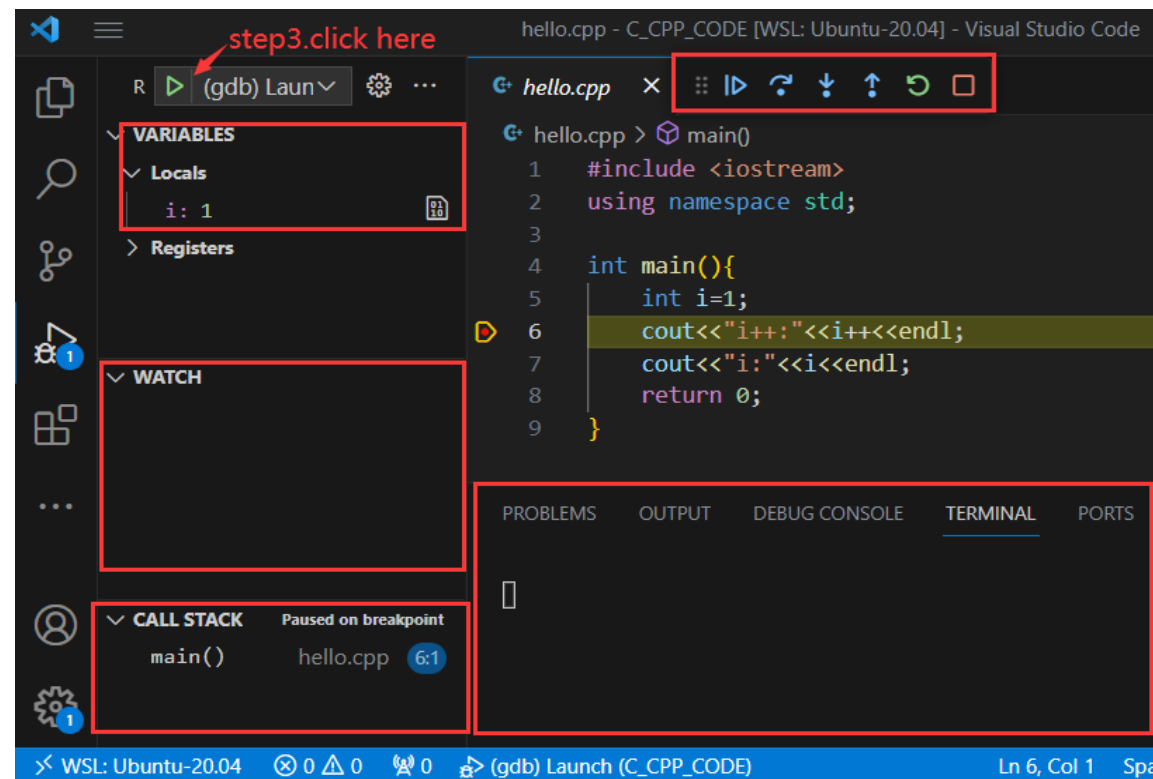
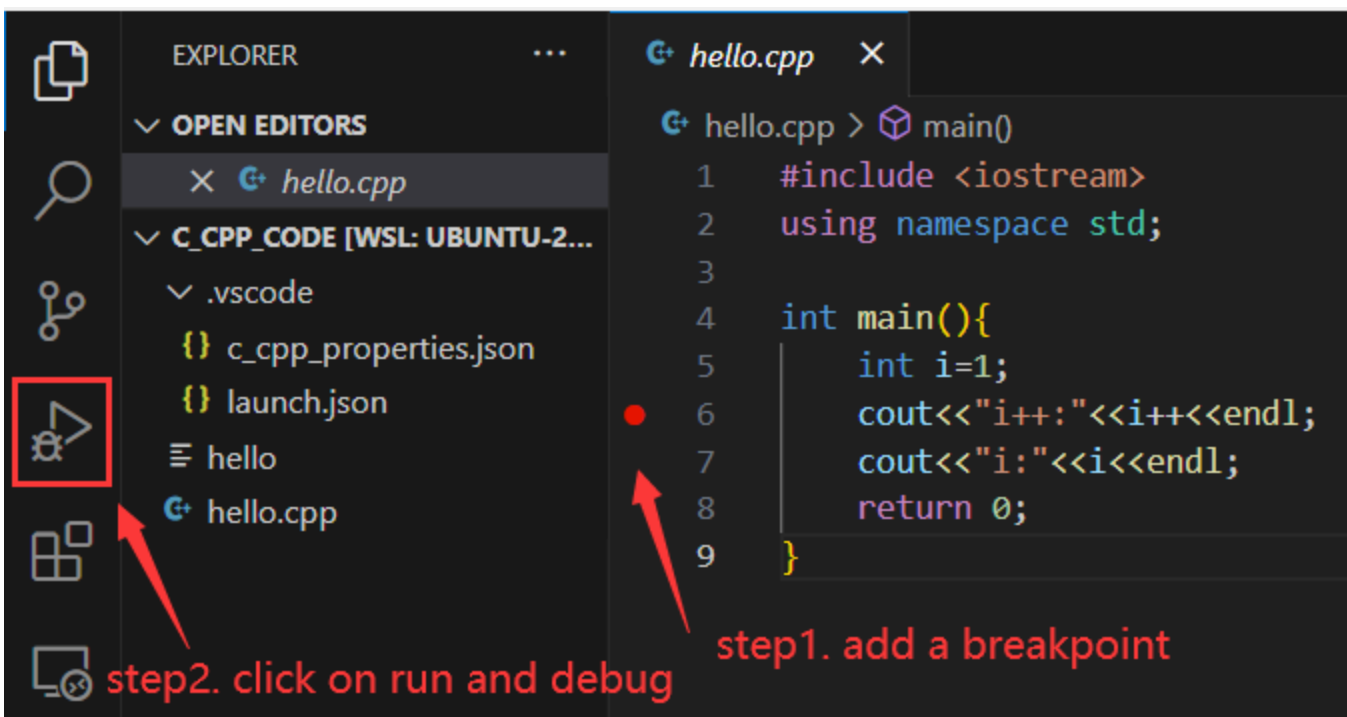
```
{
  "version": "0.2.0",
  "configurations": [
    {
      "name": "(gdb) Launch",
      "type": "cppdbg",
      "request": "launch",
      "program": "${fileDirname}/${fileBasenameNoExtension}",
      "args": [],
      "stopAtEntry": false,
      "cwd": "${workspaceFolder}",
```

An example of
launch.json-->



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- 2.4 set “breakpoint” on source file, lunch gdb to run and debug



<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/cpp/config-linux>



2. Debug C/C++ by using gdb in VScode

- 2.5 View the data stored in a variable by gdb(optional)
 - During debugging, you can use GDB commands to view the data stored in variable(s).
- ✓ step1. choose “DEBUG CONSOLE” window.
- ✓ step2. run the command in command line in the “DEBUG CONSOLE” window.
 - -exec [gdb command] in vscode
- ✓ step3. View the results after executing the command in the “DEBUG CONSOLE” window.

```
hello.cpp
hello.cpp > main()
2   using namespace std;
3
4   int main(){
5       cout <<"sizeof(char): "<<
6       char x = 0xFF;
7       char y = 'b';
8       char z = 'B';
9       return 0;
10  }
11

DEBUG CONSOLE
-exec x /1db &z
0x7fffffffddff: 66
-exec x /3xb &x
```

endian

(gdb) Launch (C_CPP_CODE) Ln 10, Col 1



2. Debug C/C++ by using gdb in VScode

➤ Using the command x (for “examine”) to examine memory in any of several formats, independently of your program’s data types.

✓ x /nfu addr

- n, the repeat count
- f, the display format
- u, the unit size

<https://sourceware.org/gdb/current/onlinedocs/gdb.html/Memory.html#Memory>