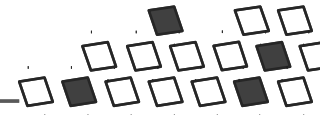


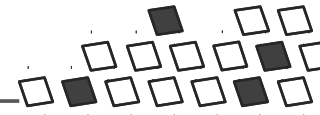
Debugging HPC programs, C and Fortran

CINES, Montpellier

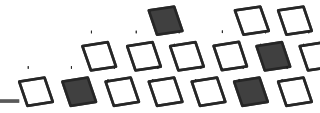
Slides by Benoît Leveugle
Talk by Victor Cameo Ponz



- The aim of this training is to be familiar with :
 - identifying recurrent bugs
 - tracing them with the appropriate tool
 - solving them
- Debugging is not magic, it is science. With the appropriate approach, you will solve 99% of code related bugs in no time
- Versions of compiler used :
 - gcc/gfortran : 4.8.2 (from ubuntu 14.04x64)
 - icc/ifort : 14.0.3 (from parallel studio 2013 SP1 update 3)



1. History
2. Unix in 10 minutes
3. Tools used
 1. Preprocessing
 2. Valgrind
 3. GDB
4. Why debugging
5. Common bugs and method to catch them :
 1. Floating point exceptions (Invalid, Overflow, Zero)
 2. Uninitialized values reading
 3. Allocation/deallocation issues
 4. Array out of bound reading/writing
 5. IO issues
 6. Memory leak
 7. Stack overflow
 8. Buffer overflow
6. Conclusion and useful links



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1. History

- 1842 : Ada Lovelace, First program of history
- 1880s : Herman Hollerith, Data on physical medium
- 1940s : Von Neumann Architecture allow programs to be stored in memory
- 1949 : Assembly language replace machine specific instructions, Text format
- 1947 : Grace Hopper, debugging
- 1949 : Grace Hopper, first compiler (A)
- 1954 : FORTRAN, first high level language
- 1971 : C language replace B
- 1983 : B. Stroustrup, C++
- 1991 : HTML
- 1995 : JAVA



```
MONITOR FOR 6802 1.4          9-14-80  TSC ASSEMBLER  PAGE    2

C000                                ORG    $0000 BEGIN MONITOR
C000 8E 00 70  START  LDR     #STACK

*****
* FUNCTION: INITA - Initialize ACIA
* INPUT: none
* OUTPUT: none
* CALLS: none
* DESTROYS: acc A

0013  RESETA EQU    $00010011
0011  CTLREG EQU    $00010001

C003 86 13  INITA  LDA A  #RESETA  RESET ACIA
C005 87 80 04      STA A  ACIA
C008 86 11  LDA A  #CTLREG  SET 8 BITS AND 2 STOP
C00A 87 80 04      STA A  ACIA
C00D 7E C0 F1      JMP    SIGNON  GO TO START OF MONITOR

*****
* FUNCTION: INCH - Input character
* INPUT: none
* OUTPUT: char in acc A
* DESTROYS: acc A
* CALLS: none
* DESCRIPTION: Gets 1 character from terminal

C010 86 80 04  INCH  LDA A  ACIA  GET STATUS
C013 47        ASR A          SHIFT RDRF FLAG INTO CARRY
C014 24 FA      BCC  INCH  RECEIVE NOT READY
C016 86 80 05  LDA A  ACIA+1  GET CHAR
C019 84 7F      AND A  #87F   MASK PARITY
C01B 7E C0 F9      JMP    OUTCH  ECHO & RTS

*****
* FUNCTION: INHEX - INPUT HEX DIGIT
* INPUT: none
* OUTPUT: Digit in acc A
* CALLS: INCH
* DESTROYS: acc A
* Returns to monitor if not HEX input

C01E 8D F0  INHEX  BSR  INCH  GET A CHAR
C020 81 30      CMP A  #0     ZERO
C022 2B 11      BMI  HEXERR  NOT HEX
C024 81 39      CMP A  #9     NINE
C026 2F 0A      BLE  HEXRTS  GOOD HEX
C028 81 41      CMP A  #A     # A
C02A 2B 09      BMI  HEXERR  NOT HEX
C02C 81 46      CMP A  #F     # F
C02E 2B 05      BMI  HEXERR  NOT HEX
C030 80 07      SUB A  #7     FIX A-F
C032 84 0F      HEXRTS AND A  #80F  CONVERT ASCII TO DIGIT
C034 39        RTS

C035 7E C0 AF  HEXERR JMP    CTRL  RETURN TO CONTROL LOOP
```



1. History

Mother Tongues

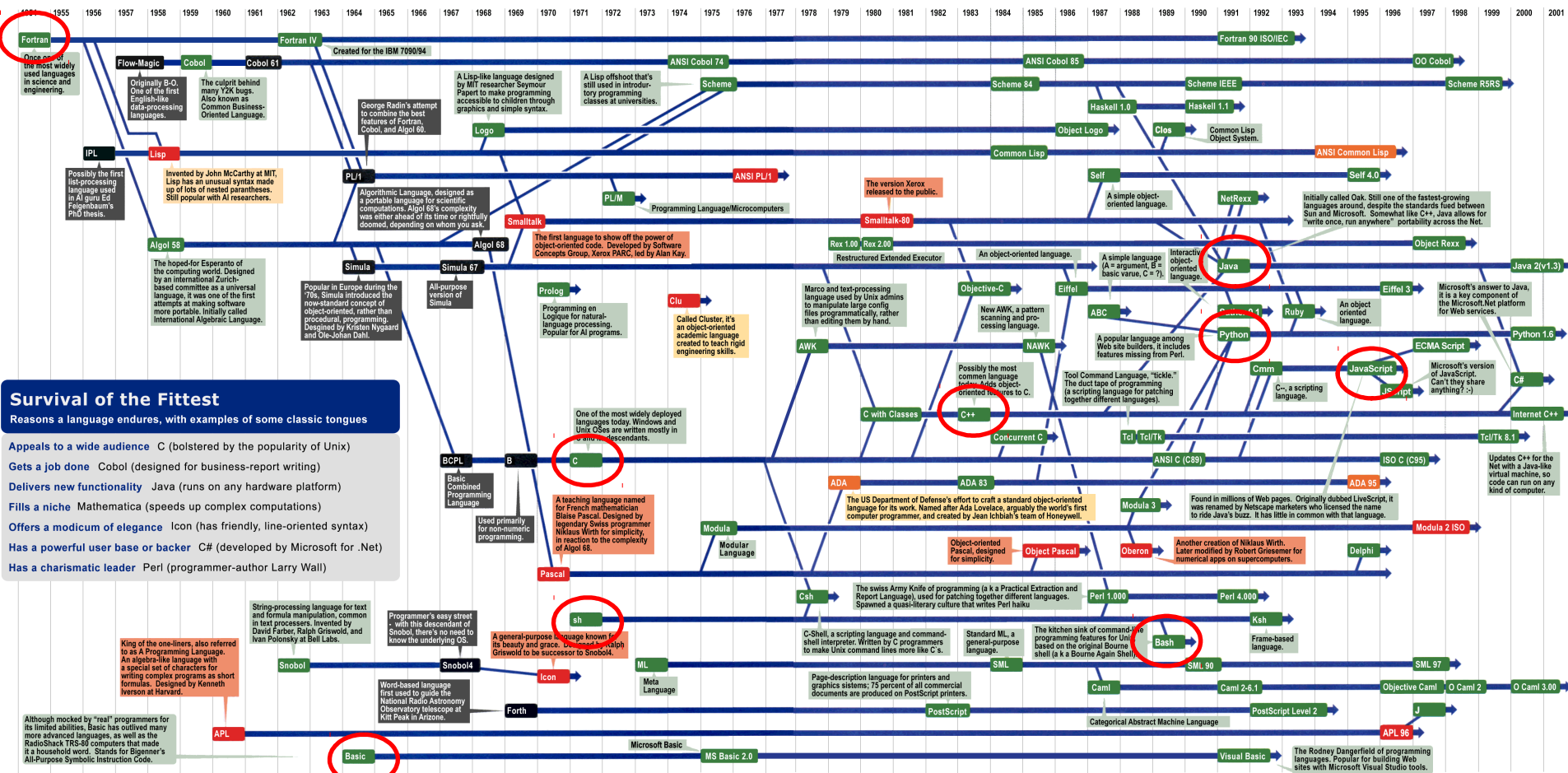
Tracing the roots of computer languages through the ages

Just like half of the world's spoken tongues, most of the 2,300-plus computer programming languages are either endangered or extinct. As powerhouses C/C++, Visual Basic, Cobol, Java and other modern source codes dominate our systems, hundreds of older languages are running out of life.

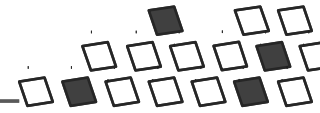
An ad hoc collection of engineers-electronic lexicographers, if you will-aim to save, or at least document the lingo of classic software. They're combing the globe's 9 million developers in search of coders still fluent in these nearly forgotten lingua frangas. Among the most endangered are Ada, APL, B (the predecessor of C), Lsp, Oberon, Smalltalk, and Simula.

Code-raker Grady Booch, Rational Software's chief scientist, is working with the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley to record and, in some cases, maintain languages by writing new compilers so our ever-changing hardware can grok the code. Why bother? "They tell us about the state of software practice, the minds of their inventors, and the technical, social, and economic forces that shaped history at the time," Booch explains. "They'll provide the raw material for software archaeologists, historians, and developers to learn what worked, what was brilliant, and what was an utter failure." Here's a peek at the strongest branches of programming's family tree. For a nearly exhaustive rundown, check out the Language List at [HTTP://www.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/Java/misc/lang_list.html](http://www.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/Java/misc/lang_list.html). - Michael Mendeno

Key	
1954	Year Introduced
Active: thousands of users	
Protected: taught at universities; compilers available	
Endangered: usage dropping off	
Extinct: no known active users or up-to-date compilers	
Lineage continues	



Sources: Paul Boutin; Brent Hallipern, associate director of computer science at IBM Research; The Retrocomputing Museum; Todd Proebsting, senior researcher at Microsoft; Gio Wiederhold, computer scientist, Stanford University



1. *History*

2. **Unix in 10 minutes**

3. Tools used

1. Preprocessing
2. Valgrind
3. GDB

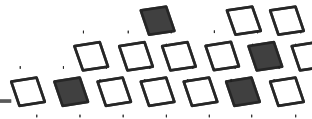
4. Why debugging

5. Common bugs and method to catch them :

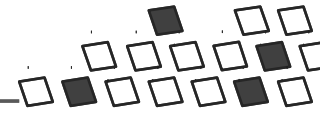
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2. Unix in 10 minutes



- Learn (or remember) unix basic commands.
 - Unix in 10 minutes :
<http://freeengineer.org/learnUNIXin10minutes.html>

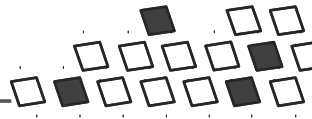


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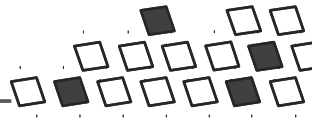
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3. Tools used



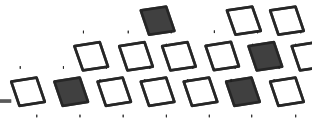
- Your allies in the battle:
 - Preprocessing
 - Valgrind
 - GDB
 - Intel Inspector (not seen in this training : <https://software.intel.com/en-us/articles/intel-inspector-xe-2011-documentation>)
- More tools can be found on the web



- Few words about Preprocessing
 - Tool used in many languages, here in C / Fortran
 - Allow to compile only wanted part of code
 - Useful to debug (MPI for example)

```
#ifdef MYVALUE  
#ifndef MYVALUE  
#else  
#endif
```

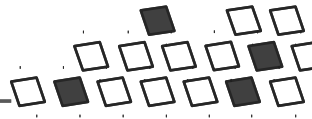
- We will use preprocessing to simulate bugs one by one



- Few words about Preprocessing
 - Tool used in many languages, here in C / Fortran
 - Allow to compile only wanted part of code
 - Useful to debug (MPI for example)

```
#ifdef MYVALUE  
#ifndef MYVALUE  
#else  
#endif
```

- We will use preprocessing to simulate bugs one by one



- Few words about Preprocessing

```
program helloorhey  
  
implicit none  
  
#ifdef HELLO  
  print *, "Hello world ! «  
#endif  
  
#ifdef HEY  
  print *, 'Hey !'  
#endif  
  
end program helloorhey
```

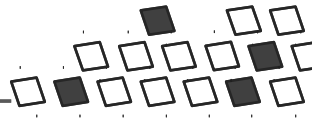


```
$ gfortran myfile.f90  
Warning: myfile.f90:5: Illegal preprocessor directive  
Warning: myfile.f90:7: Illegal preprocessor directive  
Warning: myfile.f90:9: Illegal preprocessor directive  
Warning: myfile.f90:11: Illegal preprocessor directive  
$ ./a.out  
Hello world !  
Hey !  
$ gfortran -cpp myfile.f90  
$ ./a.out  
$ gfortran -cpp -DHELLO myfile.f90  
$ ./a.out  
Hello world !  
$ gfortran -cpp -DHEY myfile.f90  
$ ./a.out  
Hey !  
$
```



- Valgrind is a powerful memory checking tool. It is able to catch use of uninitialized values, out of bound access, stack overflow, etc. However, it will not see fpe and some other bugs.
- Valgrind has a tool to **check memory**, a tool to **check memory leak**, a tool to **profile the code** (use with KCacheGrind), etc.
- Valgrind is able to watch only a part of the code in order to avoid other warnings or slowdowns.
- If compiled manually, Valgrind is able to **debug MPI communications**.
- WARNING : Valgrind will displays errors if intel environment is not loaded when debugging an intel compiled program

3.2. Valgrind

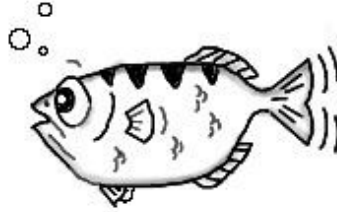
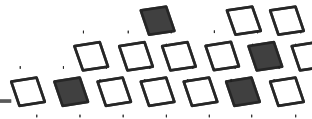


- How to use valgrind ? (very verbose)

```
$ gfortran -g -fbacktrace myfile.f90 -o myprog.exe
```



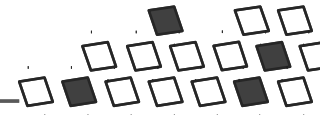
```
$ valgrind ./myprog.exe
==3306== Memcheck, a memory error detector
==3306== Copyright (C) 2002-2013, and GNU GPL'd, by Julian Seward et al.
==3306== Using Valgrind-3.10.0.SVN and LibVEX; rerun with -h for copyright info
==3306== Command: ./a.out
==3306==
==3306== Invalid read of size 8
==3306==    at 0x40060F: main (deb_c.c:191)
==3306== Address 0x51fd090 is 0 bytes after a block of size 80 alloc'd
==3306==    at 0x4C2AB80: malloc (in /usr/lib/valgrind/vgpreload_memcheck-amd64-
linux.so)
==3306==    by 0x4005CE: main (deb_c.c:185)
==3306==
10.000000 0.000000
==3306==
==3306== HEAP SUMMARY:
==3306==    in use at exit: 0 bytes in 0 blocks
==3306== total heap usage: 1 allocs, 1 frees, 80 bytes allocated
==3306==
==3306== All heap blocks were freed -- no leaks are possible
==3306==
==3306== For counts of detected and suppressed errors, rerun with: -v
==3306== ERROR SUMMARY: 1 errors from 1 contexts (suppressed: 0 from 0)
$
```



GDB

- GDB is the gnu debugger, available with gcc/gfortran
- GDB is able to **execute program step by step** **watching desired variables, break when a condition is true or at a specific line** then display code for this area, etc.
- GDB is able to **modify a variable on the fly**
- GDB is able to **backtrace an error** to provide more information on it
- GDB overhead is lower than valgrind's overhead

3.3. GDB



- How to use gdb? (basic commands, more at http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/GCC_Debugging/gdb)

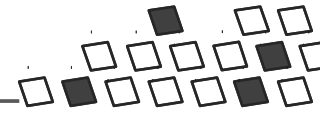
```
$ gfortran -g -fbacktrace myfile.f90 -o myprog.exe
```



```
$ gdb myprog.exe
```

- "run" run the program
- "break" set a "breakpoint" at a certain area \ function
- "next" execute next line of code (after a break)
- "continue" go to next breakpoint or end of program
- "print" print out a variables \ expressions contents
- "disp" print out a variable \ expression value every step
- "cond" conditional
- "set" change a value
- "quit" exit gdb
- "backtrace" get informations on program state at exit

```
(gdb) set variable x=12
(gdb) break test.cpp:2
Breakpoint 1 at 0x1234: file test.cpp, line 2.
(gdb) cond 1 i==2147483648
(gdb) run
```

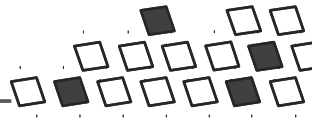


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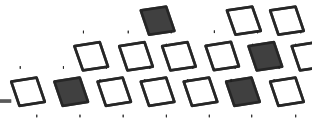
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4. Why debugging



- When should you think there is a bug ?
 - Program returns an error message
 - Program returns an error exit code (other than 0)
 - Program finishes with NaN or +Inf values
 - Program ends unexpectedly
 - Other cases, many scenario are possible

4. Why debugging



How to get the exit code of a program ?

- `$?` gives you the exit code of the last executed command.
- Other than 0 means something went wrong, and this code may help you understand why.

```
$ gfortran myfile.f90
$ echo $?
0
$ ./a.out
Hello world !
$ echo $?
0
$
```

```
$ gfortran myfile.f90
myfile.f90:3:

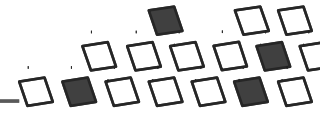
mplicit none
1
Error: Unclassifiable statement at (1)
$ echo $?
1
$
```

```
$ ./a.out
```

Program received signal SIGSEGV:
Segmentation fault - invalid memory reference.

Backtrace for this error:

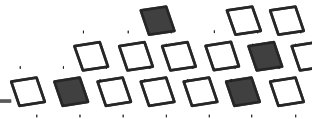
```
#0 0x7FFC993C87D7
#1 0x7FFC993C8DDE
#2 0x7FFC9901FC2F
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
$ echo $?
139
$
```



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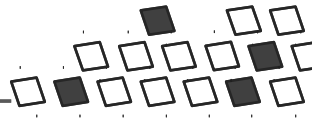
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- Common bugs :
 - Floating point exceptions (Invalid, Overflow, Zero)
 - Uninitialized values reading
 - Allocation/deallocation issues
 - Array out of bound reading/writing
 - IO issues
 - Memory leak
 - Stack overflow
 - Buffer overflow

- Algorithm/mathematical bugs (the worsts, especially with iterative methods). This last one will not generate an error, but results will be wrong. No specific methods, be smart.



■ Floating point exceptions

– Zero

- When you divide by zero, very common in HPC
- $\frac{A}{0.0} = +\infty$

– Invalid

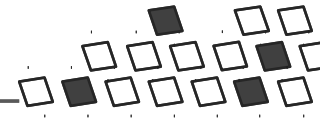
- When the operation is mathematically impossible
- $\text{acos}(10.0) = \text{NaN}$

– Overflow/Underflow

- When you reach maximum/minimum number that system can hold
- $\text{exp}(10E15) = \text{A huge number}$

■ FPEs will not generate errors at runtime !

5.1. Common bugs - Floating point exceptions

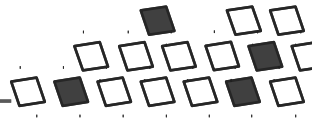


Compiler	Fortran
gfortran	-g -fbacktrace-ffpe-trap=zero,underflow,overflow,invalid will catch fpe at runtime
ifort	-g -traceback -fpe0 will catch fpe at runtime

Compiler	C
gcc	Add <code>#include <fenv.h></code> and start with <code>feenableexcept(FE_DIVBYZERO FE_INVALID FE_OVERFLOW);</code> Or use: <code>if (fetestexcept(FE_OVERFLOW ...)) puts ("FE_OVERFLOW is set");</code>
icc	

```
#include <fenv.h>

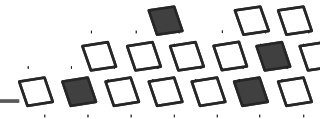
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    feenableexcept(FE_DIVBYZERO| FE_INVALID|FE_OVERFLOW);
    ...
}
```

- Uninitialized values reading
 - When you try to read a non initialized value
 - The program may not stop, and all following calculations will be based on a random value
 - Common with MPI programs (Ghost, etc)

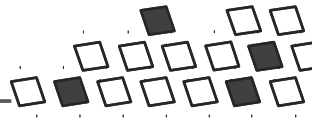
- Static variable : variable uninitialized is static
 - no error at runtime
- Dynamic variable : variable uninitialized is dynamic
 - no error at runtime
- Not allocated variable : try to use a non allocated dynamic variable
 - error : segmentation fault

5.2. Common bugs - Uninitialized values

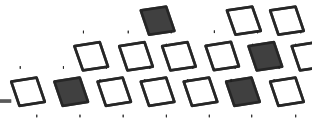


Compiler	Fortran
gfortran	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -fbacktrace to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>static variable</u> : -Wuninitialized -O -g -fbacktrace will display a warning Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)”▪ <u>dynamic variable</u> : Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)”▪ <u>not allocated variable</u> : -g -fbacktrace will catch it (size 0 or huge random number)
ifort	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>static variable</u> : -check all (or -check uninit) catch it, -ftrapuv may help▪ <u>dynamic variable</u> : Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)”▪ <u>not allocated variable</u> : -g -traceback will catch it (size 0 or huge random number)

5.2. Common bugs - Uninitialized values

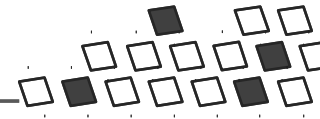


Compiler	C
gcc	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>static variable</u> : -Wuninitialized or -wall will display a warning Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)”▪ <u>dynamic variable</u> : Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)”▪ <u>not allocated variable</u> : -Wuninitialized or -wall will display a warning Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)” gdb : with backtrace
icc	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>static variable</u> : -Wuninitialized will display a warning, -g -check=uninit will catch it at runtime▪ <u>dynamic variable</u> : Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)”▪ <u>not allocated variable</u> : -Wuninitialized will display a warning, -g -check=uninit will catch it at runtime



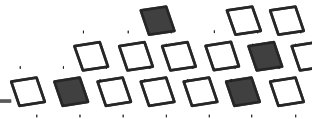
- Allocation issues
- Try do free an non allocated variable
 - Will generate an error at runtime (not with gcc)
- Try do allocate an already allocated variable
 - Will generate an error at runtime (not in C)
- Not freed memory
 - No errors

5.3. Common bugs - Allocation

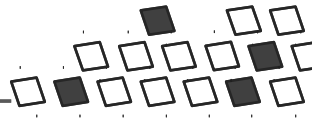


Compiler	Fortran
gfortran	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -fbacktrace to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>free an non allocated variable:</u> -g -fbacktrace will catch it at runtime▪ <u>allocate an already allocated variable:</u> -g -fbacktrace will catch it at runtime▪ <u>Not freed memory:</u> Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full
ifort	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>free an non allocated variable:</u> -g -traceback will catch it at runtime▪ <u>allocate an already allocated variable:</u> -g -traceback will catch it at runtime▪ <u>Not freed memory:</u> Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full

5.3. Common bugs - Allocation

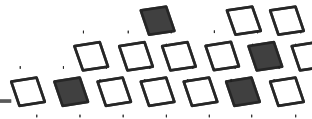


Compiler	C
gcc	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>free an non allocated variable:</u> -Wuninitialized or -wall will display a warning Valgrind : “Conditional jump or move depends on uninitialised value(s)”▪ <u>allocate an already allocated variable:</u> Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full▪ <u>Not freed memory:</u> Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full
icc	<p>When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>free an non allocated variable:</u> -Wuninitialized will display a warning, -g -check=uninit will catch it at runtime▪ <u>allocate an already allocated variable:</u> Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full▪ <u>Not freed memory:</u> Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full



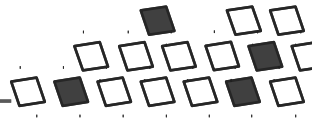
- Array out of bound reading/writing
 - Will not generate errors most of the time
 - Very common in HPC
- Often called "Gardening" when memory is not protected

5.4. Common bugs - Array out of bounds

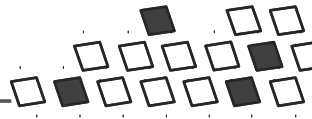


Compiler	Fortran
gfortran	-g -fbacktrace -fbounds-check will catch it at runtime
ifort	-g -traceback -check all (or -check bounds) will catch it at runtime

Compiler	C
gcc	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g to get information on bug position in code Valgrind : “Invalid read/write of size 8” Or patch gcc and recompile it with bounds checking (http://sourceforge.net/projects/boundschecking/)
icc	-g -traceback -check-pointers=rw will catch it at runtime, however -check-pointers=rw makes all other debugging options not working, be careful

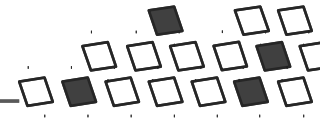


- IO issues
- Errors are often very explicit. No need to use a debugging tool. However, Valgrind and fpe options can detect some related errors (bad reading = bad initialized value or = fpe, etc.)
- Do not forget to put `-g -fbacktrace` (gcc/gfortran) or `-g -traceback` (icc/ifort) to get useful error information.



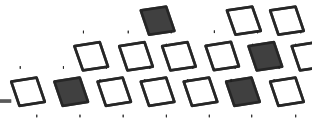
- Memory leak
- Can be the reason of a segmentation fault (signal 11) or an unexpected code halt. Memory growth and growth until it reach limit which halts the program.
- Impossible with recent Fortran compilers if not using "pointers".
- If using Fortran pointers or C, then Valgrind will catch it !

5.6. Common bugs - Memory leak



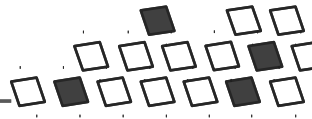
Compiler	Fortran
gfortran	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -fbacktrace to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full
ifort	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full

Compiler	C
gcc	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full
icc	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it with --leak-check=full



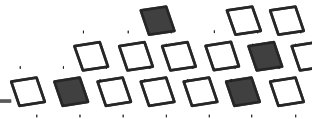
- Stack Overflow
- Extremely common with bad written programs
- More common with gcc/gfortran programs (icc/fort are often smarter with memory)
- More common with multithreaded programs, like OpenMP programs
 - Each thread has a very small stack which is rapidly full
- Will result in a segmentation fault

5.7. Common bugs - Stack Overflow



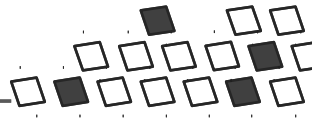
Compiler	Fortran
gfortran	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -fbacktrace to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it gdb will catch it with backtrace but not a lot informations
ifort	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it gdb will catch it with backtrace but not a lot informations

Compiler	C
gcc	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it gdb will catch it with backtrace but not a lot informations
icc	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g -traceback to get information on bug position in code Valgrind will catch it gdb will catch it with backtrace but not a lot informations



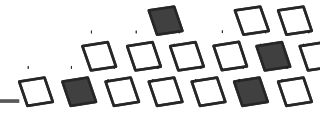
- Buffer Overflow
- Famous for security reasons
- More common in C than in Fortran
- Will generate an error, except with icc
- Can ask gcc to ignore it using : `-fno-stack-protector`

5.8. Common bugs - Buffer Overflow



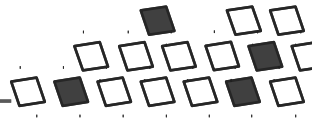
Compiler	Fortran
gfortran	Error is self explaining
ifort	Error is self explaining

Compiler	C
gcc	When needed to use a debugging tool, do not forget -g to get information on bug position in code gdb will catch it with backtrace
icc	-g -traceback -check-pointers=rw will catch it at runtime, however -check-pointers=rw makes all other debugging options not working, be careful



1. *History*
2. *Unix in 10 minutes*
3. *Tools used*
 1. *Preprocessing*
 2. *Valgrind*
 3. *GDB*
4. *Why debugging*
5. *Common bugs and method to catch them :*
 1. *Floating point exceptions (Invalid, Overflow, Zero)*
 2. *Uninitialized values reading*
 3. *Allocation/deallocation issues*
 4. *Array out of bound reading/writing*
 5. *IO issues*
 6. *Memory leak*
 7. *Stack overflow*
 8. *Buffer overflow*

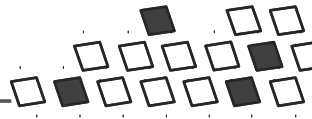
6. Conclusion and useful links



Veteran advices :

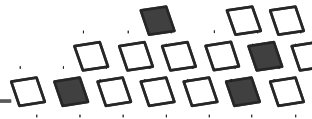
- NaN is not equal to itself generally (depends on platform and compiler)
- Programs may not give the same results depending of the optimizations options. Using multi threading/MPI also provides different results for each run.
- Some optimization options may alter precision
- Remember that terminal output may not refresh instantly: using "hello 1", "hello 2", etc may result in wrong location, use flush (may slow down the program)

gcc/icc	fflush(stdout);
gfortran	call flush()
ifort	call flush(ierror) (<i>segfault if no ierror</i>)



Veteran advices :

- If your bug is impossible to locate (mathematical or algorithm error), ask someone else to check, most of the time bug is right in front of you but your knowledge of the code prevent you from seeing it
- **Never debug more than half a day, this could be worst (introduce more bugs to resolve one), and your brain needs to "think" away from a screen**
- Automatic testing can prevent debugging



Thank you for your attention

