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About the Demo

What is this? This is a guided tour through TRACE32 - a tutorial. We use a simple program example in C to illustrate the most important debug features, and give lots of helpful tips & tricks for everyday use.

How long does this tutorial take? 0.5 to 1 hrs.

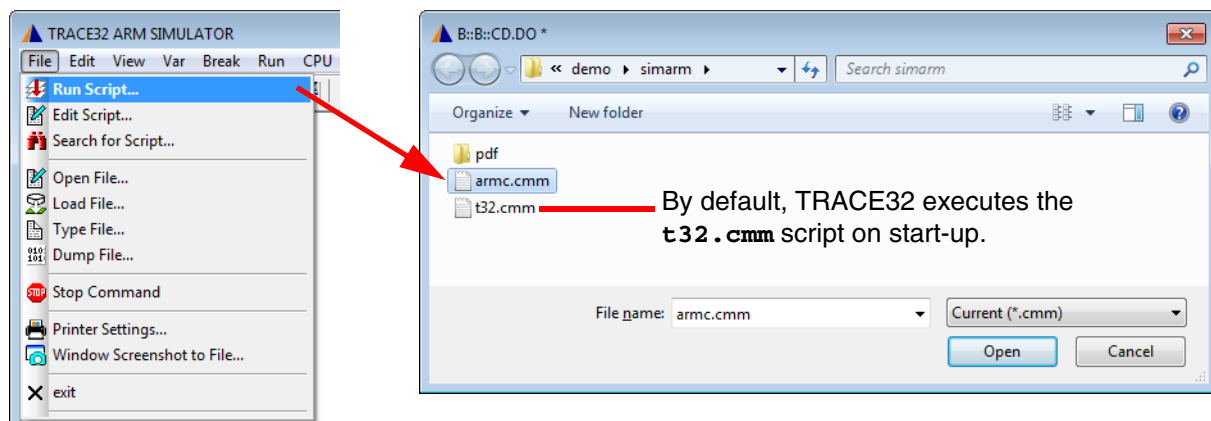
How can I learn most from this tutorial? Work completely through all chapters in sequence and then do the quiz at the end.

Where can I download the TRACE32 Simulator for the hands-on debug session? From: <http://www.lauterbach.com/download.html>. You do not need any hardware for this tutorial.

Starting the TRACE32 Simulator

1. Unzip the downloaded file. You do not need to install the TRACE32 Simulator.
2. Double-click the `t32m<architecture>.exe` file (e.g. `t32marm.exe`) to start the demo debug session. When the TRACE32 Instruction Set Simulator starts, a start-up PRACTICE script that sets up a debug session is automatically executed.

You can manually execute the same start-up PRACTICE script by choosing **File menu > Run Script**.



PRACTICE, the Lauterbach script language, is used for automating tests, configuring the TRACE32 GUI and your debug environment.

For our demo debug session, the PRACTICE start-up script `armc.cmm` loads the application program `armle.axf` and generates a TRACE32 internal symbol database out of the loaded information.

User Interface - TRACE32 PowerView

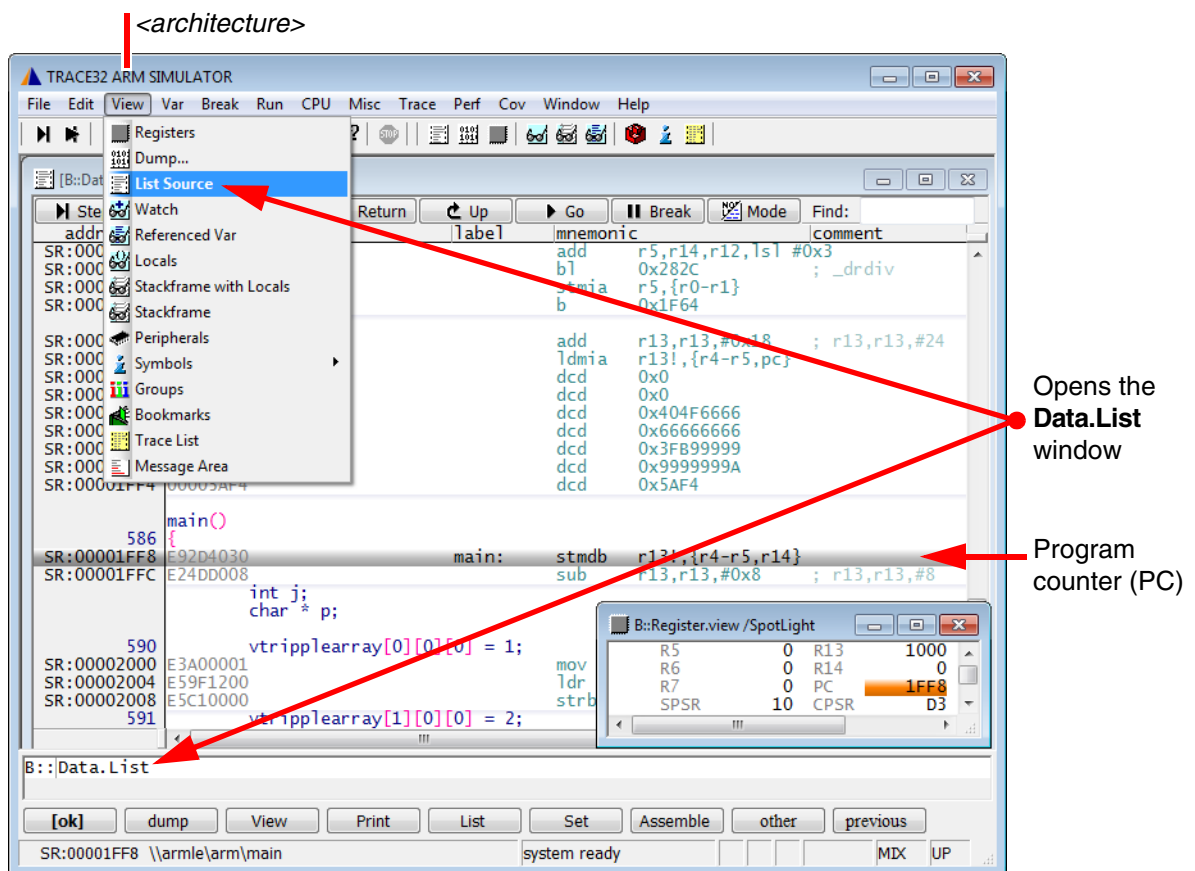
The graphical user interface (GUI) of TRACE32 is called TRACE32 PowerView, see screenshot below. We'll briefly explain the GUI using the **Data.List** command and **Data.List** window as an example.

Program Listing and Program Counter

Do one of the following to open the **Data.List** window:

- Choose **View** menu > **List Source**
- or, at the TRACE32 command line, type: **Data.List** (or **D.L** or **List**)

The **Data.List** (= **List**) window displays the code in assembler mnemonic and HLL.



In the **Data.List** window, the gray bar indicates the position of the program counter (PC). Right now, it is located on the symbolic address of the label **main**. This is because the program counter (PC) is instructed in the start-up PRACTICE script, as follows:

```
;Set CPU register Program Counter (PC) to the address of the label main.  
Register.Set PC main
```

TRACE32 Commands

You can execute commands in TRACE32 PowerView via the usual suspects:

1. Menus on the menu bar
2. Buttons on the main toolbar and the buttons on the toolbars of TRACE32 windows
3. Context menus in TRACE32 windows

Additionally in TRACE32, you can execute commands via the TRACE32 command line and the softkeys below the command line.

TRACE32 Command Line and Softkeys

TRACE32 commands are **not** case sensitive: **register.view** is the same as **Register.view**

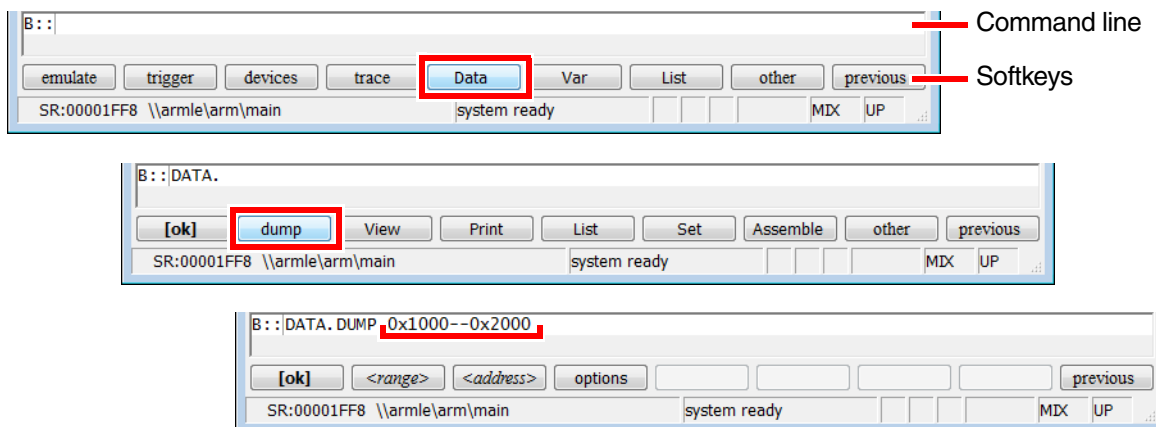
UPPER CASE letters indicate the short forms of commands and must not be omitted. All lower case letters can be omitted. This makes short forms an efficient time saver when you are entering frequently-used commands in the command line. Examples:

- Instead of the long form **Register.view** type just the short form **r** or **R**
- Instead of the long form **Data.List** type just the short form **d.l** or **D.L**

The softkeys are below the command line. The camel casing (i.e. upper and lower case letters) on any softkey tells you the long form of a command. The softkeys guide you through the command input, displaying all possible commands and parameters.


Example - To assemble the Data.dump command using the softkeys:

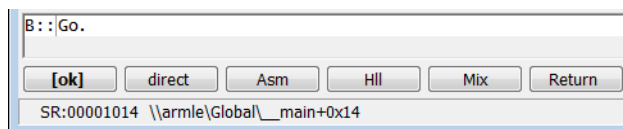
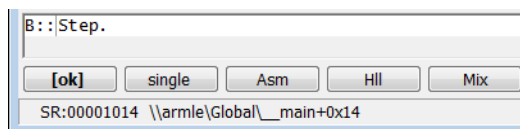
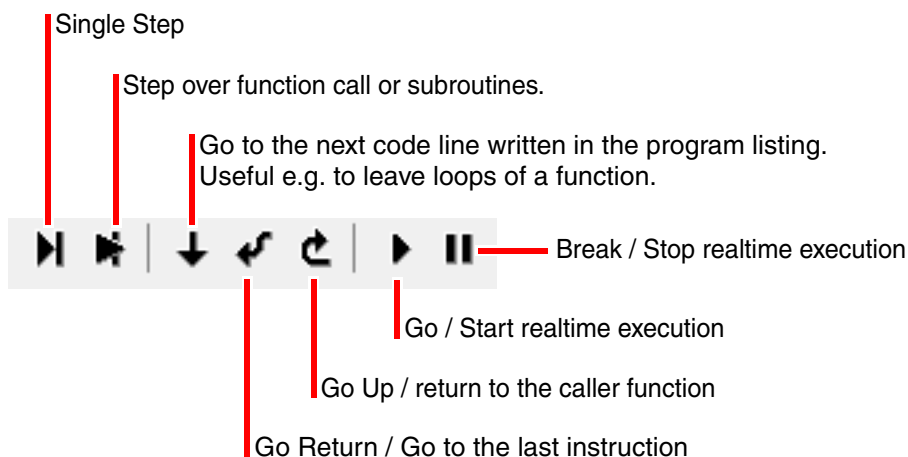
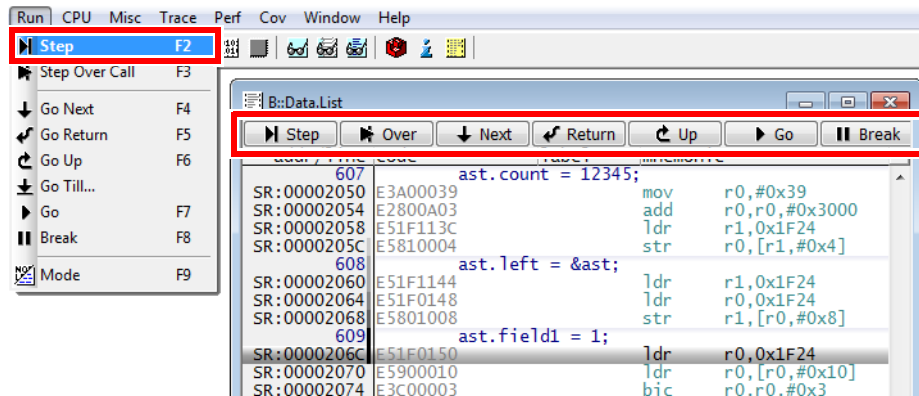
1. Click **Data**.
2. Click **dump**.
3. Type the **<range>** or **<address>** you want to dump. For example, **0x1000--0x2000**
4. Click **[ok]** to execute the command. The **Data.dump** window opens.



Single Stepping

The basic debug commands are available via the **Run** menu, the toolbar of the **Data.List** window, the main toolbar, and via the TRACE32 command line.

Single stepping  is one of the basic debug commands.



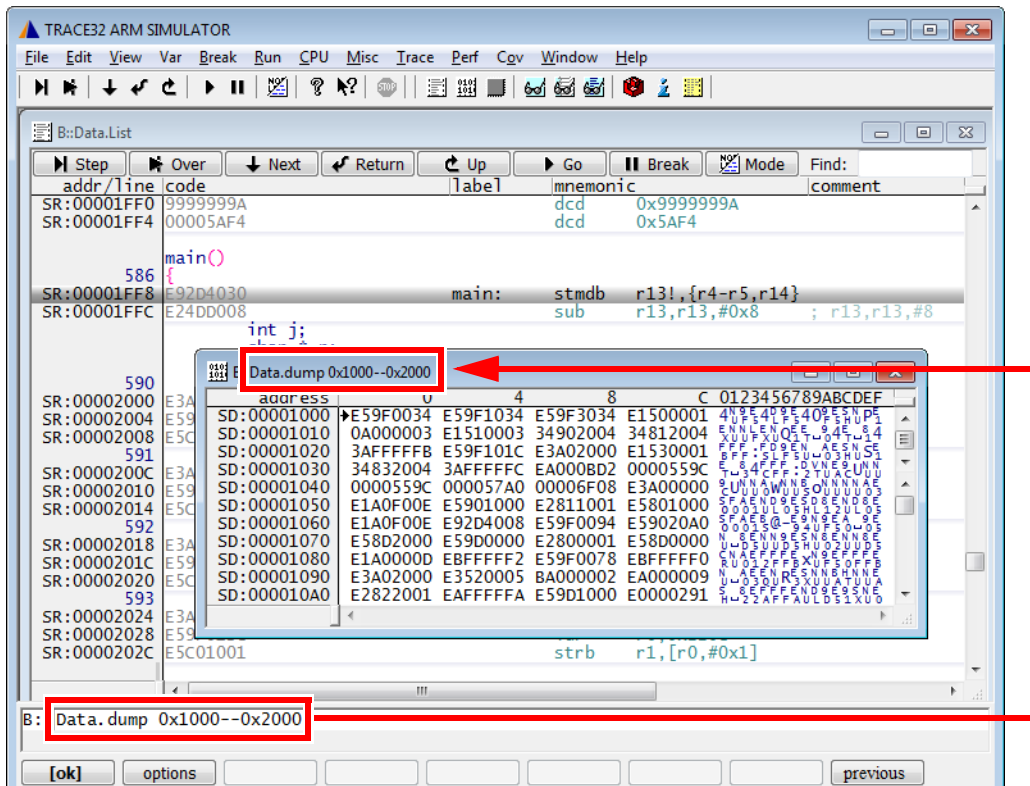
TRACE32 provides also more complex debug control commands. You can run or step until an expression changes or becomes true.

Example: **Var.Step.Till i>11.** single-steps the program until the variable **i** becomes greater than **11**. The trailing dot is very important! It is the dot that formats 11 as a decimal number.

Note: **i>11.** is equivalent to **i>0xB**

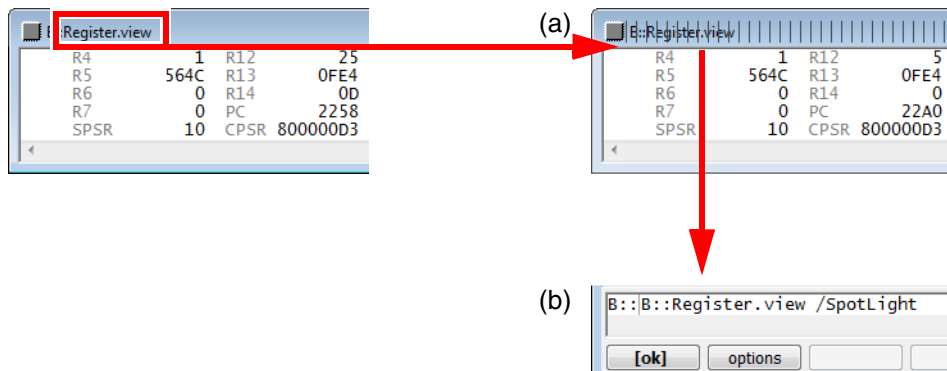
Window Captions - What makes them special in TRACE32

The command with which you open a window will be shown as the window caption. The parameters and options are also included in the window caption.





You can **re-insert** a command from a window caption (a) into the command line (b) in order to modify the command. Let's do this with the **Register** window.

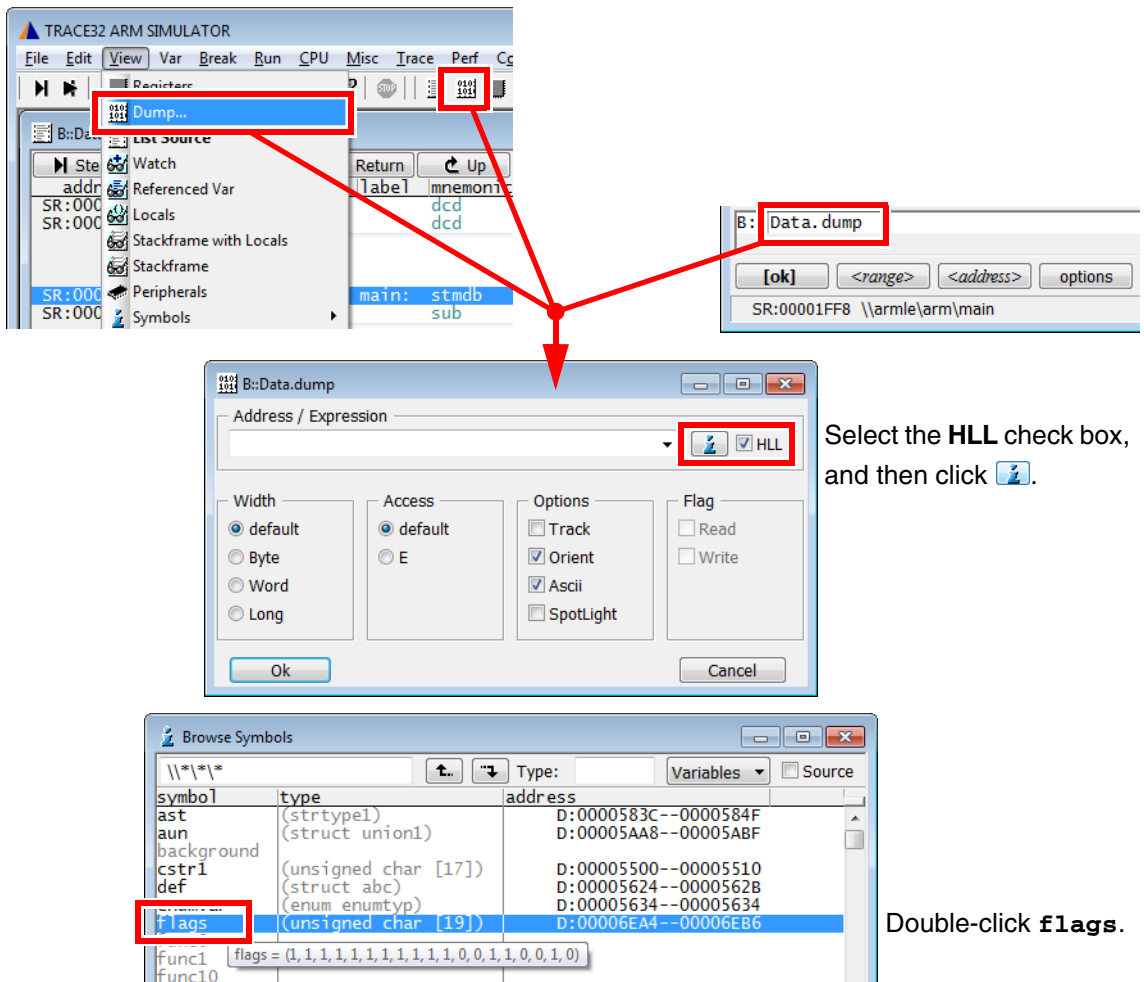
1. Choose **View** menu > **Register**.
2. Right-click the window caption (a).
3. Modify the command, e.g. by adding the **/SpotLight** option: It will highlight changed registers.



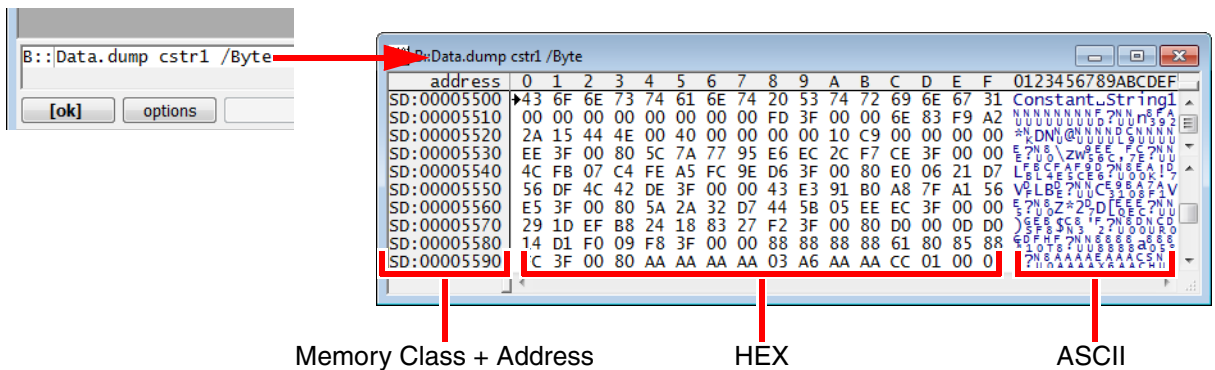
4. Click **[ok]** to execute the modified command.
5. Click **Single Step** on the TRACE32 toolbar. Changed registers are highlighted immediately.

Displaying Memory

1. To display a memory dump in a **Data.dump** window, do one of the following:
 - Choose **View** menu > **Dump**,
 - or click  **Memory Dump** on the toolbar,
 - or, at the TRACE32 command line, type: **Data.dump**
You can also specify an address or symbol directly, e.g.: **Data.dump main++0x30**
2. In the **Data.dump** dialog, enter the data item, e.g. **main**
 - Alternatively, select the **HLL** check box, and then click  to browse through the symbol database.
3. In the **Browse Symbols** window, double-click the symbol **flags** to select it, and then click **OK**.



In the following screenshot, the **Data.dump** window is called via the TRACE32 command line.



There are different ways to define an address range:

- `<start_address>--<end_address>`

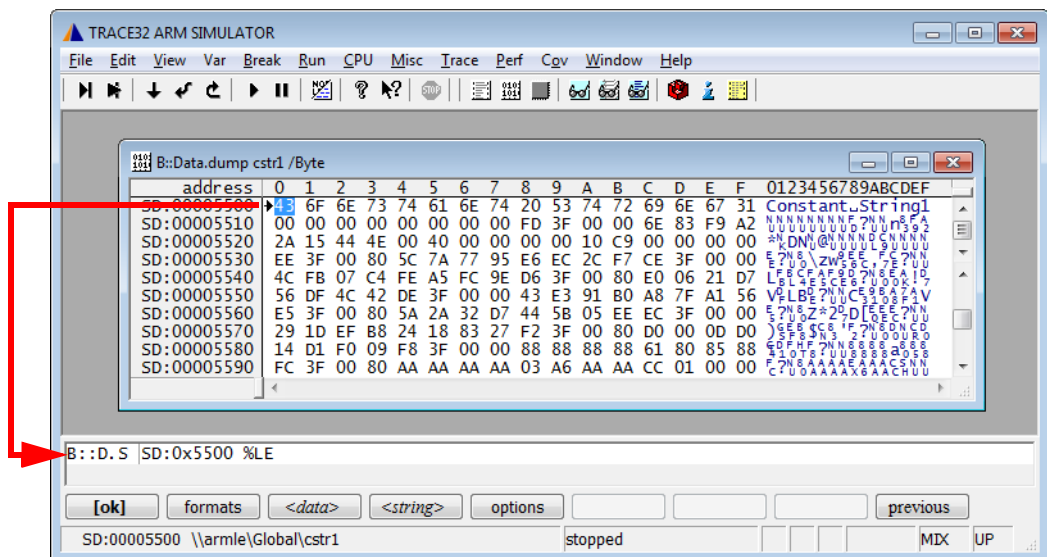
```
Data.dump SD:0x5530--SD:0x554F ;SD: is a memory class specifier
```

- `<start_address>++<offset>`

```
Data.dump cstr1++20. /Byte ;start at cstr1 plus the next 20 bytes
Data.dump cstr1--(cstr1+20.) /Byte ;alternative to previous line
```

Modifying Memory

1. In a **Data.dump** window, double-click the value you want to modify.
A **Data.Set** command for the selected address is displayed in the command line. The short form of the command is **D.S** or **d.s**

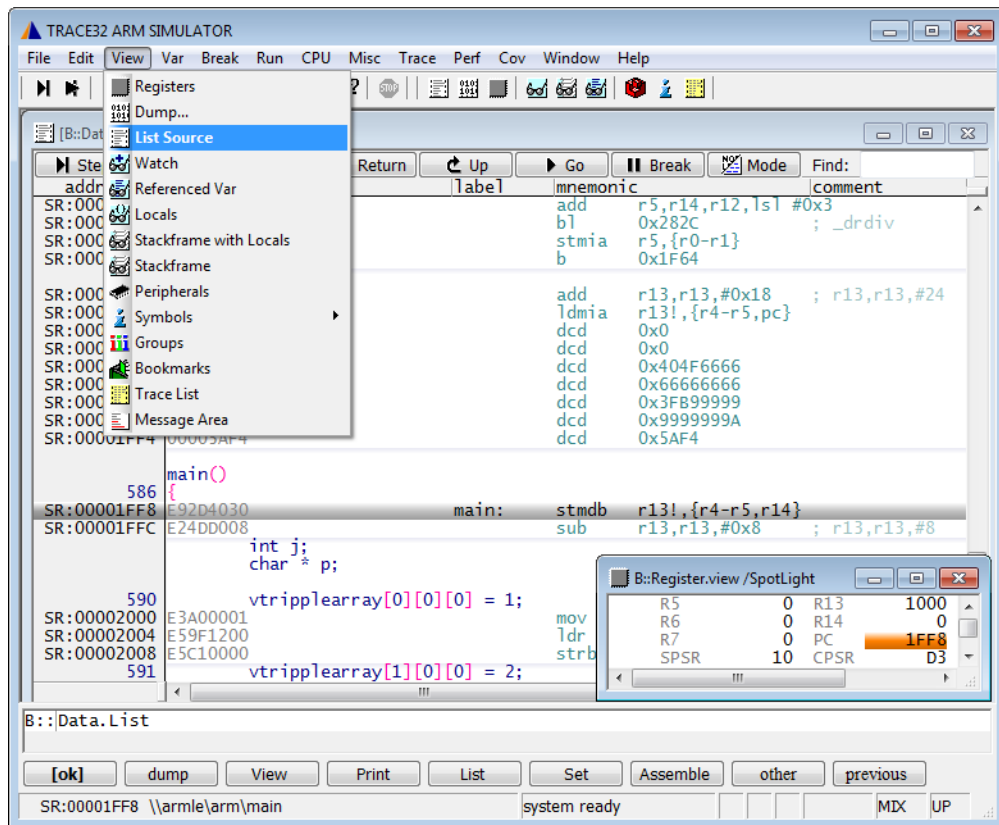


2. Enter the new value directly after **%LE**, and then confirm with **[ok]**.

Debugging the Program

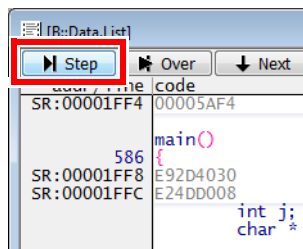
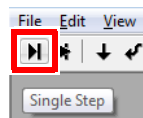
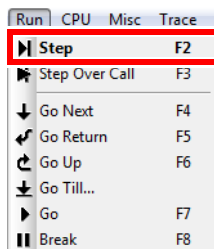
1. Choose **View** menu > **List Source**.

A **Data.List** window opens, displaying the program listing around the program counter.

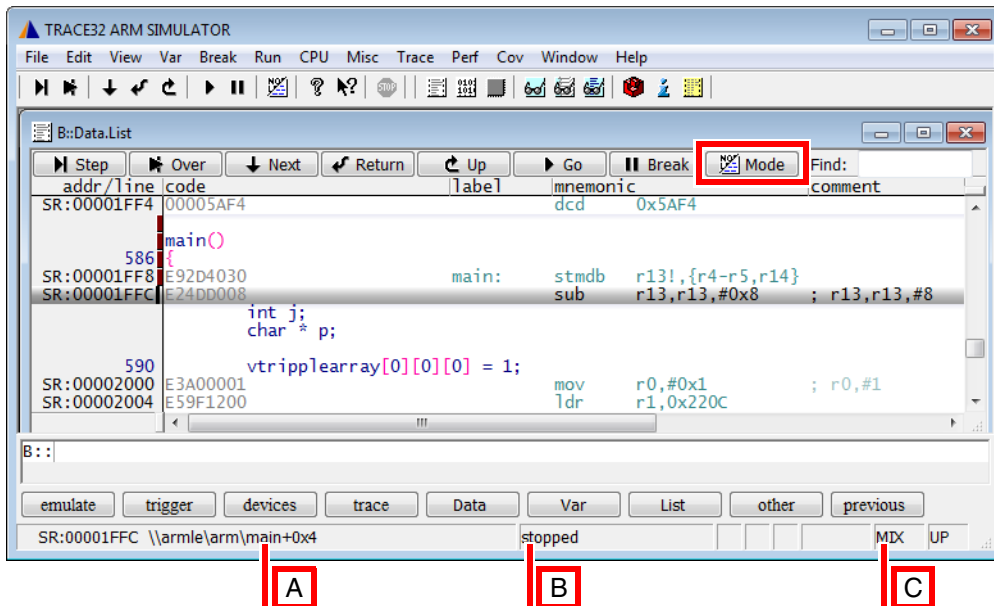


2. Do one of the following to single-step through the program:

- Choose **Run** menu > **Step**,
- or press **F2** (see function keys in the **Run** menu),
- or click **Single Step** on the TRACE32 toolbar,
- or click **Step** in the **Data.List** window,
- or, at the TRACE32 command line, type: **step**

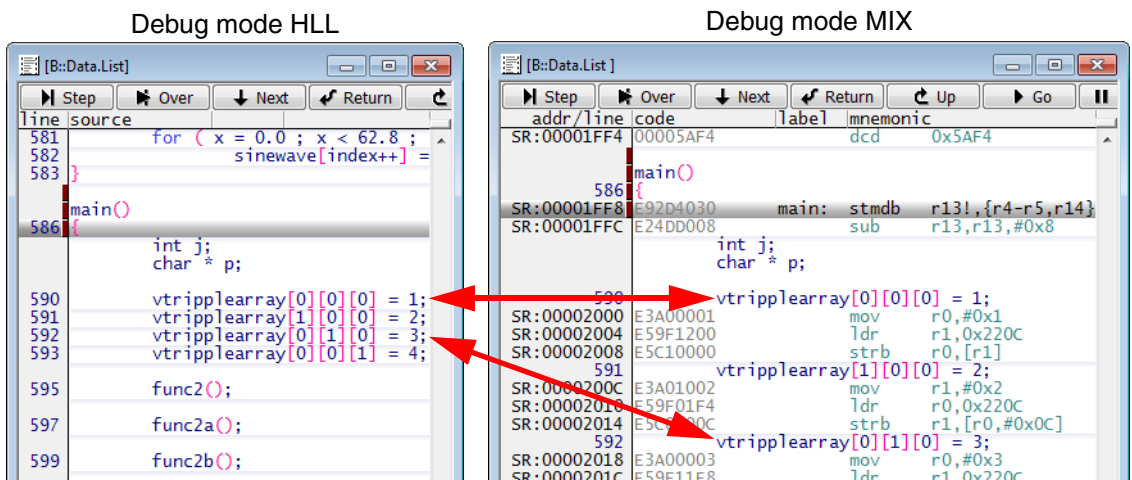


- Take a look at the state line at the bottom of the TRACE32 main window:





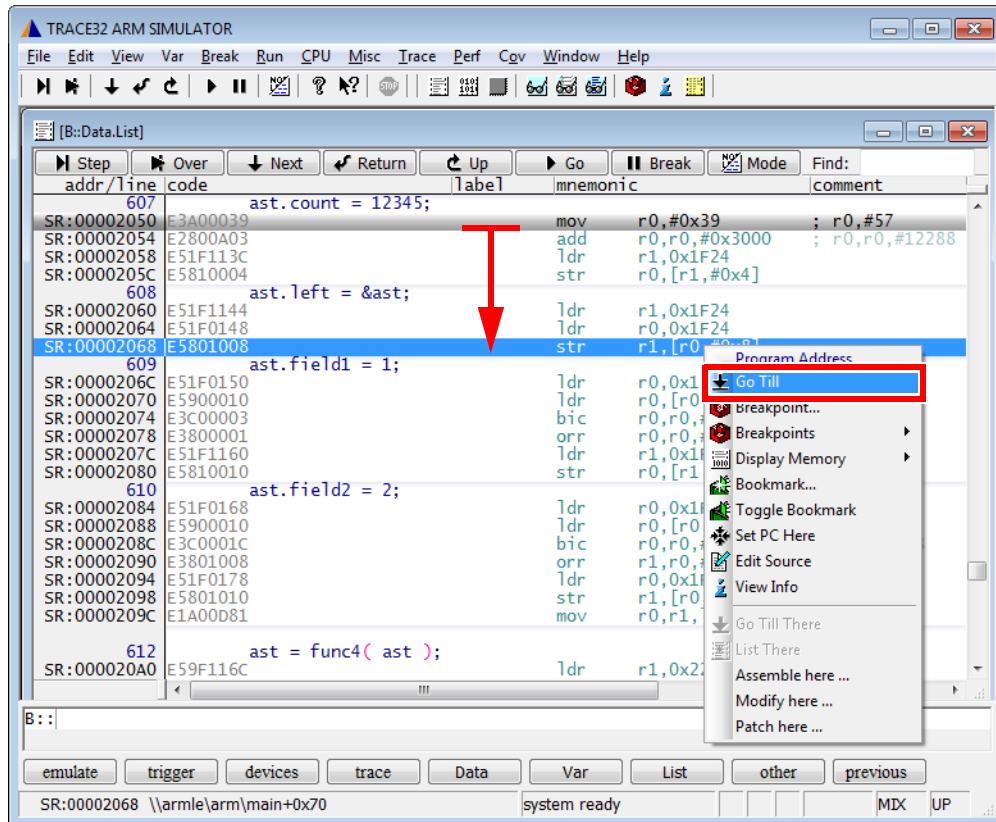
The state line tells you:

- The (symbolic) address of the current cursor position in the active window. The current cursor position is highlighted in blue. The program counter (PC) is highlighted in gray.
 - The state of the debugger: **stopped** means your application program is stopped. You can now, for example, inspect or change memory.
 - The state line displays the currently selected debug mode: The code display will be **HLL** (High Level Language) or **ASM** (assembler) or a **MIXed** mode with HLL and its corresponding assembler mnemonic.
- On the toolbar of the **Data.List** window, click **Mode** to toggle the debug mode to **HLL**.



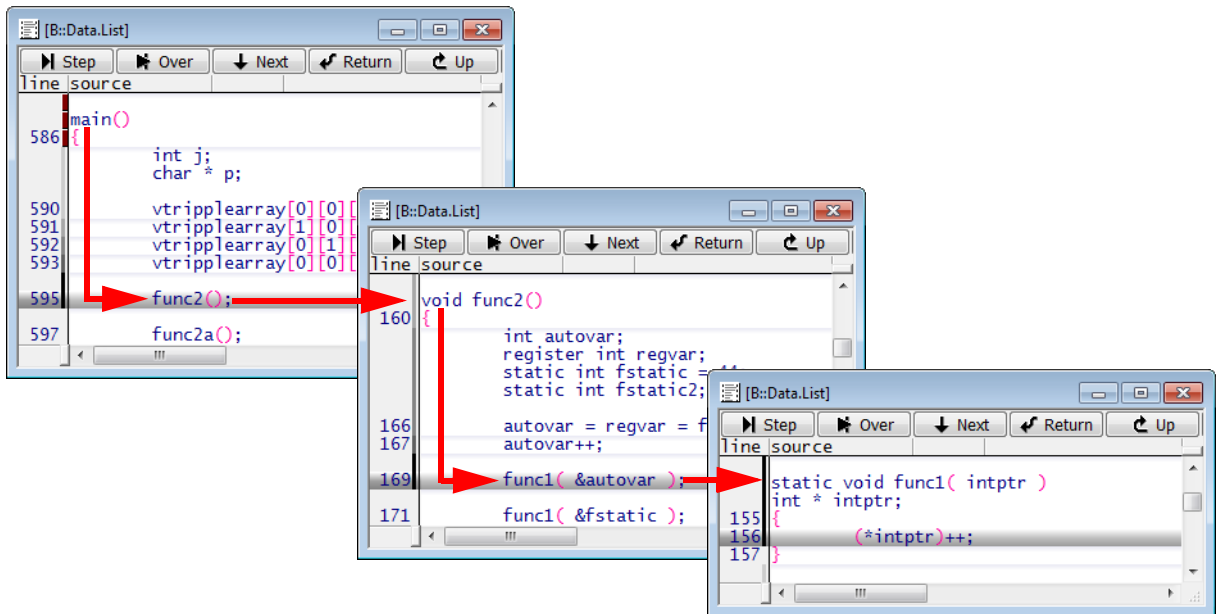
- Click **Step**. The step you are taking is a high-level-language step to the next HLL line.

6. Click  **Mode** again to toggle the debug mode to **MIX**.
7. Click  **Step**.
This time, the step executes one assembler line.
8. Right-click a code line, and then select **Go Till**.
The program execution starts. It stops when the program reaches the selected code line.



Displaying the Nesting of Functions

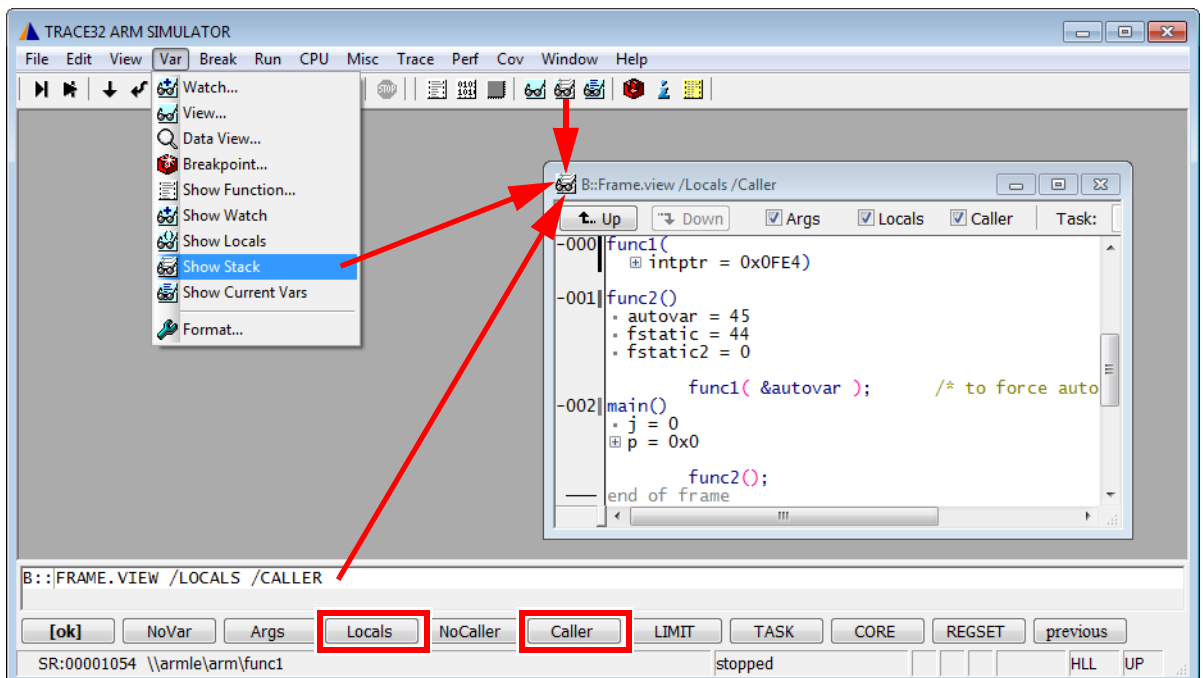
For the following example, let's assume we have a nesting of functions: **main()** calls **func2()** and **func2()** calls **func1()**:



Choose **Var** menu > **Show Stack**. The **Frame.view** window displays the function nesting.

- The **/Locals** option shows the local variables of each function.
- The **/Caller** option shows a few C code lines to indicate where the function was called.

This screenshot corresponds to the nesting and calling sequence shown above.



Breakpoints

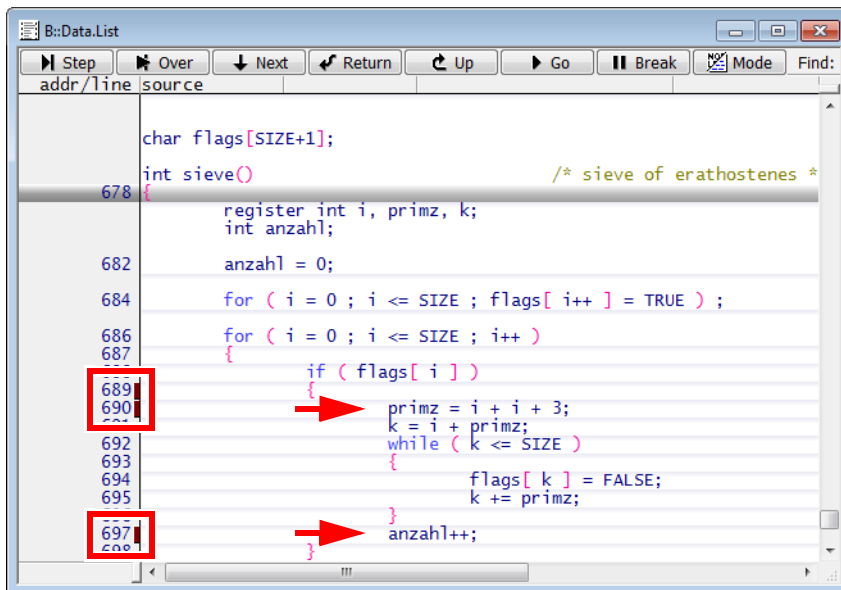
Breakpoints are one of the most frequently used debug features.

Setting Software Breakpoints

Let's set breakpoints on `primz` and `anzahl++`

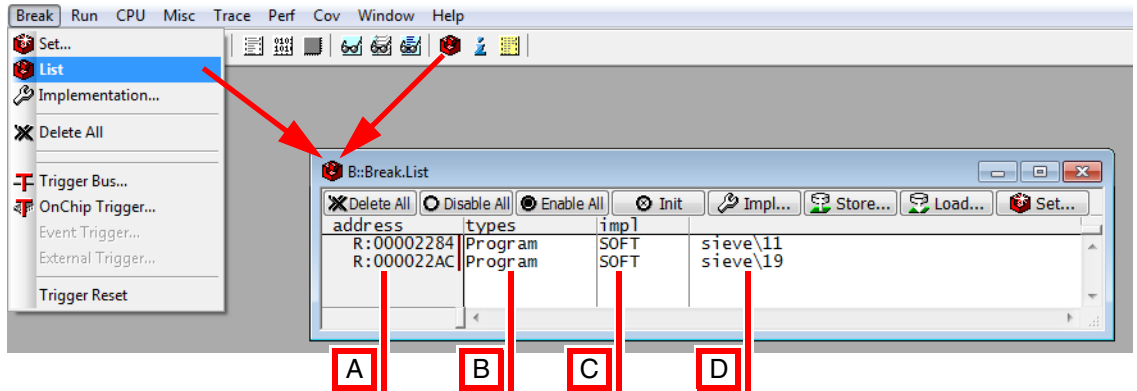
1. Double-click a code line to set a program breakpoint.
2. Make sure to click the white space in the code line, and not the code literal.

All code lines with a program breakpoint are marked with a red vertical bar.



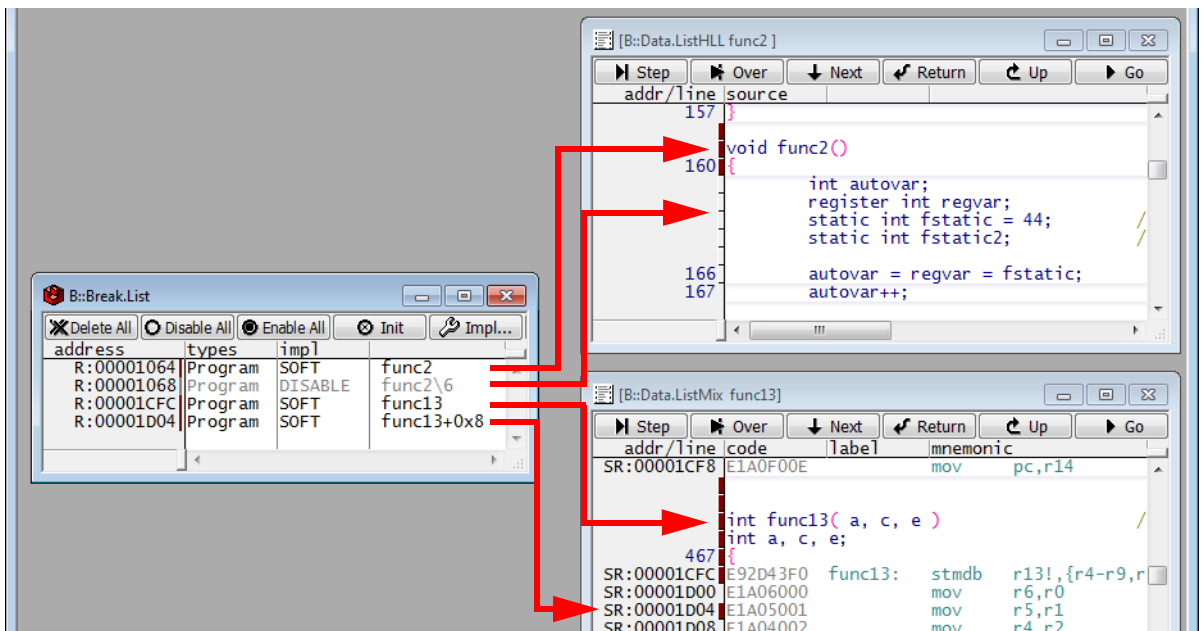
Listing all Breakpoints

1. Choose **Break** menu > **List** to list all breakpoints.
The **Break.List** window opens, providing an overview of the existing breakpoints.



- A** Hex address of the breakpoint
- B** Breakpoint type
- C** Breakpoint implementation: SOFTWARE, ONCHIP or DISABLED.
A gray bar in a **Data.List** window indicates a DISABLED breakpoint.
- D** Code line of the breakpoint. Examples:
- **func2\6** means HLL line 6 in func2.
 - **func2\13+0x8** means HLL line 13 in func2 + 8 bytes (useful in debug mode MIX only).

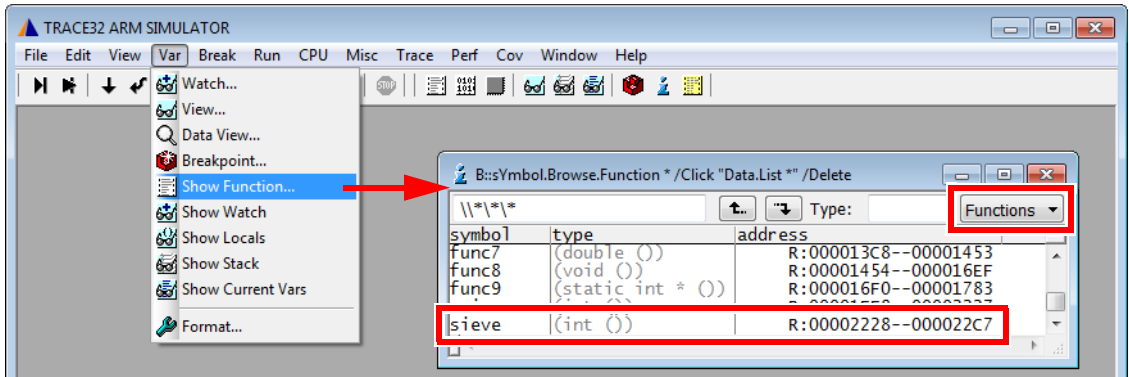
2. On the toolbar, click **Go** to start the program execution.
3. If the program does not reach your breakpoint, click **Break** to stop the program execution.



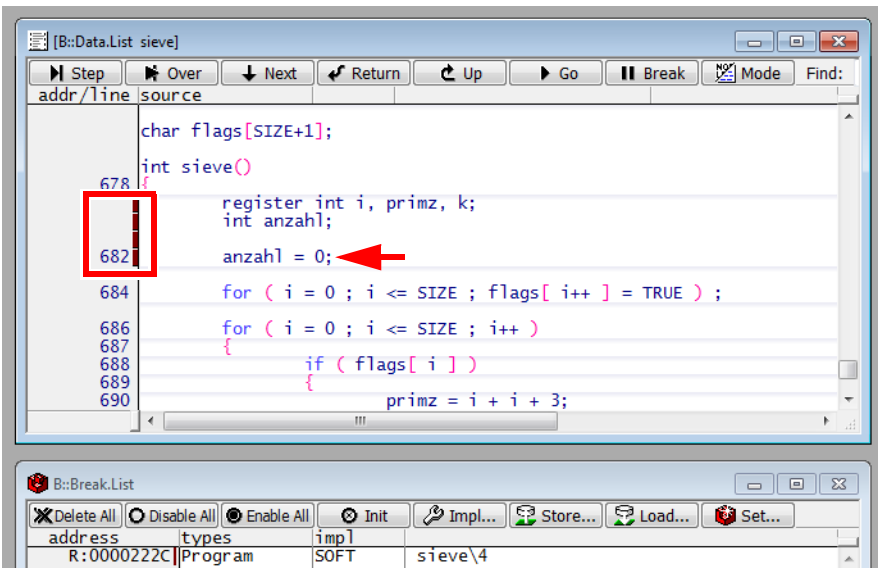
Setting a Program Breakpoint to Any Code Line within a Function

Let's set a breakpoint to `anzahl = 0` in function `sieve()`.

1. Choose **Var** menu > **Show Function**.
The **sYMBOL.Browse.Function** window opens.



2. Double-click **sieve**.
The **Data.List** window opens, displaying **sieve**.
3. Double-click the white space in the code line to set a breakpoint to `anzahl = 0`.
The red vertical bars appear in the **Data.List** window to indicate the breakpoint.



4. Choose **Break** menu > **List** to list all breakpoints.
The **Break.List** window opens, providing an overview of the existing breakpoints.

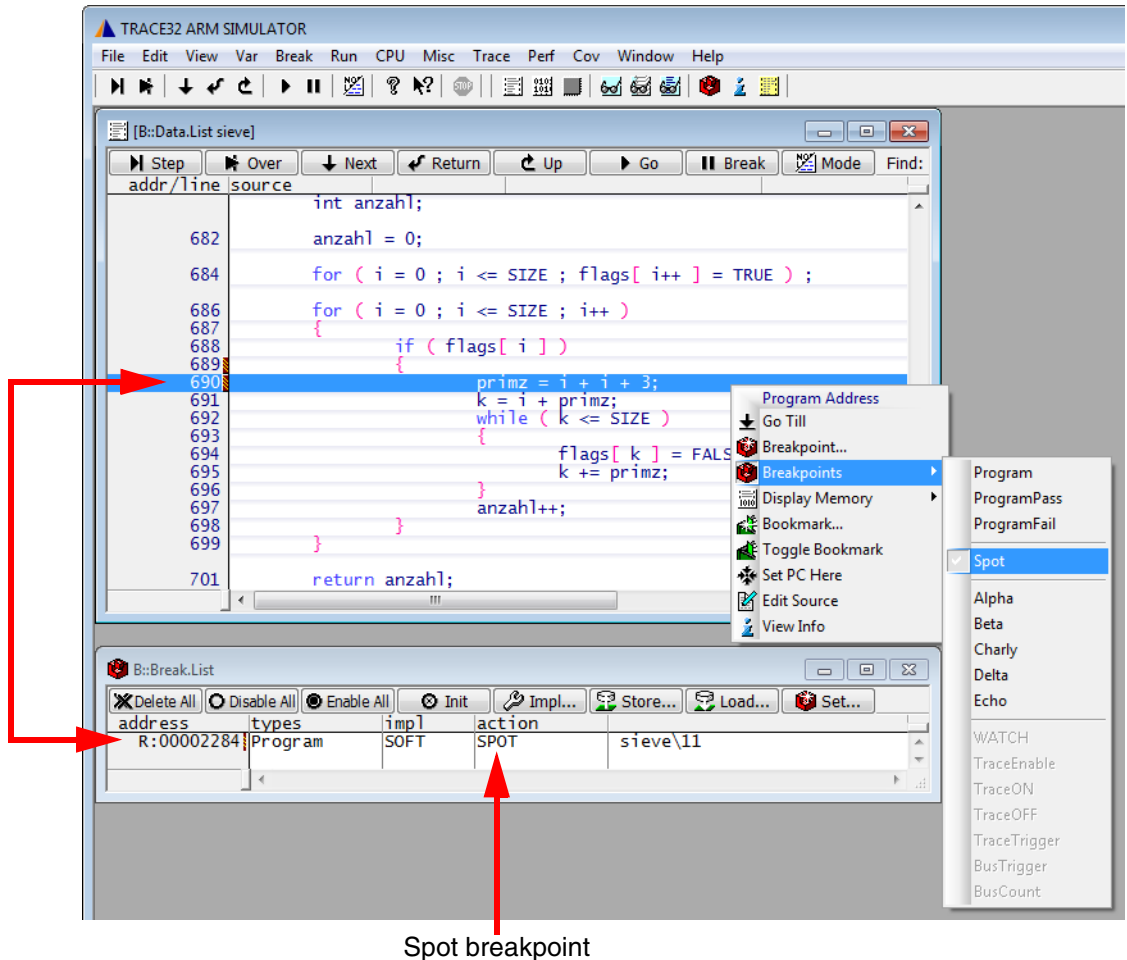
Setting a Spot Breakpoint

A spot breakpoint is a watchpoint that stops the program execution for a short time to update all displayed information and then restarts the program execution.

Let's set a spot breakpoint on the variable **primz**.

To set a spot breakpoint:

1. Right-click the white space in a code line, and then select **Breakpoints > Spot**.
Red vertical bars with yellow lines appear in the **Data.List** window to indicate the spot breakpoint.

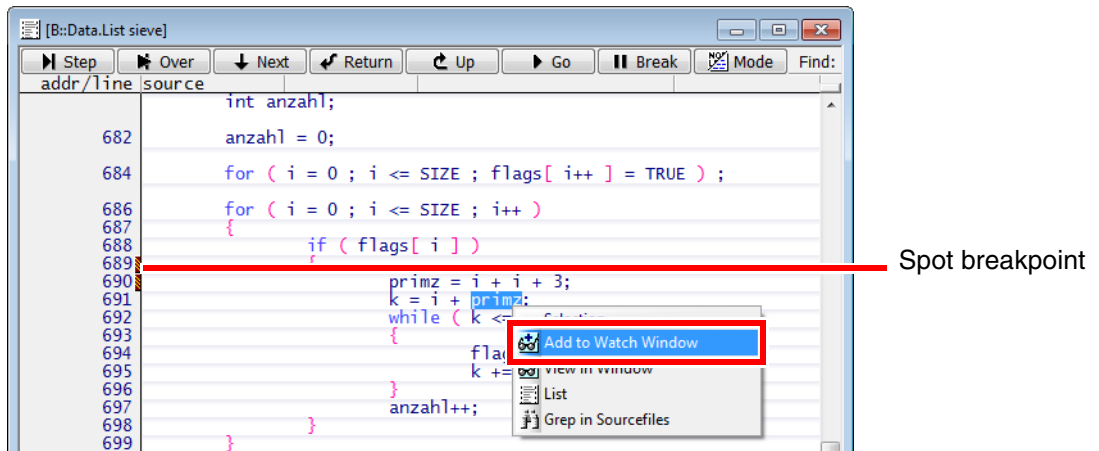


2. Choose **Break** menu > **List** to list all breakpoints.
The **Break.List** window opens, providing an overview of the existing breakpoints.

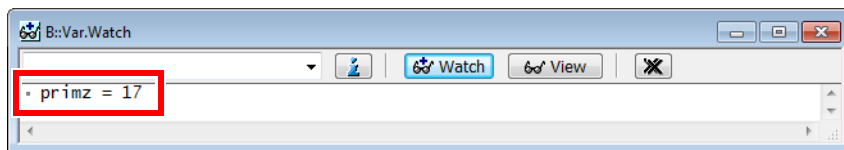
Adding a Watch on a Variable

Let's watch all changes of the variable **primz** - while the program is running. Prerequisite: You have set a spot breakpoint on the variable **primz**.

1. Right-click the variable **primz**, and then select **Add to Watch Window**.

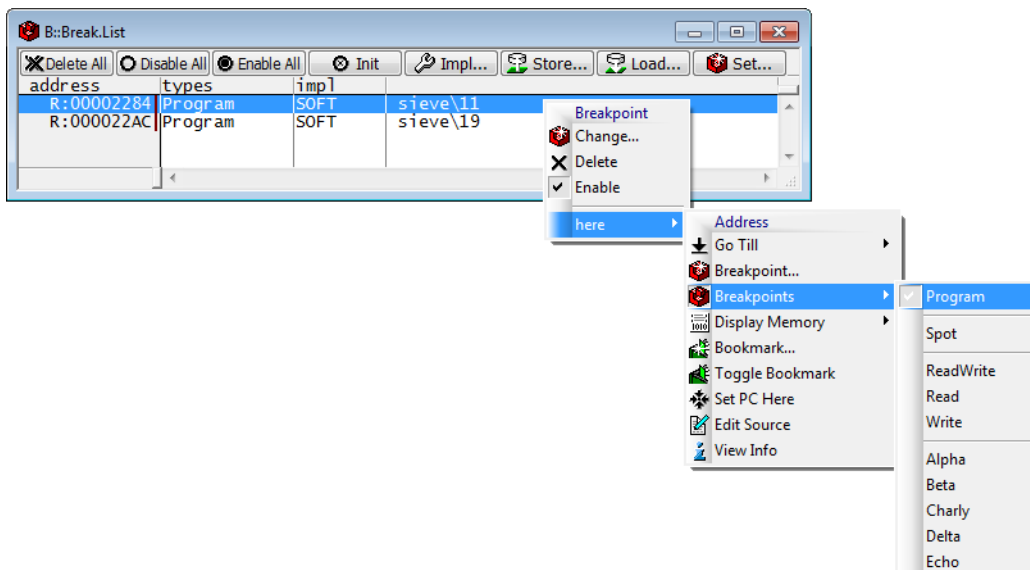


2. In the **Data.List** window, click **Go** to start the program execution. You can now watch the changes of the variable **primz** in the **Var.Watch** window - while the program is running.



Removing Breakpoints

To remove the breakpoint, double-click the marked line or toggle the breakpoint in the **Break.List** window.

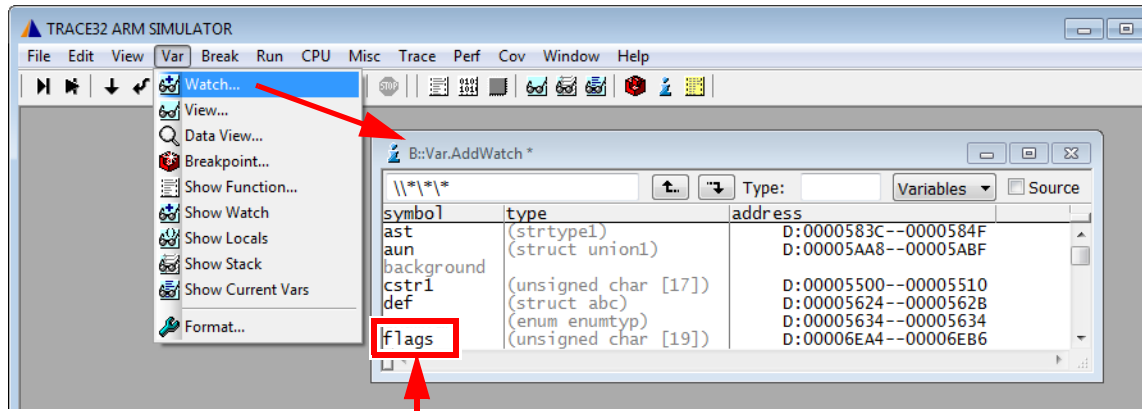


Displaying HLL Variables

Let's display the variables **flags**, **def**, and **ast**.

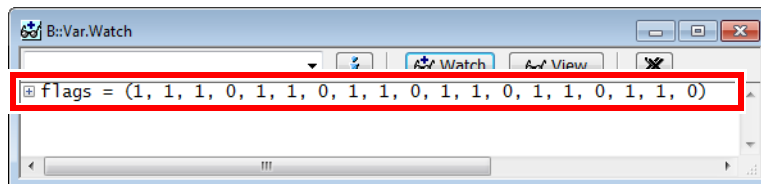
1. Choose **Var** menu > **Watch**.

The **Var.AddWatch** window opens, displaying the HLL variables loaded to the symbol database.



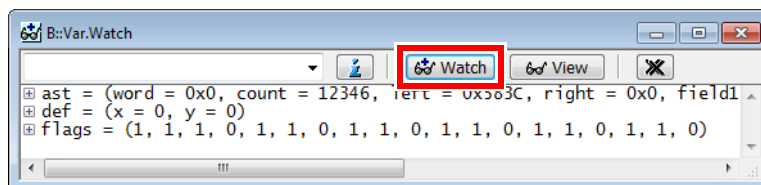
2. Double-click the HLL variable **flags**.

The **Var.Watch** window opens, displaying the selected HLL variable.



3. **Alternative steps:**

- In the **Var.Watch** window, click **Watch**, and then double-click the variables **def** and **ast** to add them to the **Var.Watch** window.



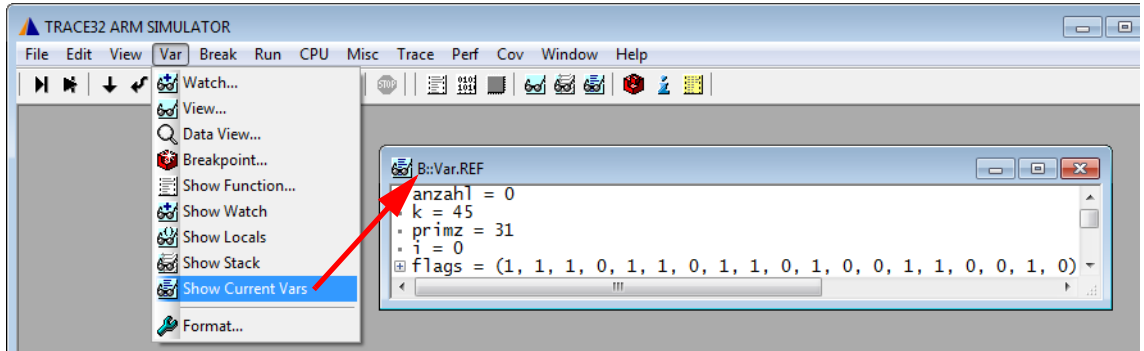
- From a **Data.List** window, drag and drop any variable you want into the **Var.Watch** window.
- In a **Data.List** window, right-click any variable, and then select **Add to Watch window** from the context menu.
- If you want to display a more complex structure or an array in a separate window, choose **Var** menu > **View**.

Displaying HLL Variables of the Current Program Context

1. Set the program counter (PC) to `sieve()` by typing at the TRACE32 command line:

```
Register.Set PC sieve ;The command short form is: r.s pc sieve
```

2. Choose **Var** menu > **Show Current Vars**.
The **Var.REF** window opens, displaying all variables accessed by the current program context.

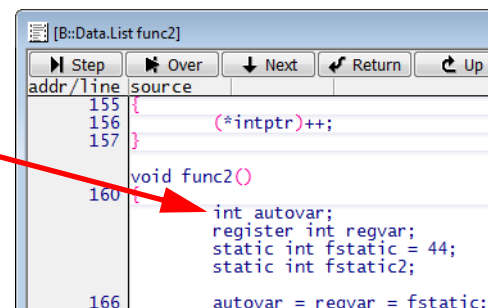
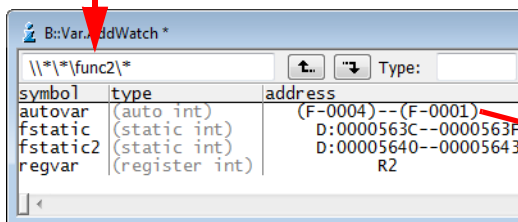
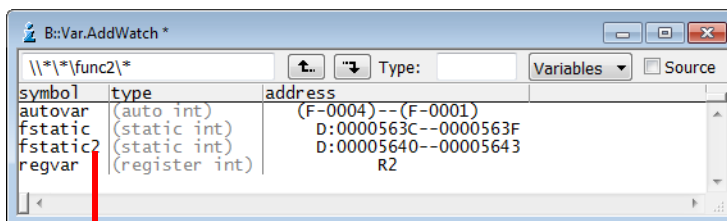


3. Click **Step** on the TRACE32 toolbar to execute a few single steps.
The **Var.REF** window is updated automatically.

Using the Symbol Browser

The symbol browser provides an overview of the variables, functions, and modules currently stored in the symbol database.

1. Choose **Var** menu > **Watch**.
The **Var.AddWatch** window lets you browse through the contents of the symbol database.
2. In the **Var.AddWatch** window, double-click **func2**.



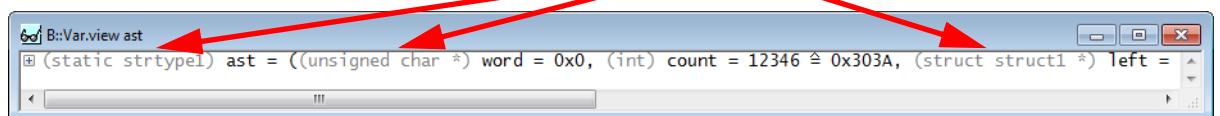
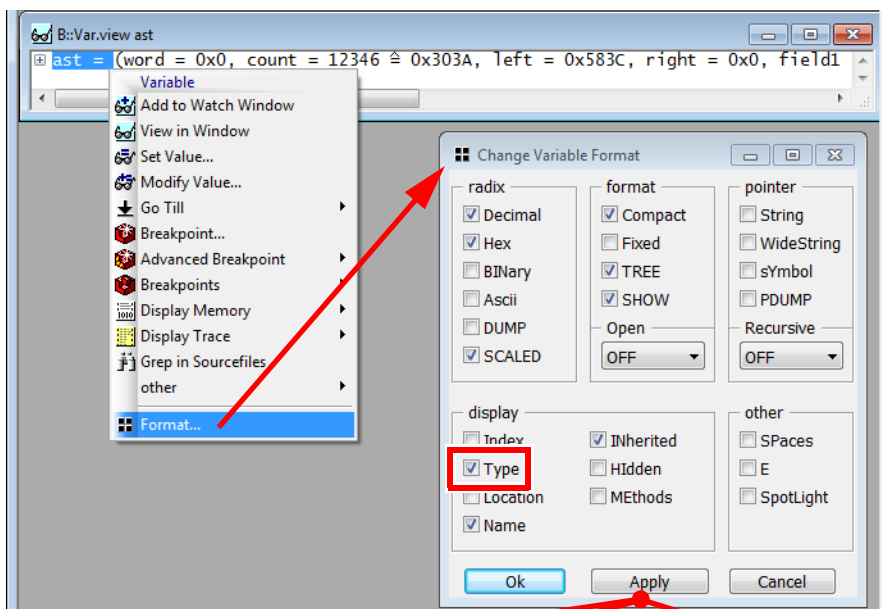
Formatting HLL Variables

To format the display of HLL variables - global settings:

1. Choose **Var** menu > **Format**.
2. In the **SETUP.Var** window, make your settings. **Decimal** and **Hex** are useful global settings. TRACE32 applies your settings to all **Var.view** windows that you open *afterwards*.

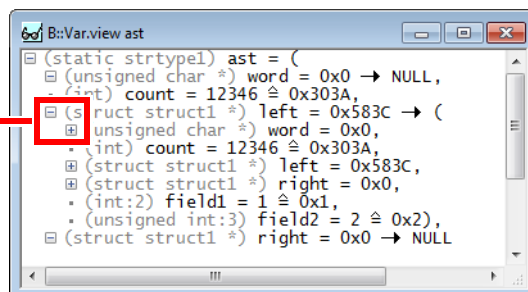
To format the display of an individual HLL variable:

1. At the command line, type: **Var.view ast** (The variable **ast** is included in this demo.)
2. In the **Var.view** window, right-click **ast**, and then click **Format**. The **Change Variable Format** dialog opens.
3. Select the **Type** check box to format the variable **ast** with the complete type information.
4. Click **Apply**. The format of **ast** in the **Var.view** window is updated immediately.



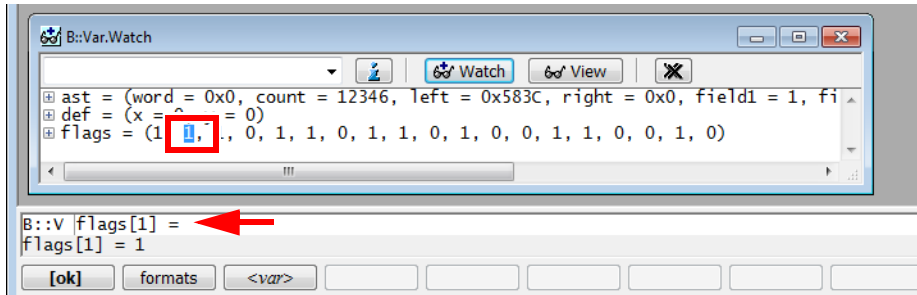
5. For more complex HLL structures, select **TREE** in the **Change Variable Format** dialog box.

Click + and - to expand and collapse the tree.



Modifying Variables

1. Double-click the variable value to modify the value. The **Var.set** command will be displayed in the command line. The short form of the command is **v** or **▼**



2. Enter the new value directly after the equal sign and confirm with **[ok]**.

Mini Quiz - Check Your Learning Progress

Click [\[Check\]](#) to jump to the page with the answer.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name a very important TRACE32 window and the color of the PC. | [Check] [Check] |
| 2. What is PRACTICE? | [Check] |
| 3. How do you set a spot breakpoint? | [Check] |
| 4. How do you list all breakpoints? | [Check] |
| 5. Complete the sentence: The command with which you open a window... . | [Check] |
| 6. How do you highlight changed registers? | [Check] |
| 7. Name two useful global format settings for HLL variables. | [Check] |
| 8. How do you add a watch on a variable? | [Check] |
| 9. Name a basic debug command. | [Check] |
| 10. The GUI of TRACE32 is called... . Additionally there are... and... . | [Check] [Check] |
| 11. Name at least two of the three debug modes. | [Check] |
| 12. When do command short forms come in handy? | [Check] |
| 13. Where on the GUI are the basic debug commands located? | [Check] |
| 14. What is the short form of the system.state command / window and why? | [Check] |
| 15. How do you display a memory dump? | [Check] |
| 16. How do you format a number as a decimal number in the command line? | [Check] |
| 17. Are TRACE32 commands case sensitive? | [Check] |
| 18. Where can you see the long form of a command? | [Check] |