# Coding Examples

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Lecture 09

**B3B36PRG – Programming in C**



## Overview of the Lecture

- Part 1 – Undefined behaviour and inspecting implementation
  - Program Compilation
  - Undefined Behaviour
  - Comparing C to Machine Code
- Part 2 – Debugging
  - Debugging
- Part 3 – Examples
  - Named pipes
  - Multi-thread Appplications – Semestral Project





# Part I

## Part 1 – Undefined behaviour and inspecting implementation





## Arguments of the `main()` Function

- During the program execution, the OS passes to the program the number of arguments (`argc`) and the arguments (`argv`).

  *In the case we are using OS.*
  - The first argument is the name of the program.

```
1 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
2 {
3    int v;
4    v = 10;
5    v = v + 1;
6    return argc;
7 }
```

lec09/var.c

- The program is terminated by the `return` in the `main()` function.
- The returned value is passed back to the OS and it can be further use, e.g., to control the program execution.

Reminder





## Example of Compilation and Program Execution

- Building the program by the `clang` compiler – it automatically joins the compilation and linking of the program to the file `a.out`.

  **clang var.c**
- The output file can be specified, e.g., program file `var`.

  **clang var.c -o var**
- Then, the program can be executed as follows.

  **./var**
- The compilation and execution can be joined to a single command.

  **clang var.c -o var; ./var**
- The execution can be conditioned to successful compilation.

  **clang var.c -o var && ./var**

*Programs return value — 0 means OK.*

*Logical operator && depends on the command interpret, e.g., sh, bash, zsh.*

Reminder





## Example – Program Execution under Shell

- The return value of the program is stored in the variable **$?**.

  *sh, bash, zsh*
- Example of the program execution with different number of arguments.

```
./var
./var; echo $?
1
./var 1 2 3; echo $?
4
./var a; echo $?
2
```

Reminder





## Example – Processing the Source Code by Preprocessor

- Using the **-E** flag, we can perform only the preprocessor step.

  `gcc -E var.c`

  *Alternatively* `clang -E var.c`

```
1  # 1 "var.c"
2  # 1 "<built-in>"
3  # 1 "<command-line>"
4  # 1 "var.c"
5  int main(int argc, char **argv) {
6     int v;
7     v = 10;
8     v = v + 1;
9     return argc;
10 }
```

lec09/var.c





## Example – Compilation of the Source Code to Assembler

- Using the **-S** flag, the source code can be compiled to Assembler.

  `clang -S var.c -o var.s`

```
1    .file "var.c"
2    .text
3    .globl  main
4    .align  16, 0x90
5    .type main,@function
6  main:                   # @main
7    .cfi_startproc
8  # BB#0:
9    pushq %rbp
10 .Ltmp2:
11   .cfi_def_cfa_offset 16
12 .Ltmp3:
13   .cfi_offset %rbp, -16
14   movq  %rsp, %rbp
15 .Ltmp4:
16   .cfi_def_cfa_register %rbp
17   movl  $0, -4(%rbp)
18   movl  %edi, -8(%rbp)
19   movq  %rsi, -16(%rbp)
20   movl  $10, -20(%rbp)
21   movl  -20(%rbp), %edi
22   addl  $1, %edi
23   movl  %edi, -20(%rbp)
24   movl  -8(%rbp), %eax
25   popq  %rbp
26   ret
27 .Ltmp5:
28   .size main, .Ltmp5-main
29   .cfi_endproc
32   .ident  "FreeBSD clang version 3
       .4.1 (tags/RELEASE_34/dot1-final
       208032) 20140512"
33   .section  ".note.GNU-stack","",
       @progbits
```





## Undefined Behaviour

- There are some statements that can cause **undefined behavior** according to the C standard.
  - `c = (b = a + 2) - (b - 1);`
  - `j = i * i++;`
- The program may behaves differently according to the used compiler, but may also not compile or may not run; or it may even crash and behave erratically or produce meaningless results.
- It may also happened if variables are used without initialization.
- Avoid statements that may produce undefined behavior!

## Example of Undefined Behaviour

- C standard does not define the behaviour for the overflow of the integer value (`signed`)
  - E.g., for the complement representation, the expression can be `127 + 1` of the `char` equal to `-128` (see `lec09/demo-loop_byte.c`).
  - Representation of integer values may depend on the architecture and can be different, e.g., when binary or inverse code is used.
- Implementation of the defined behaviour can be computationally expensive, and thus the behaviour is not defined by the standard.
- Behaviour is not defined and depends on the compiler, e.g. `clang` and `gcc` without/with the optimization `-O2`.
  - ```
    for (int i = 2147483640; i >= 0; ++i) {
        printf("%i %x\n", i, i);
    }
    ```
    lec09/int_overflow-1.c

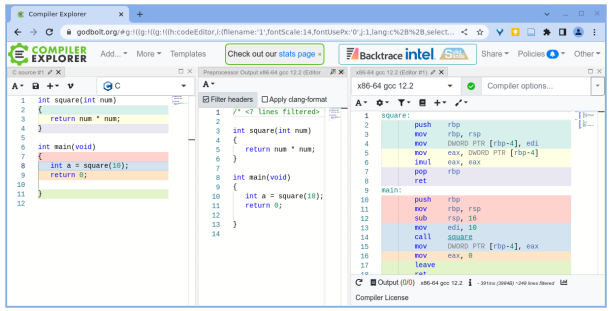
    Without the optimization, the program prints 8 lines, for `-O2`, the program compiled by `clang` prints 9 lines and `gcc` produces infinite loop.
  - ```
    for (int i = 2147483640; i >= 0; i += 4) {
        printf("%i %x\n", i, i);
    }
    ```
    lec09/int_overflow-2.c

    Program compiled by `gcc` and `-O2` crashed. *Take a look to the asm code using the compiler parameter `-S`.*





## Compiler Explorer



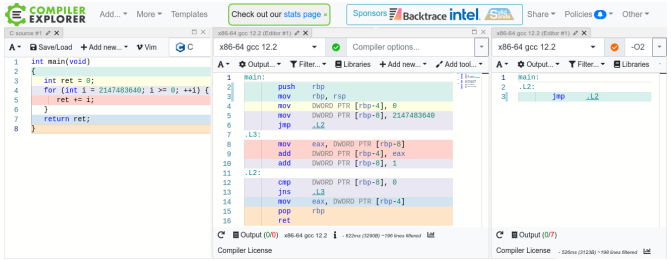

https://godbolt.org/z/K9r1eWqcd





## Compiler Explorer – Analysis of the Optimized Code

- Effect of the code optimization `-O2` on the resulting code that contains undefined behavior (integer overflow).

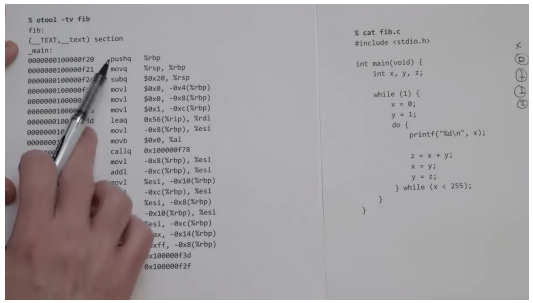



https://godbolt.org/z/G3GEz4vbv





## Comparing C to Machine Code



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOyaJXpAYZQ





# Part II

# Part 2 – Debugging





## Debugging the Code

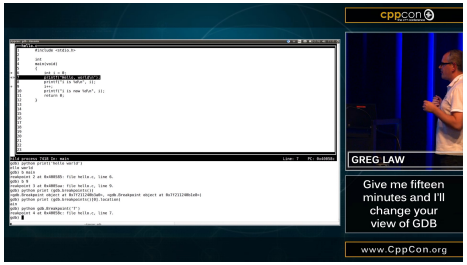
- Principally there are two ways of debugging: **stepping** (program animation) and **logging**.
- **Stepping** is interactive debugging that might be suitable for relatively small, less complex codes, and non real-time applications.
  - In stepping, we use **breakpoints**, **watches** to stop the program execution at certain conditions and then inspect variables and stepping next instructions.
  - In C, most of the visual interfaces uses **gdb**.
  - It might be suitable to compile the program with **debugging information**, e.g., using `-g` flag.
    ```
    clang -g main.c -o main
    ```
- **Logging** can range from simple print messages to `stderr` to sophisticated **loggers**, such as `log4c`.
- We can further enjoy tools such as **valgrind** for dynamic analysis, specifically for bugs in memory access. *For more than 20 years, see* `https://valgrind.org/`.





## Debugging using gdb (or VS Code)

- Interactive example of debugging or watch the available examples and tutorials.




- *CppCon 2015: Greg Law " Give me 15 minutes & I'll change your view of GDB."*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PorfLSr3DDI





## Example of using `valgrind`

```
1  #include <stdio.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
   int main(void)
5  {
6     int *a = malloc(2 * sizeof *a);
      for (int i = 0; i < 3; ++i) {
9        a[i] = i;
10    }
11    for (int i = 0; i < 3; ++i) {
12       printf("%d\n", a[i]);
13    }
14    //free(a);
15    return 0;
16 }
```

```
$ clang -g mem_val.c -o mem_val
$ valgrind ./mem_val
....
==87826== Invalid write of size 4
==87826==    at 0x201999: main (mem_val.c:9)
==87826==  Address 0x5400048 is 0 bytes after
     a block of size 8 alloc'd
==87826==    at 0x4853B74: malloc (in /usr/
    local/libexec/valgrind/vgpreload_memcheck-
    amd64-freebsd.so)
==87826==    by 0x201978: main (mem_val.c:6)
==87826==
....
0
```

lec09/mem_val.c

- Try to compile the program with and w/o `-g`.
- See the **valgrind** output with and w/o calling `free()`.





## Example of `malloc` failure

```
1  #include <stdio.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
   int main(void)
5  {
6     const size_t size = 20 * 1024 * 1024; //
        20 MB
7     size_t *a = malloc(size * sizeof *a);  //
        20 MB * sizeof(long)
8     if (!a) {
9        fprintf(stderr, "ERROR: malloc failed
         !\n");
10       return -1;
11    }
12    for (size_t i = 0; i < size; ++i) {
13       a[i] = i;
14    }
15    fprintf(stderr, "INFO: array of %lu
        size_t values initialized.\n", size);
16    free(a);
17    return 0;
18 }
```

```
$ clang mem_fail.c -o mem_fail
$ bash
$ ulimit -d 10 -m 10 -v 1000000  -w 0
$ ./mem_fail
INFO: array of 20971520 size_t values
     initialized.
$ exit
exit
$ bash
$ ulimit -d 10 -m 10 -v 10000  -w 0
$ ./mem_fail
ERROR: malloc failed!
```

lec09/mem_fail.c

- See `ulimit -help` and set the memory limits.
- Run it in separate shell to recover from too restrictive settings.

Part III

# Part 3 – Examples





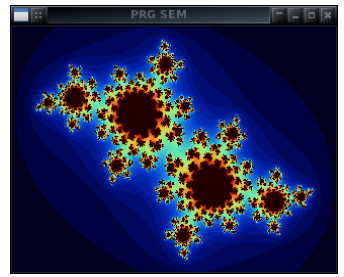
## Communication using Named Pipes

- Implement two applications **main** and **module** that communicates through named **pipes**. `lec09/pipes/create_pipes.sh` `lec09/pipes/prg_lec09_main.c`, `lec09/pipes/prg-lec09-module.c`
- **module** opens pipe `/tmp/prg-lec09.pipe` for reading.
- **main** opens pipe `/tmp/prg-lec09.pipe` for writting.
- The applications communicate using simple character orienter protocol.
  - `'s'` – stop.
  - `'e'` – enable (start).
  - `'b'` – bye.
  - `'1'`–`'5'` – set sleep period to 50 ms, 100 ms, 200 ms, 500 ms, 1000 ms.
- The pipe can be opened using functions from the `prg_io_nonblock` library. `lec09/pipes/prg_io_nonblock.h`, `lec09/pipes/prg_io_nonblock.c`
- Examine the provide code and test it. *The example is without threads.*





## Remote Control of Computational Application (Module) – Semetral Project




- Implement multi-thread application with separate threads for sources of asynchronous events.
  - User input from `stdin` (**keyboard**).
  - Pipe reading from the computational module.
- Use simple visualization using `sdl`.
- Implement the main program logic in the main (`boss`) thread using `event queue`.
  - The main thread reads from the queue.
  - The secondary threads (keyboard and pipe) write to the queue.
- The main thread manages output resources (**visualization**, **write to pipe**).
  Eventually also `stdout` or even `stderr`, which is, however, not required.
- Use the example of multi-thread application from Lecture 8. `https://cw.fel.cvut.cz/wiki/courses/b3b36prg/semestral-project/start`





# Summary of the Lecture





## Topics Discussed

- Program compilation.
- Undefined behaviour.
- Comments on debugging.
- Named pipes.
- Semetral project.