

Slide 1

Administrivia

- (None.)

Slide 2

A Little About gdb

- Another useful (if primitive!) tool is `gdb` — a text-mode source-level debugger.
- Basic idea of source-level debuggers is to allow running the program a little at a time, pausing to examine variables when it seems like a good idea. Often (though not always) a good alternative to putting in debug prints to trace what's happening.
- To use: Compile with `-g` flag, then type `gdb` and the name of the executable.
- `man gdb` to learn more.

Some Interesting Things You Can Do In C

Slide 3

- Most UNIX/Linux “system calls” (requests to operating system) have a C library function to call them. Example — `fork` to create a new process. Most of them probably have a Java equivalent, but calling them directly from C may be interesting in being lower-level.
- Some functionality available in command shells is accessible via library functions — e.g., `readline` (tab completion, command history).
- The `ncurses` library provides functions to do fancier I/O (colors, cursor positioning, etc.).
- C “bindings” for OpenMP provide simple ways to do multithreading for performance.

Minute Essay

Slide 4

- None — sign in.