



Introduction to debugging

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- Program errors
- Simple debugging
- Graphical debugging
- DDT and Totalview
- Intel tools
- Interpreted languages



Program errors

- crashes
 - segmentation faults (bad memory access)
 - often writes core file – snapshot of memory at the time of the crash
 - wrong I/O (missing files)
 - hardware failures
- incorrect results
 - reasonable but incorrect results
 - NaNs – not a numbers – division by 0, ...

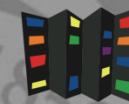
write/printf



- write variables of interest into the stdout or file
- simplest but cumbersome
 - need to recompile and rerun
 - need to browse through potentially large output

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Terminal - u0101881@p8:~/tests". The window shows the command "root@p8:/uufs/chpc.utah.edu/sys/builddir/oc..." followed by a user prompt "u0101881@p8:~/tests". The terminal displays a series of floating-point numbers from 81 to 100, each followed by its corresponding value. At the bottom of the output, it says "pi is approximately: 3.1416009869231254 Error is: 0.000008333333323" and prompts the user to "Enter the number of intervals: (0 quits)".

Line Number	Value	Approximate Value
81	0.8050000000000005	272.32451601382030
82	0.8150000000000006	274.72803717231750
83	0.8250000000000007	277.10810411170019
84	0.8349999999999996	279.46489239846238
85	0.8449999999999997	281.79858064688352
86	0.8549999999999998	284.10935027759365
87	0.8649999999999999	286.39738528452926
88	0.8750000000000000	288.66287201019298
89	0.8850000000000001	290.90599892911797
90	0.8950000000000002	293.12695643942459
91	0.9050000000000003	295.32593666234624
92	0.9150000000000004	297.50313324959058
93	0.9250000000000004	299.65874119839486
94	0.9350000000000005	301.79295667412481
95	0.9450000000000006	303.90597684026102
96	0.9550000000000007	305.99799969561070
97	0.9649999999999997	308.06922391857796
98	0.9749999999999998	310.11984871832163
99	0.9849999999999999	312.15007369262662
100	0.9950000000000000	314.16009869231254



Terminal debuggers

- text only, e.g. gdb, idb
- need to remember commands or their abbreviations
- need to know lines in the code (or have it opened in other window)
- useful for quick code checking on compute nodes and core dump analysis

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Terminal - u0101881@p8:~/tests". The window shows a GDB session starting a program named "pi3". It displays several warning messages about auto-loading of the "libthread_db" library. The user then sets a breakpoint at the start of the main function and prints the value of the variable "\$1".

```
root@p8:/uufs/chpc.utah.edu/sys/builddir/oc... u0101881@p8:~/tests
Starting program: /uufs/chpc.utah.edu/common/home/u0101881/tests/pi3
warning: File "/opt/at9.0/lib64/power8/libthread_db-1.0.so" auto-loading has been declined by
your `auto-load safe-path' set to "$debugdir:$datadir/auto-load".
To enable execution of this file add
    add-auto-load-safe-path /opt/at9.0/lib64/power8/libthread_db-1.0.so
line to your configuration file "/uufs/chpc.utah.edu/common/home/u0101881/.gdbinit".
To completely disable this security protection add
    set auto-load safe-path /
line to your configuration file "/uufs/chpc.utah.edu/common/home/u0101881/.gdbinit".
For more information about this security protection see the
"Auto-loading safe path" section in the GDB manual. E.g., run from the shell:
    info "(gdb)Auto-loading safe path"
warning: Unable to find libthread_db matching inferior's thread library, thread debugging will
not be available.
Process          0 of           1 is alive
Enter the number of intervals: (0 quits)
100000

Breakpoint 1, MAIN_ () at pi3.f:50
50          if ( n .le. 0 ) goto 30
(gdb) p n
$1 = 100000
(gdb) 
```



GUI debuggers

- have graphical user interface
- freeware or commercial
- DDD, GDBFrontend
- Eclipse CDT, VSCode
- Intel development tools
- Rogue Wave Totalview - commercial
- Allinea DDT - commercial

Totalview and DDT



- The only real alternative for parallel or accelerator debugging
- Cost a lot of money (thousands of \$), but, worth it
- We had Totalview license (for historical reasons), 32 tokens enough for our needs (renewal ~\$1500/yr)
- In 2017 we switched to DDT which gave us competitive upgrade
- XSEDE/ACCESS systems have DDT



How to use DDT

1. Compile binary with debugging information

- flag -g

```
gcc -g test.f -o test
```

2. Load module and run DDT

```
module load ddt
```

- DDT + executable

```
ddt ./executable
```

- DDT + core file

```
ddt executable core_file
```

How to use DDT



- run DDT and attach the executable
 - start DDT
 - fill in information in the Run dialog
 - click Run button to start the program
- run DDT and attach running program
 - start DDT
 - click “Attach to an already running program”
 - choose process and click “Attach to” button

3. DDT operation

- left mouse button - select
- right mouse button – context sensitive menu

Application: /uufs/chpc.utah.edu/common/home/u0101881/tests/mpi_lo [Details]

Application: uufs/chpc.utah.edu/common/home/u0101881/tests/mpi_loop [Details]

Arguments: []

stdin file: []

Working Directory: /uufs/chpc.utah.edu/common/home/u0101881/tests/ [Details]

MPI: 2 processes, MPICH 3 [Details]

Number of Processes: 2 []

Implementation: MPICH 3 [Change...]

mpieexec.hydra arguments: []

OpenMP [Details]

CUDA [Details]

Memory Debugging [Details...]

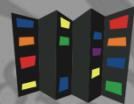
Submit to Queue [Configure...] [Parameters...]

Environment Variables: none [Details]

Plugins: none [Details]

Help **Options** **Run** **Cancel**

DDT windows



Array viewer window

Array Expression: `k[$i]` Evaluate

Distributed Array Dimensions: None [How do I view distributed arrays?](#) Cancel

Staggered Array [What does this do?](#)

Range of \$i
From: 0 To: 99999 Display: Rows

Only show if: [See Examples](#)

Data Table Statistics

Goto Visualize Export Full Window

i	0
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	0
10	0
11	0
12	0

Help

Cross process comparison window

Expression: rank Align stack frames

Limit comparison to 1 significant figures Compare

Only show if: [See Examples](#) Cancel

Use as MPI Rank Create Groups Export >

Values	Process(es)
0	0
1	1

Statistics

Count: 2 Not shown: 0 Errors: 0 Aggregate: 0 Numerical: 2 Sum: 1 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 1 Range: 1 Mean: 0.5 Variance: 0.5000000000000001 0.0 0 -nan: 0 inf: 0 -inf: 0 <0: 0 =0: 1 >0: 1

Help Close

Main window

File Edit View Control Tools Window Help

Current Group: All Focus on current: Group Process Thread Step Threads Together

All 0 1

Create Group Project Files mpi_loop.c

Search (Ctrl+K)

Application Code Sources mpi_loop.c External Code

```

15 MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
16
17 MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &nprocs);
18 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &rank);
19
20 MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
21 printf("This is rank %d of %d reporting for duty\n",
22 rank, nprocs);
23 MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
24
25 //free(k);
26 //fp = fopen("myfile", "r");
27 //fscanf(fp, "%d\n", i);
28
29 for (i=rank; i < ARRSIZE+100; i+=nprocs)
30 {
31     j[i] = i;
32     k[i] = j[i]+i;
33 }
34
35 MPI_Reduce(k, j, ARRSIZE, MPI_INT, MPI_SUM, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
36
37 if (rank==0) printf("last element: %d\n", j[ARRSIZE-1]);
38 MPI_Finalize();
39 return EXIT_SUCCESS;
40
41
42
43

```

Input/Output Breakpoints Watchpoints Stacks Tracepoints Tracepoint Output Logbook

[1506547499.888709] [frisco8:9623 :0] sys.c:744 MXM WARN Conflicting CPU frequencies detected, using: 3244.69

Note: Allinea DDT can only send input to the mpiexec.hydra process with this MPI implementation

Type here ('Enter' to send):

Rank	Host	PID	Main Thread
0	frisco8	9622	LWP 9622
1	frisco8	9623	LWP 9623

Help Close

Process window

DDT basic operations



- Data examination
 - view data in the variable windows
 - change the values of variables
 - modify display of the variables
 - visualize data
- Action points
 - breakpoints and barriers (static or conditional)
 - watchpoints and tracepoints
 - evaluation of expressions



Multiprocess debugging

- Automatic attachment of child processes
- Create process groups
- Share breakpoints among processes
- Process barrier breakpoints
- Process group single-stepping
- View variables across procs/threads
- Display MPI message queue state



Basic operation example

- Load up an existing program
 - DDT windows
 - step through the code
 - place breakpoints
 - examine variables
- Load a core file
 - examine the crash point



Process view window

- Stack trace – procedure hierarchy - left
- Stack frame – variables display - right
- Source code – code + process navigation - center
- Threads list – in case of multithreaded application - top
- Action points – list of breakpoints, barriers, ... - bottom



Action points

- Breakpoints and barriers
 - toggle location with left mouse (shift for barrier)
 - right-click – Properties for options
 - option conditional breakpoints
- Watchpoints
 - watch for change in a memory location
- Tracepoints
 - write screen output whenever line is executed

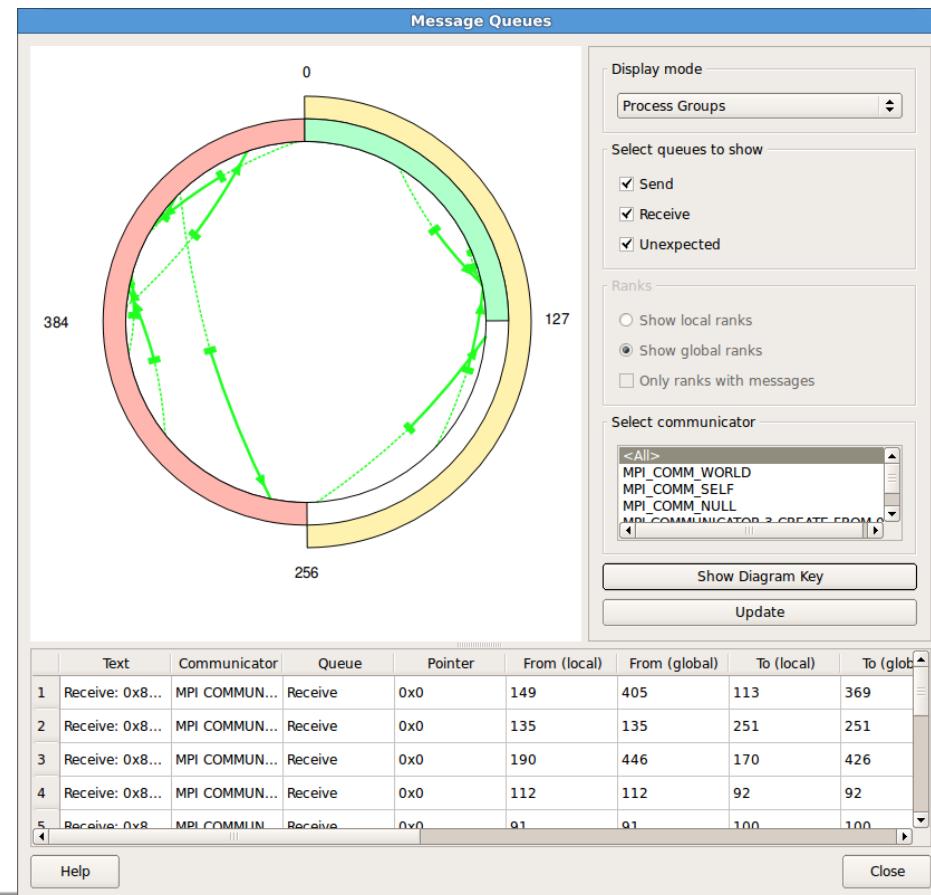


Data examination

- Scalars in variable view on the right of the main window
- Arrays in Array viewer
 - right click on a variable, choose Array viewer
 - adjust array dimensions, hit evaluate
 - filter array values, e.g. \$value > 0
- variable visualization, statistics,...



- Process/thread groups
- Cross-process/thread data comparison
- Message queue state graph and display





Memory debugging

- Enable in the initial Run dialog
 - Memory usage
 - Memory leak detection
 - Exceeding array bounds
 - Dangling pointers



Accelerator debugging

- We license the GPU add-on to DDT
- Works well with CUDA
- With OpenACC, the debugger sees what the compiler generates so stepping through code may not correspond to actual source lines
 - Use breakpoints and examine data at the breakpoints



Python debugging

- Can debug Python modules that are written in C/C++ or Fortran
- Or mixed C/C++, Fortran and Python code
- No stepping, breakpoints, variable view of the Python code
- Run as:
`ddt python3 %allinea_python_debug% mycode.py`



- DDT webpage

<https://www.linaroforge.com/linaroDdt/>

- Setting up DDT

Clusters: `module load ddt`

Some group desktops: `inquire` at CHPC

- Documentation

<https://docs.linaroforge.com/23.0.4/html/forge/ddt/index.html>

<https://www.chpc.utah.edu/documentation/software/debugging.php#d>



Code checkers

- compilers check for syntax errors
 - some compiler flags help too (-C)
- memory checking tools - many errors are due to bad memory management
 - mtrace – part of GNU tools
 - valgrind – more functionality, but still easy to use



- Free non commercial use
- Tools for all stages of development
 - Compilers and libraries
 - Verification tools
 - Profilers
- More info

<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/developer/tools/oneapi/hpc-toolkit.html>

Intel Inspector



- Thread checking
 - Data races and deadlocks
- Memory checker
 - Like leaks or corruption
 - Good alternative to Totalview MemoryScape or DDT
- Standalone or GUI integration
- More info

<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/developer/tools/oneapi/inspector.html>



Intel Inspector

- Source the environment

```
module load inspector
```

- Compile with -tcheck -g

```
ifort -openmp -tcheck -g trap.f
```

- Run tcheck

```
inspxe-gui – graphical user interface
```

```
inspxe-cl – command line
```

- Tutorial

<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/developer/articles/training/inspector-tutorials.html>



- MPI profiler and correctness checker
- Detects violations of MPI standard and errors in execution environment
- To use correctness checker

```
module load intel-oneapi-compilers intel-oneapi-mpi
intel-oneapi-itac
setenv VT_CHECK_TRACING 0
mpirun -check-mpi -n 4 ./myApp
```

- ITAC documentation

<https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/developer/tools/oneapi/trace-analyzer.html>



- Matlab
 - Debugger built in the editor
- Python
 - gdb like debugging built in (pdb module)
 - Many different third party IDEs (Spyder)
 - PyCharm, but beware of larger memory/CPU use if debugging big data
- R
 - gdb like debugging built in (traceback(), browse(), debug())
 - Rstudio IDE includes graphical debugger



Conclusions

- Terminal debuggers
- Compiler vendor debuggers
- DDT/Totalview for graphical debugging
- Code checkers and memory checkers
- Inspector for thread and memory debugging
- ITAC MPI checker
- Interpreted languages debugging