

OpenFOAM Debugging

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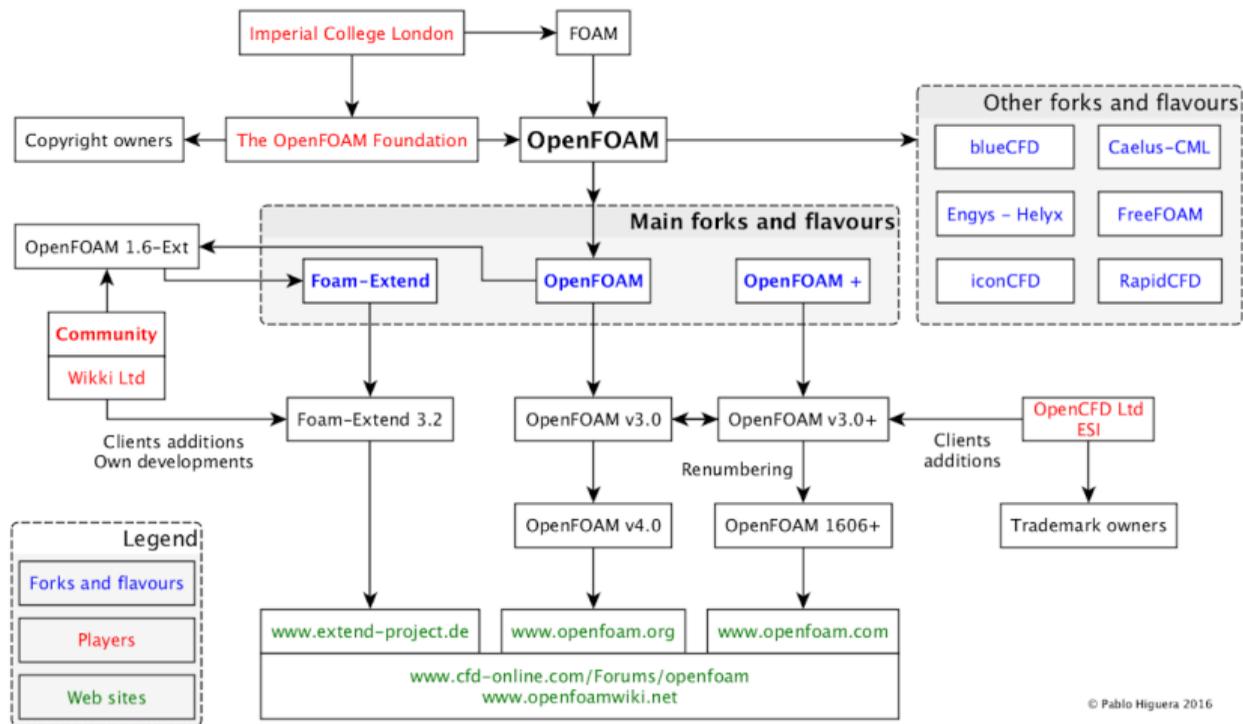
Agenda

- Motivation
- Requirements
- Tools
 - ▶ basic debugging using information written to the terminal
 - ▶ DebugSwitches in controlDict
 - ▶ terminal based debugging using gdb and gdbOF
 - ▶ memory checking using valgrind
 - ▶ GUI based debugging using Visual Studio Code
 - ▶ GUI based debugging using Qtcreator
- Further Reading and References

Motivation

- Code not working as intended
- Understanding of running code
- Fixing of runtime error
- difficult to study compiled code

OpenFOAM



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Source: <https://olaflow.github.io/blog/what-is-what-and-who-is-who-in-the-openfoam-environment/>

Requirements - OpenFOAM base installation Ubuntu 20.04 LTS

Install base packages

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install git-core build-essential binutils-dev \
    cmake flex zlib1g-dev libncurses5-dev curl bison \
    libxt-dev rpm mercurial graphviz python python-dev \
    gcc-7 g++-7 paraview gdb
```

clone foam-extend repository

```
mkdir ~/foam
cd ~/foam
git clone http://git.code.sf.net/p/foam-extend/foam-extend-4.1 \
    foam-extend-4.1
```

Requirements - OpenFOAM base installation Ubuntu 20.04 LTS

Modify settings

```
cd ~/foam/foam-extend-4.1
echo "export WM_CC='gcc-7'" >> etc/prefs.sh
echo "export WM_CXX='g++-7'" >> etc/prefs.sh
source etc/bashrc
sed -i -e 's=rpmbuild --define=rpmbuild --define \
    "_build_id_links none" --define=' \
    ThirdParty/tools/makeThirdPartyFunctionsForRPM
sed -i -e 's/gcc/\$(WM_CC)/' wmake/rules/linux64Gcc/c
sed -i -e 's/g++/\$(WM_CXX)/' wmake/rules/linux64Gcc/c++
```

Requirements - OpenFOAM base installation Ubuntu 20.04 LTS

Define aliases

```
echo "alias fe41='source \  
    \${HOME}/foam/foam-extend-4.1/etc/bashrc'" >> ~/.bashrc  
echo "alias fe41_debug='source \  
    \${HOME}/foam/foam-extend-4.1/etc/bashrc \  
    WM_COMPILE_OPTION=Debug'" >> ~/.bashrc
```

Compile foam-extend

```
1 cd ~/foam/foam-extend-4.1  
2 source ~/foam/foam-extend-4.1/etc/bashrc  
3 ./Allwmake.firstInstall  
4 WM_COMPILE_OPTION=Debug ./Allwmake
```

Requirements - Tools

Using package management system

```
1 sudo apt-get install valgrind qtcreator
2 snap install code --classic
```

Manual installation - gdbOF

```
source $HOME/foam/foam-extend-4.1/etc/bashrc \  
        WM_COMPILE_OPTION=Debug  
cd ~/foam/  
git clone https://gitlab.com/flowcrunchpublic/gdbof.git gdbOF  
cd gdbOF  
./installgdbOF.sh
```

Tools - basic debugging by text messages to terminal

```
1 Info<< "\nStarting time loop\n" << endl;  
2  
3 while (runTime.loop())  
4 {  
5     Info<< "Time = " << runTime.timeName() << nl << endl;  
6     ...  
7 }
```

Downsides:

- no control of code during execution
- requires modification of code and recompilation
- cleaning of code required after successful debugging

Tools - DebugSwitches

- 0 means no debug information
- different debug levels available (1,2,3...)
- no recompilation of coded needed unlike Info statements
- list and activate debugSwitches of solver (OpenFOAM foundation and ESI)

```
1 pisoFoam -listRegisteredSwitches  
2 pisoFoam -debug-switch <name=val>
```

- list and activate debugSwitches of solver (foam-extend)

```
1 pisoFoam -dumpControlSwitches  
2 pisoFoam -DebugSwitches <key1=val1,key2=val2, ...>
```

Hands-on - debugSwitches

```
1 fe41_debug
2 cd $FOAM_TUTORIALS/basic/scalarTransportFoam/pitzDaily/
3 blockMesh
4 scalarTransportFoam --DebugSwitches volScalarField=1,volVectorField=2
5
6 # Output without DebugSwitches:
7 Time = 0.05
8
9 BiCGStab: Solving for T, Initial residual = 1, Final residual = 0, No Iterations 1
10
11 # Output with DebugSwitches:
12 Time = 0.05
13
14 GeometricField<Type, PatchField, GeoMesh>::GeometricBoundaryField::updateCoeffs()
15 GeometricField<Type, PatchField, GeoMesh>::GeometricBoundaryField::updateCoeffs()
16 GeometricField<Type, PatchField, GeoMesh>::GeometricBoundaryField::updateCoeffs()
17 GeometricField<Type, PatchField, GeoMesh>::GeometricBoundaryField::GeometricBoundaryField(const
    ↪ GeometricBoundaryField<Type, PatchField, BoundaryMesh>&)
18 GeometricField<Type, PatchField, GeoMesh>::GeometricField : constructing as copy resetting IO params
19 IOobject: volScalarField T_0 "/home/hoehn7/foam/foam-extend-4.1/tutorials/basic/scalarTransportFoam/swirlTest/0.05"
20
21 BiCGStab: Solving for T, Initial residual = 1, Final residual = 0, No Iterations 1
22 GeometricField<Type, PatchField, GeoMesh>::GeometricBoundaryField::evaluate()
```

Tools - gdb

- study code run-time behaviour
- examining variables at run-time
- changing program at run-time
- BUT: more disc space required and slower execution time
- for own solver or library modification of Make/options needed:

```
1 EXE_INC = -O0 -fdefault-inline -ggdb -DFULLDEBUG
```

Tools - gdbOF and valgrind

gdbOF

- simplification of commands from pure GDB usage by additionally implemented additional macros
- easier inspection of data structures of OF at run-time
- dumping of data at run-time
- currently unmaintained and buggy

valgrind

- Open-Source framework for memory debugging, memory leak detection and profiling
- no profiling demonstrated as part of this talk

Tools - Visual Studio Code

- multiplatform (Windows, macOS, Linux) IDE (Integrated Development Environment) Visual Studio Code
- open source variant without telemetry VSCodium
- supported languages: C, C#, C++, JavaScript, Julia, Perl, Rust,
- syntax highlighting, auto completion, revision management
- graphical debugging

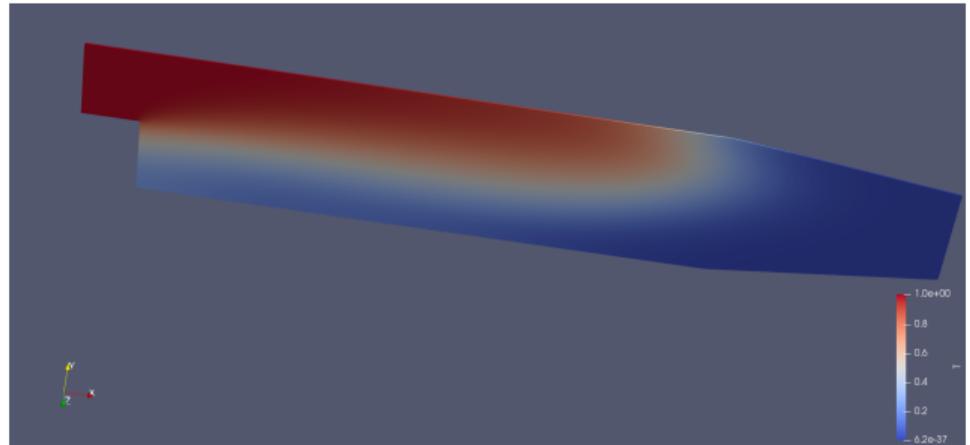
Tools - Qtcreator

- multiplatform (Windows, macOS, Linux) IDE (Integrated Development Environment)
- based on and integrated in multiplatform Qt framework
- supported languages: C++, Java, Markdown, JavaScript, Python, QML, ...
- syntax highlighting, auto completion, revision management
- graphical debugging

Hands-on - Pitzdaily

scalarTransportFoam:

$$\frac{\delta T}{\delta t} + \nabla \cdot (uT) - \nabla \cdot (\nabla D_T T) = S$$



Hands-on - gdb

```
1 fe41_debug
2 cd $FOAM_TUTORIALS/basic/scalarTransportFoam/pitzDaily/
3 blockMesh
4 gdb scalarTransportFoam
```

| command | meaning |
|---|---|
| [h]elp help class help command | list all classes of commands one-line description for commands in class description of command |
| [l]ist list main list 30,50 list createTime.H:1,20 | shows ten lines after previous listing shows first ten lines around function shows defined line range shows first twenty lines of createTime.H |

Hands-on - gdb 2

| command | meaning |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| [r]un run arglist | start your program with current argument list start your program with arglist |
| [c]ontinue | resumes execution of program until next breakpoint |
| ctrl-x ctrl-a tui enable ctrl-l | starting of Text User Interface (TUI) Mode starting of Text User Interface (TUI) Mode redraw TUI window |
| [b]ack[t]race backtrace n | print trace of all frames in stack print trace of n frames in stack |
| frame n | select frame number n |

Hands-on - gdb 3

| command | meaning |
|--|--|
| [b]reak (file:)line break (file:)line if var==value | set breakpoint at line (in file) conditional breakpoint at line (in file) if var equal value |
| clear | clear all breakpoints |
| whatis expr ptype expr | show datatype of expression show more details on datatype compared to whatis |
| watchpoint expr | set a watchpoint for expression expr |
| [s]tep step n | run next line, stepping into function calls run n lines, stepping into function calls |

Hands-on - gdb 4

| command | meaning |
|--|--|
| [n]ext next n | run next line, stepping over function calls run n lines, stepping over function calls |
| info break info watch | show defined breakpoints show defined watch points |
| finish | run until stack frame returns |
| [p]rint *T_.v_@nvalues p *T_.v_@(begin,end) | print first n values of T_ variable print values from begin to end of T_ variable |
| call Foam::min(1,2) | call min function from inside OpenFOAM |
| [q]uit | quit gdb |

Hands-on - Valgrind

```
fe41_debug
cd $FOAM_TUTORIALS/basic/scalarTransportFoam/pitzDaily/
blockMesh
valgrind --leak-check=full --show-leak-kinds=all \
  --track-origins=yes --log-file="memcheck.txt" \
  myScalarTransportFoam
```

```
fe41_debug
cd $WM_PROJECT_USER_DIR/applications/
tar xzvf my.tar.gz
cd myScalarTransportFoam/
{vi|nano|emacs|gedit} # editor of your choice
wmake
```

Hands-on - Visual Studio Code - General instructions

- run 'fe41_debug' in shell
- run 'blockMesh" in same terminal
- run 'code .' from same shell

Hands-on - Visual Studio Code - tasks.json

```
1 {  
2   "version": "2.0.0",  
3   "tasks": [  
4     {  
5       "type": "shell",  
6       "label": "wmake-build",  
7       "command": "wmake",  
8       "problemMatcher": [],  
9       "group": {  
10        "kind": "build",  
11        "isDefault": true  
12      }  
13    }  
14  ]  
15 }
```

Hands-on - Visual Studio Code - launch.json

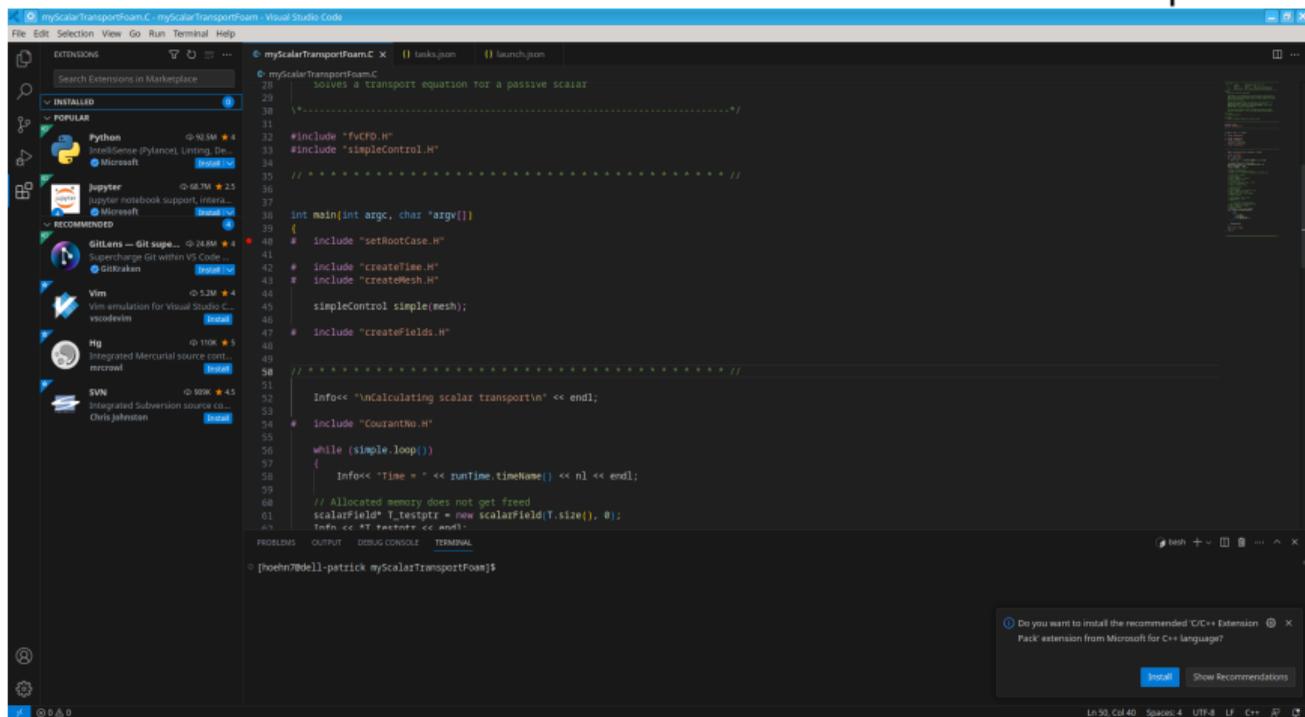
```
1 {
2   "version": "0.2.0",
3   "configurations": [
4     {
5       "name": "OF-Debug",
6       "type": "cppdbg",
7       "request": "launch",
8       "program": "${env:FOAM_APPBIN}/myScalarTransportFoam",
9       "args": [],
10      "stopAtEntry": false,
11      "cwd": "${env:FOAM_TUTORIALS}/basic/scalarTransportFoam/pitzDaily/",
12      "environment": [],
13      "externalConsole": false,
14      "MIMode": "gdb",
15      "miDebuggerPath": "/usr/bin/gdb",
16      "setupCommands": [
17        {
18          "description": "Enable pretty-printing for gdb",
19          "text": "--enable-pretty-printing",
20          "ignoreFailures": true
21        }
22      ],
23      "preLaunchTask": "wmake-build"
24    }
25  ]
26 }
27 }
```

Description:

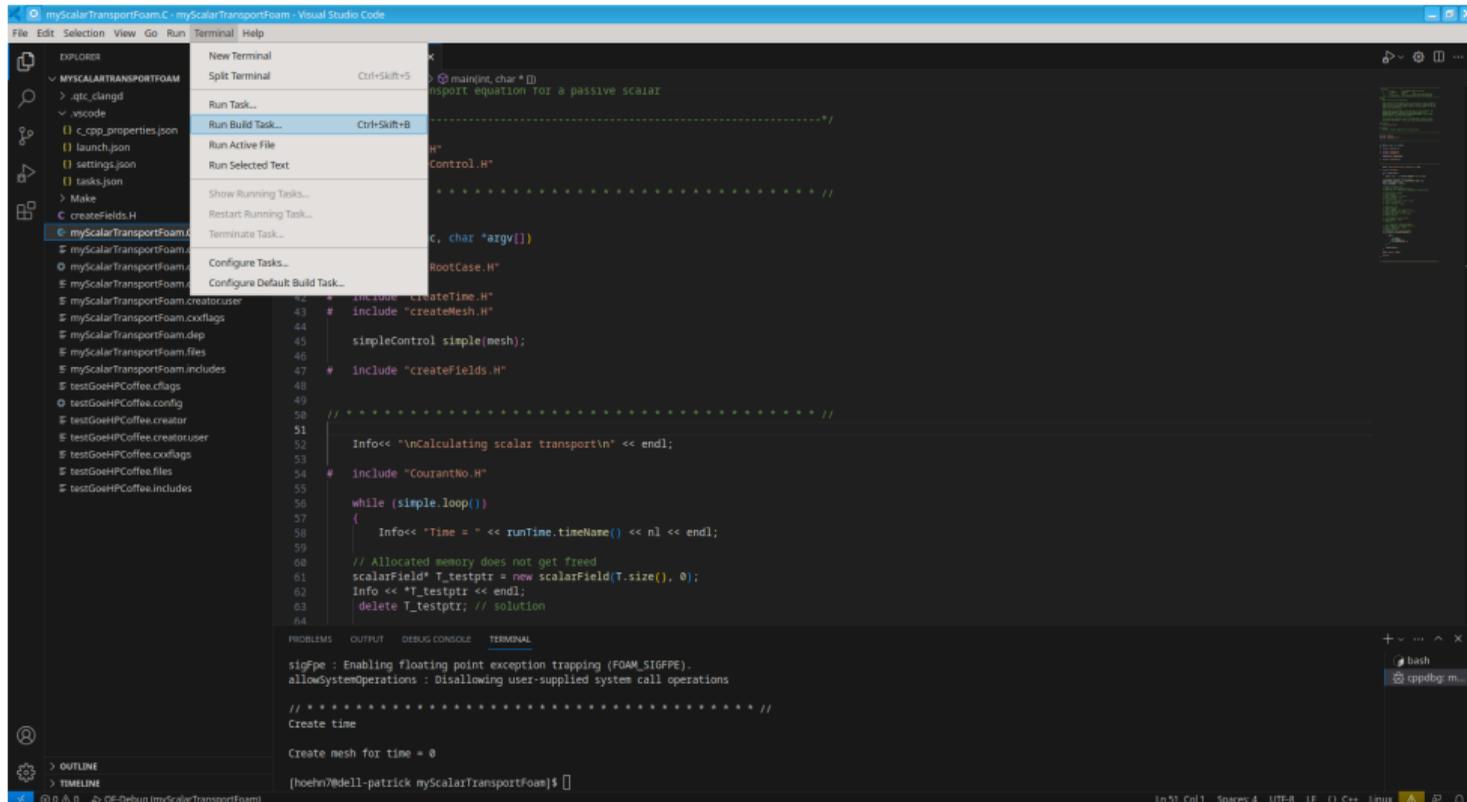
- 8: Location of executable program
- 9: Arguments to pass to the program
- 10: Should program stop at the beginning of the main function?
- 11: Path to case folder
- 12: Environment variables to add to the environment of the program
- 14: What debugger should Visual Studio Code connect to?
- 15: Path of debugger. Don't know? Use which gdb in another terminal
- 16-22: Array of commands to execute in order to setup GDB
- 23: Task to be performed before debugging

Hands-on - Visual Studio Code - Steps

After first start after installation click "Install" to add c++ specific modules



Hands-on - Visual Studio Code - Steps



Hands-on - Visual Studio Code - Steps

```
myScalarTransportFoam.C - myScalarTransportFoam - Visual Studio Code
File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help

RUN AND DEBUG OF-Debug
VARIABLES
WATCH
CALL STACK
BREAKPOINTS
myScalarTransportFoam.C
OF-Debug (myScalarTransportFoam)

myScalarTransportFoam.C x
myScalarTransportFoam.C main(int, char *[])
Solves a transport equation for a passive scalar
-----*/
#include "fvCFD.H"
#include "simpleControl.H"
// *****

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    #include "setRootCase.H"
    #include "createTime.H"
    #include "createMesh.H"

    simpleControl simple(mesh);
    #include "createFields.H"
// *****
    Info<< "\nCalculating scalar transport\n" << endl;
    #include "CourantNo.H"

    while (simple.loop())
    {
        Info<< "Time = " << runTime.timeName() << nl << endl;

        // Allocated memory does not get freed
        scalarField* T_testptr = new scalarField(T.size(), 0);
        Info << "T_testptr << endl;
        delete T_testptr; // solution
    }
}

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL
sigFpe : Enabling floating point exception trapping (FOAM_SIGFPE).
allowSystemOperations : Disallowing user-supplied system call operations

// *****
Create time
Create mesh for time = 0
[hoehn7@del1-patrick myScalarTransportFoam]$
```

Hands-on - Visual Studio Code - Steps

The image shows a screenshot of the Visual Studio Code interface with several debugging panels and annotations. The main editor displays a C++ source file named `myScalarTransportFoam.C`. The code includes headers for `FvCFD.H` and `simpleControl.H`, and defines a `main` function that sets up a scalar field and enters a loop.

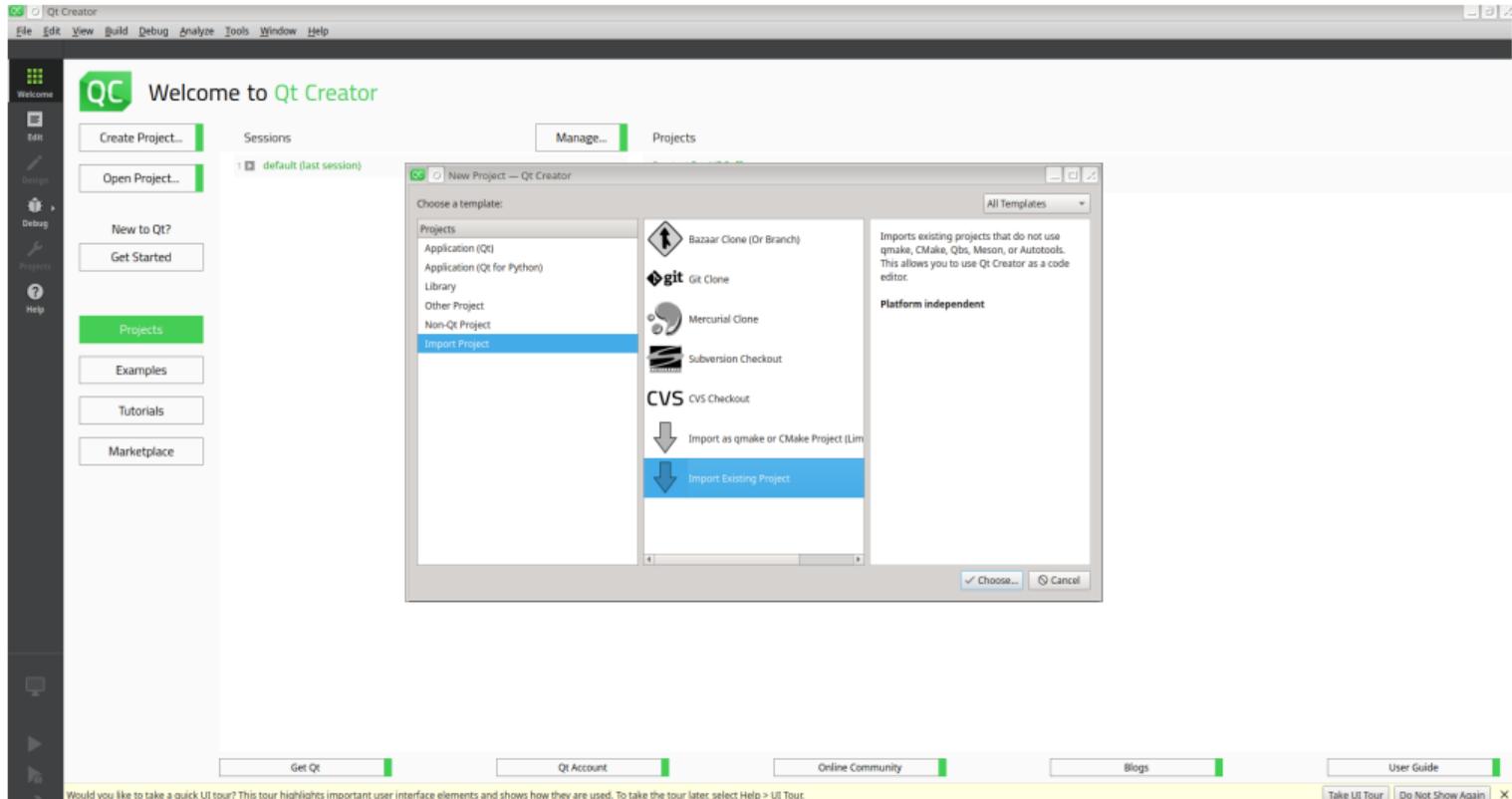
Annotations in green text point to various features:

- continue**: points to the 'Continue' button in the top toolbar.
- step over**: points to the 'Step Over' button in the top toolbar.
- step into**: points to the 'Step Into' button in the top toolbar.
- end debugger**: points to the 'End Debugging' button in the top toolbar.
- restart debugger**: points to the 'Restart Debugging' button in the top toolbar.
- step out**: points to the 'Step Out' button in the top toolbar.
- variable view**: points to the 'Variables' panel on the left, which shows local variables like `args`, `runTime`, `mesh`, `simple`, `T`, `U`, `transportProperties`, `DT`, `phi`, `CoNum`, `meanCoNum`, `velMag`, `argc`, and `argv`.
- current line**: points to the highlighted line 45 in the code editor: `simpleControl simple(mesh);`.
- backtrace**: points to the 'Call Stack' panel on the left, which shows the current function `main(int argc, char ** argv) m...`.
- terminal output**: points to the 'Terminal' panel at the bottom, which shows the output of the debugger, including messages like `sigFpe : Enabling floating point exception trapping (FOAM_SIGFPE).` and `create time`.

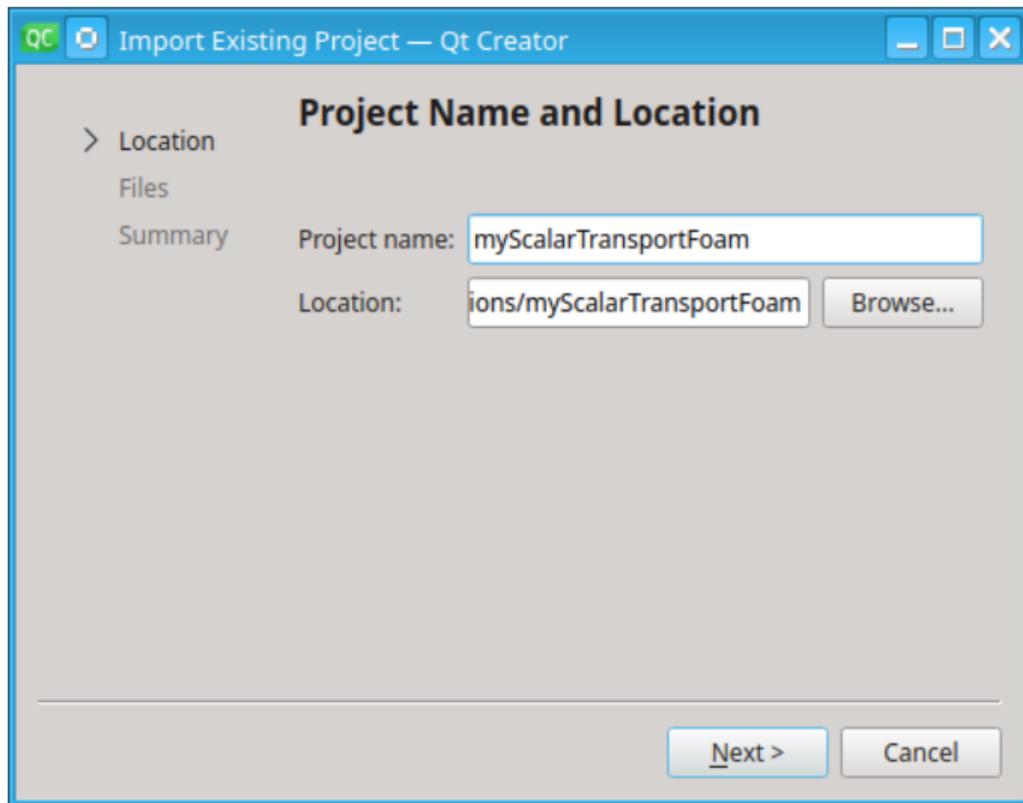
Hands-on - QtCreator - General instructions

- run 'fe41_debug' in shell
- run 'blockMesh' in same terminal
- run 'find \$FOAM_SRC -type d -iname "InInclude"' in same shell
- run 'qtcreator .' from same shell
- changing of files possible by double click on filename

Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps

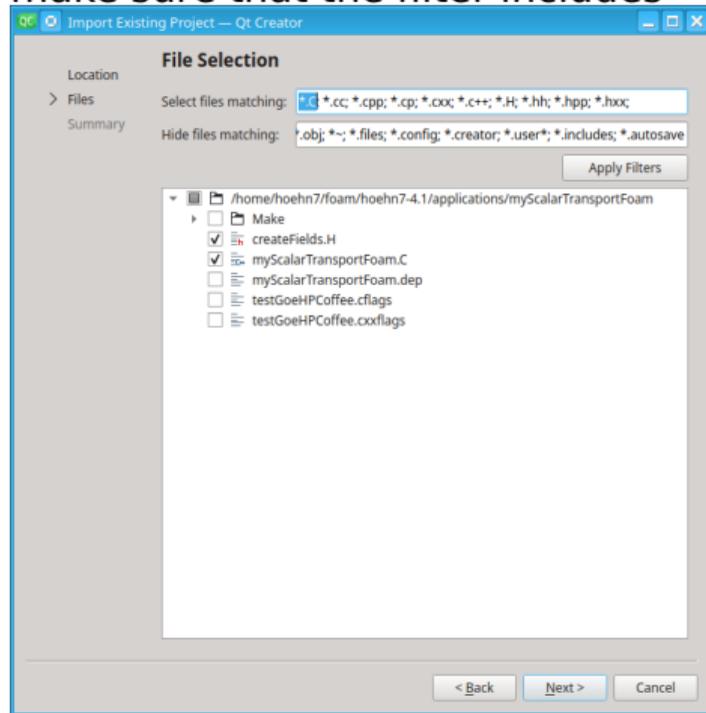


Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps

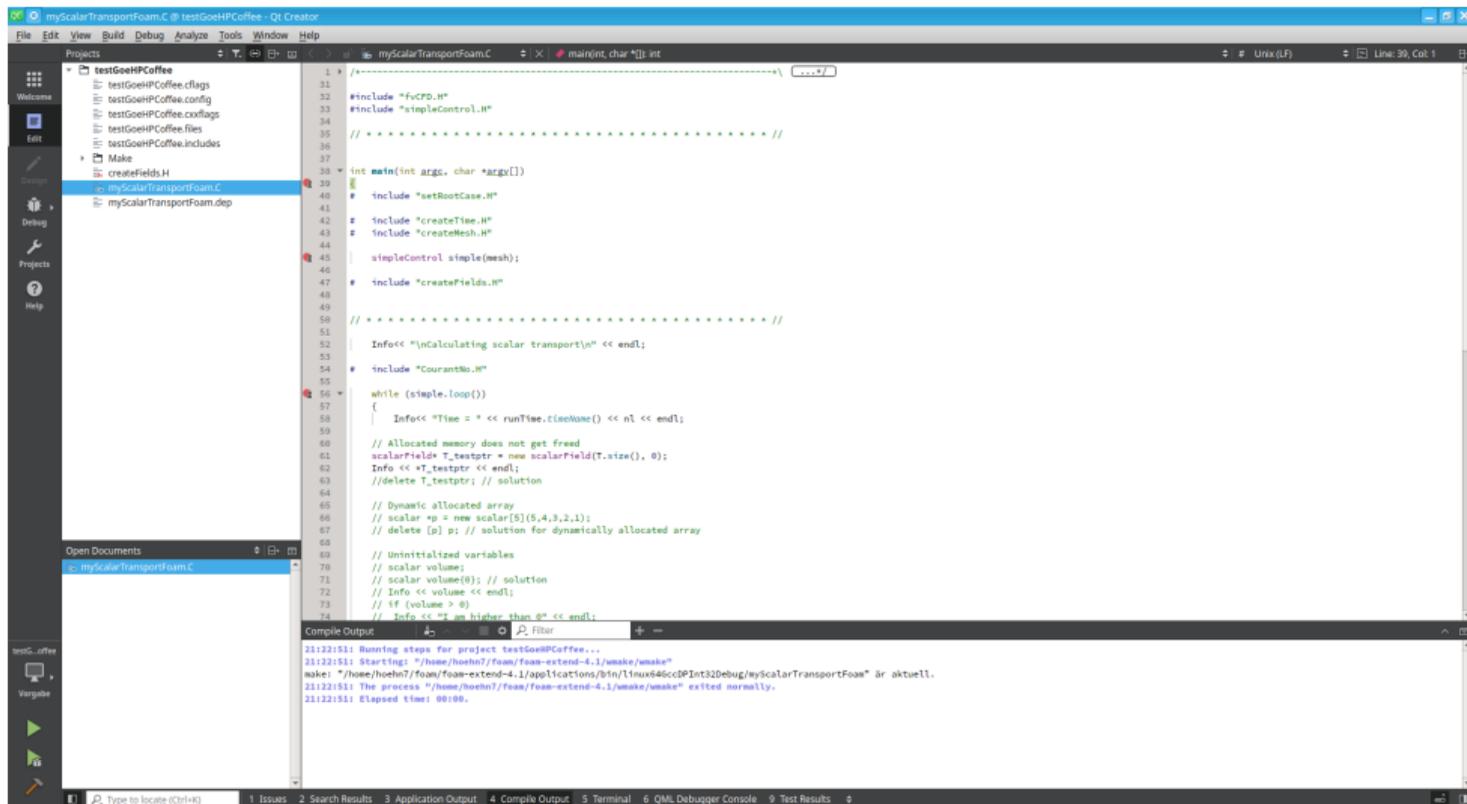


Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps

make sure that the filter includes "*.C" and "*.H" because Linux is case-sensitive

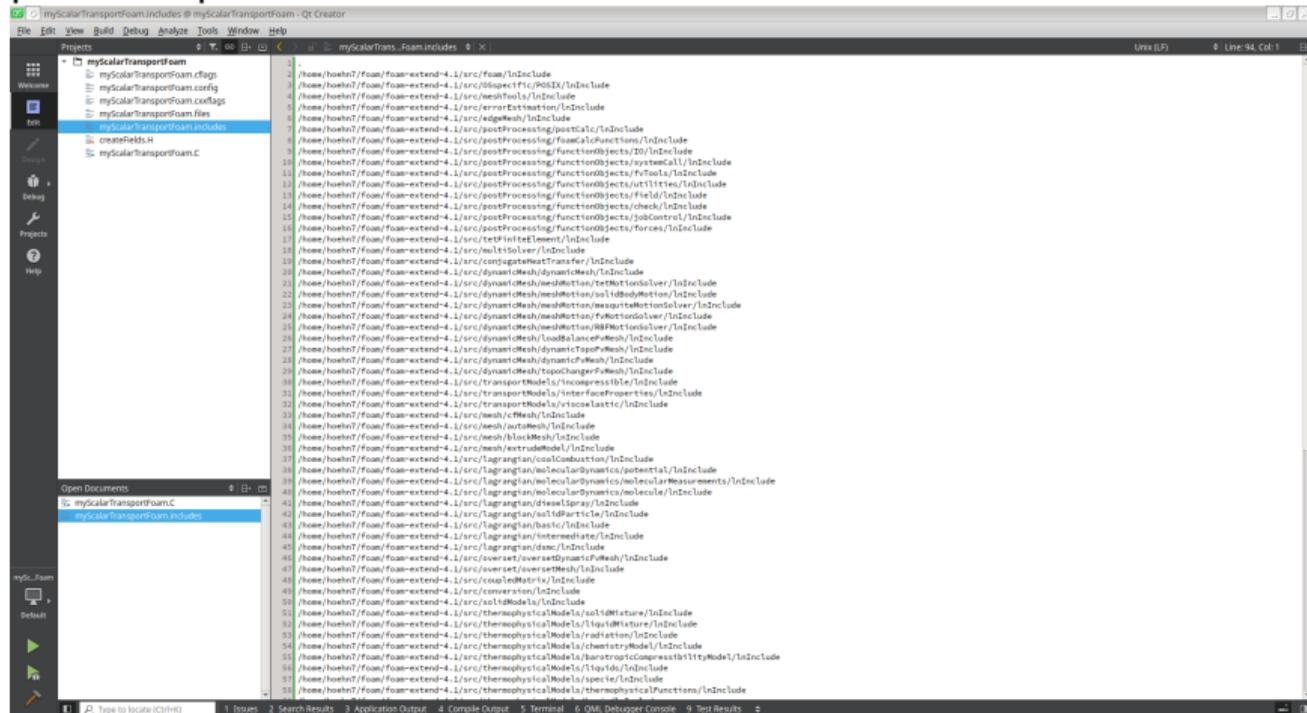


Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps



Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps

paste output from find command in file



Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps

The screenshot shows the Qt Creator interface with the 'Build Settings' dialog open. The dialog is titled 'Build Settings' and shows the configuration for the 'testGoehPCoffee' project. The 'Generic Manager' section shows the build directory as '/home/hoehn7/foam/hoehn7-4.1/applications/myScalar/TransportFoam'. The 'Build Steps' section shows a custom process step named 'wmake' with the command 'wmake' and working directory '%(buildDir)'. The 'Build Environment' section shows the 'Use System Environment' checkbox checked. The 'Custom Output Parsers' section shows the 'Parse standard output during build' checkbox unchecked.

myScalar/TransportFoam.C @ testGoehPCoffee - Qt Creator

File Edit View Build Debug Analyze Tools Window Help

Manage Kits...

Active Project: testGoehPCoffee

Import Existing Build...

Build & Run

Desktop

Build

Run

Project Settings

- Editor
- Code Style
- Dependencies
- Environment
- Clang
- Quick Fixes
- Clang Tools
- Testing

Build Settings

Edit build configuration: Vorgabe Add Remove Rename... Clone...

Generic Manager

Build directory: /home/hoehn7/foam/hoehn7-4.1/applications/myScalar/TransportFoam Browse...

Tooltip in target selector:

Build Steps

Custom Process Step: wmake Details

Command: wmake Browse...

Arguments:

Working directory: %(buildDir) Browse...

Add Build Step

Clean Steps

No Clean Steps

Add Clean Step

Build Environment

Clear system environment

Use System Environment Details

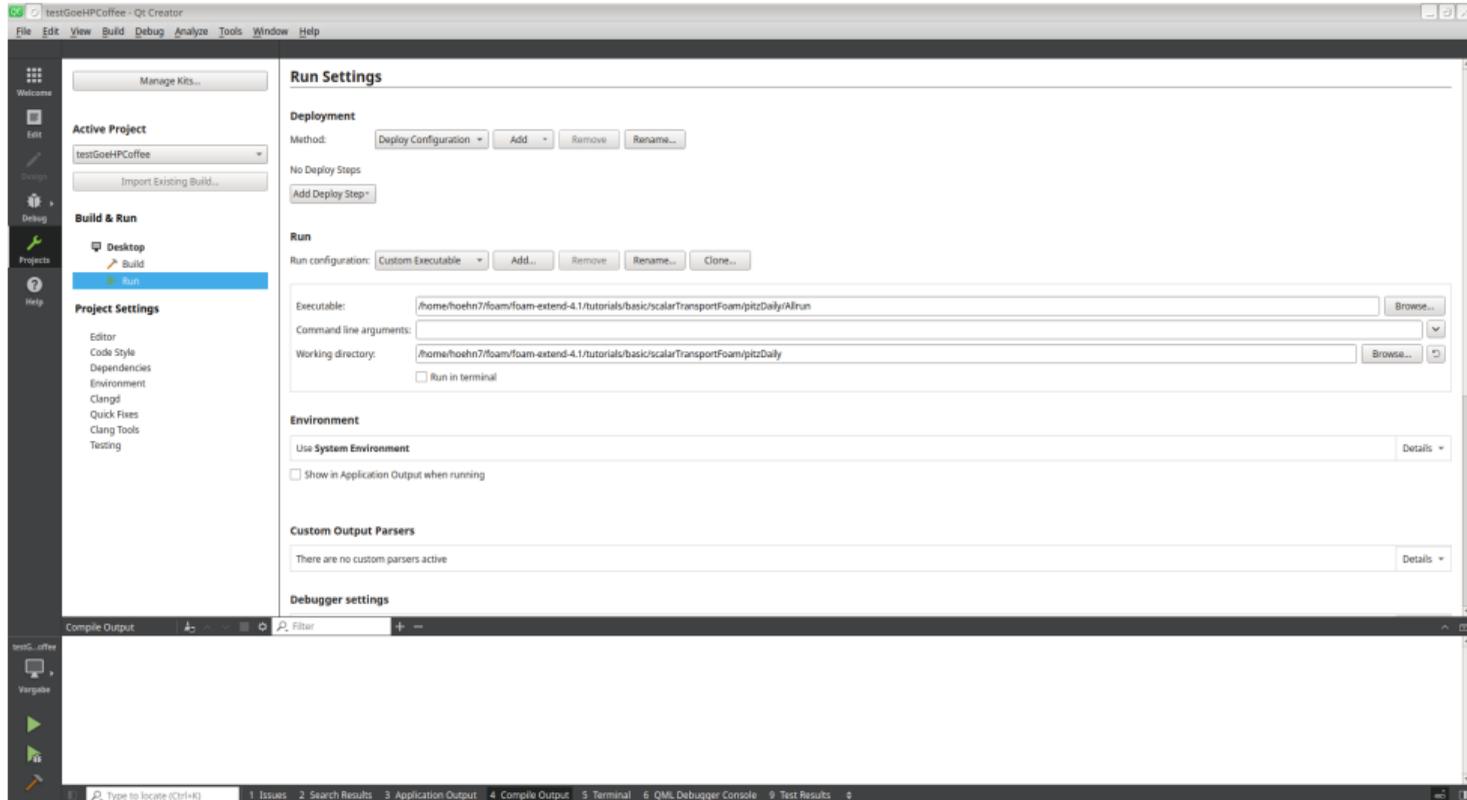
Custom Output Parsers

Parse standard output during build

There are no custom parsers active Details

Type to locate (Ctrl+K) | 1 Issues | 2 Search Results | 3 Application Output | 4 Compile Output | 5 Terminal | 6 QML Debugger Console | 9 Test Results

Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps



Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps

The screenshot displays the Qt Creator IDE interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Build, Debug, Analyze, Tools, Window, and Help. The left sidebar contains icons for Welcome, Edit, Projects, and Help. The main editor area shows a C++ source file named `transportFoam.C` with the following code:

```
...
Control.H
.....
. char *argv[]
RootCase.H
steTime.H
steMesh.H
simple(mesh);
steFields.H
.....
culating scalar transport)" << endl;
}
}
main()
{
    Time = " << runTime.timeName() << nl << endl;
    memory does not get freed
    T_testptr = new scalarField(T.size(), 0);
62 Info << "T_testptr << endl;
63 | delete T_testptr; // solution
64
65 // dynamic allocated array
66 // scalar *p = new scalar[5](5,4,3,2,1);
67 // delete [p] p; // solution for dynamically allocated array
68
69 // uninitialized variables
70 // scalar volume;
71 // scalar volume(0); // solution
72 Info << volume << endl;
}
```

The 'Build' menu is open, showing options like 'Build Project "testGoeHPCoffee"', 'Run Generator', and 'Run'. The 'Debugger' panel at the bottom right shows a table of breakpoints:

| Breakpoint Preset | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|------|---------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Debugger | Function | File | Line | Address | Condition | Ignore | Threads |
| • | - | ...nsportFoam.C | 40 | | | | (all) |
| • | - | ...nsportFoam.C | 32 | | | | (all) |
| • | - | ...nsportFoam.C | 54 | | | | (all) |

Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps

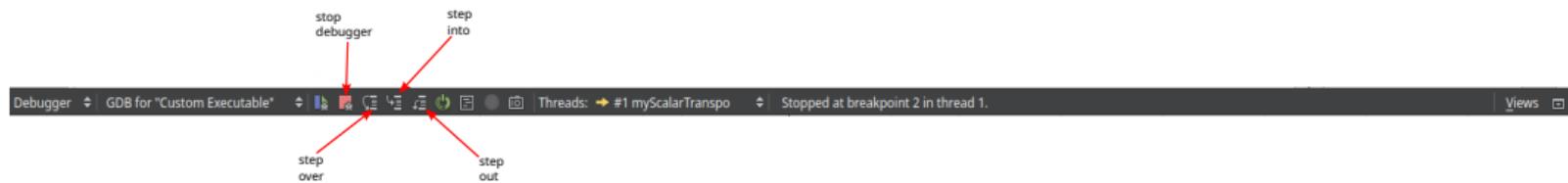
The screenshot shows the Qt Creator IDE interface. The main editor displays a C++ source file with the following code:

```
54 #include "CourantNo.H"
55
56 while (simple.loop())
57 {
58     Info<< "Time = " << runTime.timeName() << nl << endl;
59
60     // Allocated memory does not get freed
61     scalarField* T_testptr = new scalarField(T.size(), 0);
62     Info << *T_testptr << endl;
63     delete T_testptr; // solution
64
65     // dynamic allocated array
66     // scalar *p = new scalar[S](S,4,3,2,1);
67     // delete [p] p; // solution for dynamically allocated array
68
69     // uninitialized variables
70     // scalar volume;
71     scalar volume(0); // solution
72     Info << volume << endl;
```

The 'Debug' menu is open, showing options for starting and managing the debugger. The 'Breakpoint Preset' table is visible at the bottom right:

| Debugger | Function | File | Line | Address | Condition | Ignore | Threads |
|----------|----------|-----------------|------|---------|-----------|--------|---------|
| • - | - | ...nsportFoam.C | 40 | | | | (all) |
| • - | - | ...nsportFoam.C | 32 | | | | (all) |
| • - | - | ...nsportFoam.C | 54 | | | | (all) |

Hands-on - QtCreator - Steps



References

- Training Session "OpenFOAM Code Debugging and Profiling" 18th OpenFOAM Workshop
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- R. Stallman, R. Pesch, and S. Shebs. Debugging with GDB: The GNU Source-Level debugger. GNU Press, Free Software Foundation Inc., 9th edition, 2002.

References

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- Damián, S. M., Giménez, J. M., Nigro, N. M. (2012). gdbOF: A debugging tool for OpenFOAM®. *Advances in Engineering Software*, 47(1), 17-23.
- <https://github.com/FoamScience/foamUT>
- <https://users.ece.utexas.edu/~adnan/gdb-refcard.pdf>
- <https://info.gwdg.de/news/en/configuring-vscode-to-access-gwdgs-hpc-cluster>

Thank you for your attention
Questions?