

Warning: These notes are not complete, it is a Skelton that will be modified/add-to in the class. If you want to us them for studying, either attend the class or get the completed notes from someone who did

CSE2301

Testing and Debugging

These slides are based on slides by Prof. Wolfgang Stuerzlinger at York University

Introduction

- In this part, we introduce
 - Testing and debugging
 - Errors
 - I/O
 - Time and date
 - Random number generation

Testing

- You wrote your program, compiled it (correcting syntax errors), ran it, and tested it, but it failed, what to do?
- There is a bug somewhere, to remove it we have to know where it is first.
- After finding it, remove/correct it changing as little code as possible to minimize introducing new bugs.

Testing/Debugging

- Testing to find out as many things about the problem as possible
- Try to isolate the bug, what caused it
- Correct it. After that
 - Test to see if the problem is solved
 - Every thing that worked before is working
 - No new errors are introduced

Instrument your code

- Insert debugging statements.

```
i=f(j);  
printf("f.in %d out %d \n",i,j);
```

- That shouldn't be in the final version
- You have to remove it after debugging, that may cause extra errors if you are not very careful in removing it

Instrument your code

- You can use conditional compilation

```
#define DEBUG 1  
.....  
i=f(j);  
#if DEBUG  
printf("f:in %d out %d\n",i,j);  
#endif
```

Debugging

```
main( ) {  
    printf(" before function 1.....");  
function1( ... )  
    printf(" After function 1.....");  
    printf(" before function 2.....");  
function2 (....)  
    printf(" After function 3.....");  
    printf(" before function 3.....");  
function3 (.....)  
Crashes, where is the problem
```

Examples

- 2 examples on the use of gdb

Debugger

- **Next** Advance one statement, do not step into calls.
- **Step** Advance one statement in the program
- **List** show your program
- **Run** run
- **Break** line number, function name, fun:line

Debugger

- **Print:** variable
- **X:** contents of an address
- **Backtrace:** The "***backtrace***" command tells gdb to list all the function calls (that leads to the crash) in the stack frame.
- **del [n]** delete break point number n

Common Crash Causes

- Unaligned memory access (access to more than one byte must be aligned at a particular size), depends on the CPU.
- Using uninitialized pointers
- Going outside the array

Writing Good Code

- Debugging tools are no substitute to good programming practice.
- Be very careful with pointers and memory allocation and de-allocation
- Good modular design.
- Clear logic, boundary condition testing, assertions, limited global data, ...
- Assigning responsibility

Core files

- When a program dumps core, it creates a dump files called “core” in the current directory.
- The file is an image of memory, registers including stack and data at time of crash.
- Can use gdb program core
- Some extra tools for memory **dmalloc, electric fence, bcheck, valgrind**

Errors

- `#include <errno.h>`
- Defines an int `errno` and some other constants
- For example, math function (in case of error) sets `errno` to `ERANGE` or `EDOM`
- An `errno` of 0, means no error
- `errno` is not reset by itself, you must reset it.

Example

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <errno.h>
#include <math.h>
#define POSITIVE 25
#define NEGATIVE -25

int main()
{
    double ret;

    errno = 0;
    ret = sqrt(NEGATIVE);
    if (errno == EDOM) /*EDOM
        Signifies Domain Error*/
        printf("Domain Error : Invalid Input
            To Function\n");
    else
        printf("Valid Input To Function\n");

    errno = 0;
    ret = sqrt(POSITIVE);

    if (errno == EDOM)
        printf("Domain Error : Invalid Input
            To Function\n");
    else
        printf("Valid Input To Function\n");

    return 0;
}
```

Source : <http://www.daniweb.com/code/snippet614.html>

Example

```
• #include <stdio.h>
• #include <errno.h>
• #include <math.h>
• void test(double value) {
•     double ret;
•     errno = 0;
•     ret = sqrt(value);
•     if ( errno )
•     {
•         perror("sqrt");
•     }
•     else
•     {
•         printf("ret = %g\n", ret);
•     }
• }
• int main() {
•     test(-25);
•     test(25);
• }
```

sqrt: Numerical argument out of domain

Source : <http://www.daniweb.com/code/snippet614.html>

I/O

- `size_t fread(void *restrict ptr, size_t size, size_t ntimes, FILE *restrict stream)`
- `size_t fwrite(const void *restrict ptr, size_t size, size_t nitems, FILE *restrict stream);`

I/O

- `int fseek(FILE *stream, long offset, int whence);`
- The `fseek()` function shall set the file-position indicator for the stream pointed to by `stream`. If a read or write error occurs, the error indicator for the stream shall be set and `fseek()` fails.
- The new position, measured in bytes from the beginning of the file, shall be obtained by adding `offset` to the position specified by `whence`. The specified point is the beginning of the file for `SEEK_SET`, the current value of the file-position indicator for `SEEK_CUR`, or end-of-file for `SEEK_END`.

Random Numbers

- `#include <stdlib.h>`
- `Int rand(void)`
- Returns a random number between 0 and `RAND_MAX`
- Each time the program runs the function returns the same sequence
- Important in debugging, but sometimes we want to return random numbers every time we run the program
- `drand48()` uses a much more elaborate random number generator

Random Numbers

- `void srand(unsigned int seed)`
- Seeds the random number generator
- For a truly random number that will not be repeated every time you run the program open and read from `/dev/random` or `/dev/urandom`

Time

- In time.h
- `time_t time(time_t *x)`
- Returns the number of seconds from jan. 1 1970
- If x is not NULL, the value is stored in the variable pointed to by x
- Could be used to seed the RNG
- `srand((unsigned int) time(NULL));`