Debugger Application (DEBUGGER)

version 3.0

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Chapter 1

Debugger User's Guide

Debugger is a graphical tool which can be used for debugging and testing of Erlang programs. For example, breakpoints can be set, code can be single stepped and variable values can be displayed and changed.

1.1 Debugger

1.1.1 Introduction

Debugger is a graphical user interface for the Erlang interpreter, which can be used for debugging and testing of Erlang programs. For example, breakpoints can be set, code can be single stepped and variable values can be displayed and changed.

The Erlang interpreter can also be accessed via the interface module `int`, see int(3) [page 29].

Warning: Note that the Debugger at some point might start tracing on the processes which execute the interpreted code. This means that a conflict will occur if tracing by other means is started on any of these processes.

1.1.2 Getting Started with Debugger

Start Debugger by calling `debugger:start()`. It will start the Monitor window [page 6] showing information about all debugged processes, interpreted modules and selected options.

Initially there are normally no debugged processes. First, it must be specified which modules should be *debugged*, or *interpreted* as it is also called. This is done by chosing *Module->Interpret...* in the Monitor window and then selecting the appropriate modules from the Interpret Dialog window [page 10].

> Note:
> Only modules compiled with the option `debug_info` set can be interpreted. Non-interpretable modules are shown within parenthesis in the Interpret Dialog window.

When a module is interpreted, it can be viewed in a View Module window [page 15]. This is done by selecting the module from the *Module->module->View* menu. The contents of the source file is shown and it is possible to set breakpoints [page 2].

Now the program that should be debugged can be started. This is done the normal way from the Erlang shell. All processes executing code in interpreted modules will be displayed in the Monitor window. It is possible to *attach* to one of these processes, by double-clicking it, or by selecting the process and then chosing *Process->Attach*.

Attaching to a process will result in a Attach Process window [page 12] being opened for this process. From the Attach Process window, it is possible to control the process execution, inspect variable values, set breakpoints etc.

1.1.3 Breakpoints

Once the appropriate modules are interpreted, breakpoints can be set at relevant locations in the source code. Breakpoints are specified on a line basis. When a process reaches a breakpoint, it stops and waits for commands (step, skip, continue,...) from the user.

> **Note:**
> When a process reaches a breakpoint, only that process is stopped. Other processes are not affected.

Breakpoints are created and deleted using the Break menu of the Monitor window, View Module window and Attach Process window.

Executable Lines

To have effect, a breakpoint must be set at an *executable line*, which is a line of code containing an executable expression such as a matching or a function call. A blank line or a line containing a comment, function head or pattern in a `case`- or `receive` statement is not executable.

In the example below, lines number 2, 4, 6, 8 and 11 are executable lines:

```
1: is_loaded(Module,Compiled) ->
2:   case get_file(Module,Compiled) of
3:     {ok,File} ->
4:       case code:which(Module) of
5:         ?TAG ->
6:           {loaded,File};
7:         _ ->
8:           unloaded
9:       end;
10:    false ->
11:      false
12:  end.
```

Status and Trigger Action

A breakpoint can be either *active* or *inactive*. Inactive breakpoints are ignored.

Each breakpoint has a *trigger action* which specifies what should happen when a process has reached it (and stopped):

- *enable* Breakpoint should remain active (default).
- *disable* Breakpoint should be made inactive.
- *delete* Breakpoint should be deleted.

Line Breakpoints

A line breakpoint is created at a certain line in a module.

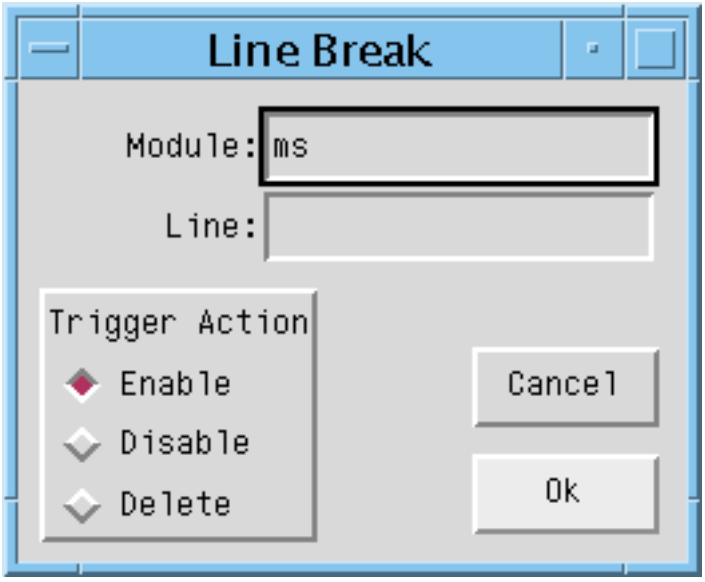

Figure 1.1: The Line Break Dialog Window.

A line breakpoint can also be created (and deleted) by double-clicking the line when the module is displayed in the View Module or Attach Process window.

Conditional Breakpoints

A conditional breakpoint is created at a certain line in the module, but a process reaching the breakpoint will stop only if a given condition is true.

The condition is specified by the user as a module name `Module` and a function name `Function`. When a process reaches the breakpoint, `Module:Function(Bindings)` will be evaluated. If and only if this function call returns `true`, the process will stop. If the function call returns `false`, the breakpoint will be silently ignored.

`Bindings` is a list of variable bindings. Use the function `int:get_binding(Variable,Bindings)` to retrieve the value of `Variable` (given as an atom). The function returns `unbound` or {`value`,`Value`}.

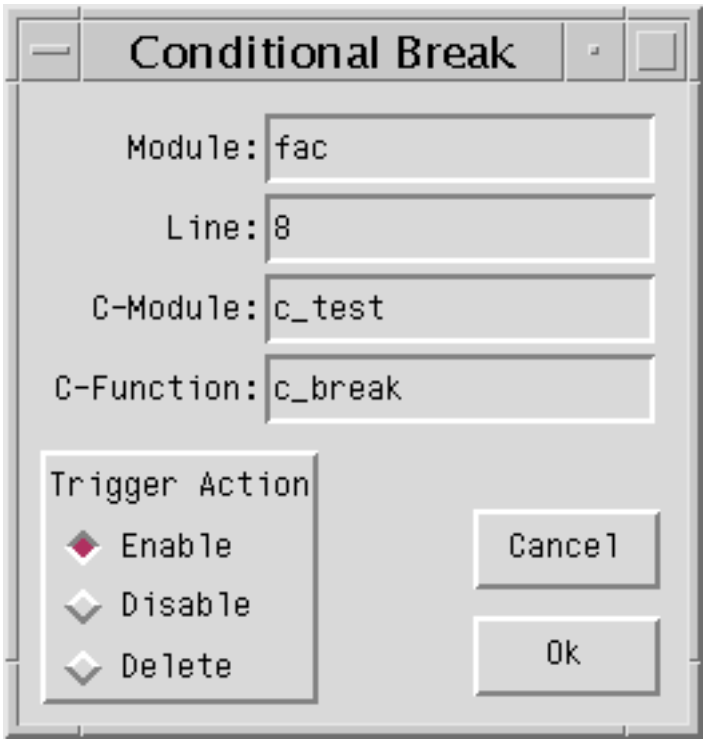

Figure 1.2: The Conditional Break Dialog Window.

Example: A conditional breakpoint calling `c_test:c_break/1` is added at line 8 in the module `fac`. Each time the breakpoint is reached, the function is called, and when `N` is equal to 3 it returns `true`, and the process stops.

Extract from `fac.erl`:

```
4.   fac(0) ->
5.       1;
6.
7.   fac(N) ->
8.       N * fac(N - 1).
```

Definition of `c_test:c_break/1`:

```
-module(c_test).
-export([c_break/1]).

c_break(Bindings) ->
    case int:get_binding('N', Bindings) of
        {value, 3} ->
            true;
        _ ->
            false
    end.
```

Function Breakpoints

A function breakpoint is a set of line breakpoints, one at the first line of each clause in the given function.

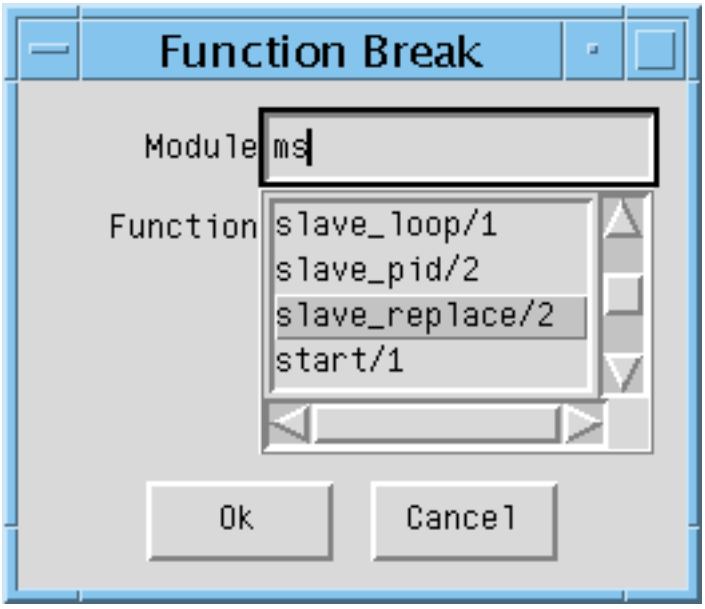

Figure 1.3: The Function Break Dialog Window.

1.1.4 Stack Trace

The Erlang emulator keeps track of a *stack trace*, information about recent function calls. This information is used, for example, if an error occurs:

```
1> a+1.
** exited: {badarith,[{erl_eval,eval_op,3},
                      {shell,exprs,6},
                      {shell,eval_loop,3}]} **
```

In the case above, the stack trace shows that the function called last was `erl_eval:eval_op/3`. See *Erlang Reference Manual, Errors and Error handling*, for more information about stack trace.

Debugger emulates the stack trace by keeping track of recently called interpreted functions. (The real stack trace cannot be used, as it shows which functions of the Debugger have been called, rather than which interpreted functions).

This information can be used to traverse the chain of function calls, using the 'Up' and 'Down' buttons of the Attach Process window [page 12].

By default, the Debugger saves information about all current function calls, that is, function calls that have not yet returned a value (option 'Stack On, Tail').

This means, however, that information is saved also for tail recursive calls. For example, repeated calls to the `loop` function of an Erlang process. This may consume unnecessary amounts of memory for

debugged processes with long lifetimes and many tail recursive calls. It is therefore possible to set the option 'Stack On, no tail', in which case information about previous calls are discarded when a tail recursive call is made.

It is also possible to turn off the Debugger stack trace facility ('Stack Off'). *Note:* If an error occurs, in this case the stack trace will be empty.

See the section about the Monitor Window [page 6] for information about how to change the stack trace option.

1.1.5 The Monitor Window

The Monitor window is the main window of Debugger and shows a listbox containing the names of all interpreted modules (double-clicking a module brings up the View Module window), which options are selected, and information about all debugged processes, that is all processes which have been/are executing code in interpreted modules.

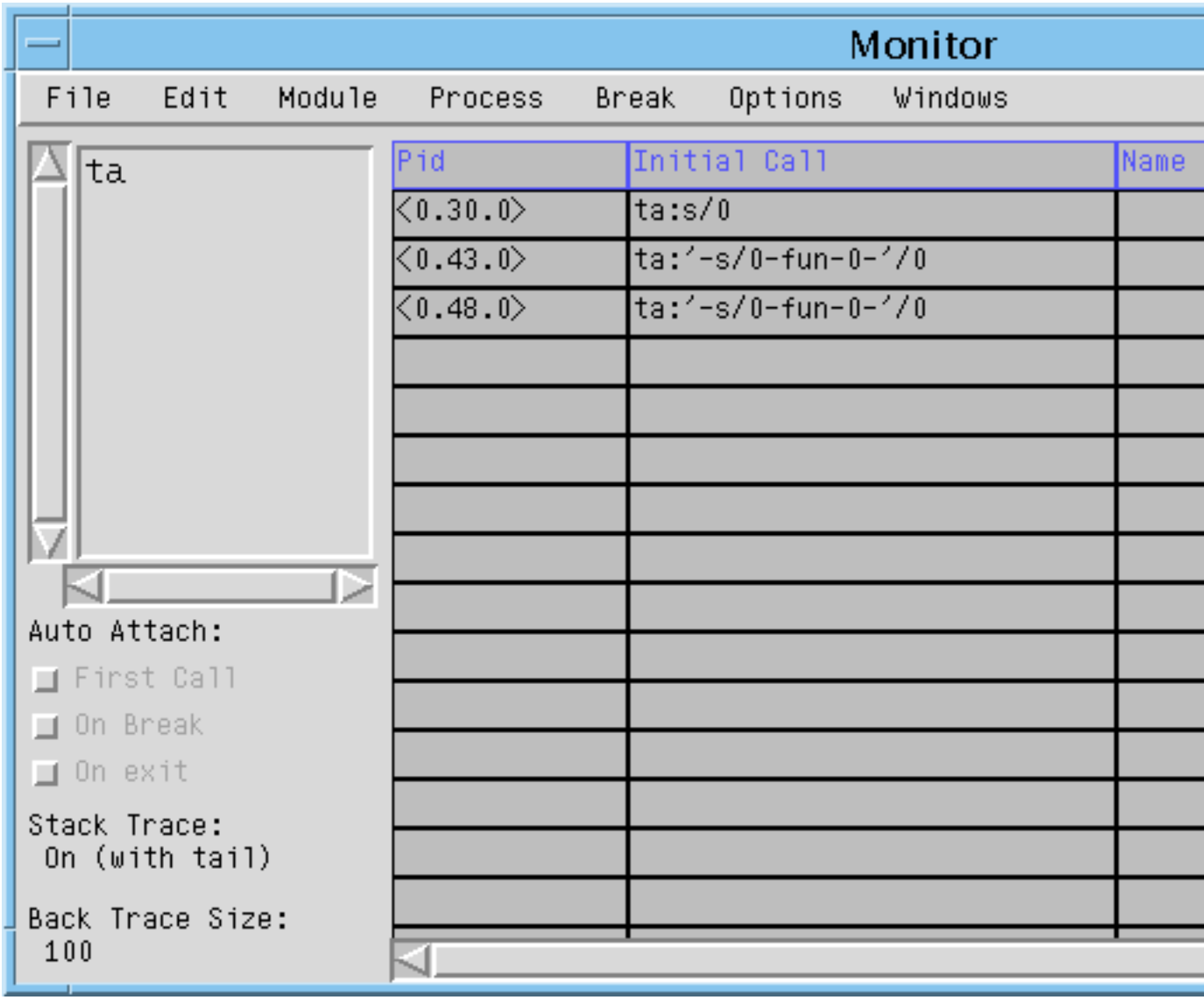

Figure 1.4: The Monitor Window.

Pid The process identifier.

Initial Call The first call to an interpreted function by this process. (`Module:Function/Arity`)

Name The registered name, if any. If a registered name does not show up, it may be that the Debugger received information about the process before the name had been registered. Try selecting *Edit->Refresh*.

Status The current status, one of the following:

- ***idle*** The interpreted function call has returned a value, and the process is no longer executing interpreted code.
- ***running*** The process is running.
- ***waiting*** The process is waiting in a `receive` statement.

break The process is stopped at a breakpoint.

exit The process has terminated.

no_conn There is no connection to the node where the process is located.

Information Additional information, if any. If the process is stopped at a breakpoint, the field contains information about the location {`Module,Line`}. If the process has terminated, the field contains the exit reason.

The File Menu

Load Settings... Try to load and restore Debugger settings from a file previously saved using *Save Settings...*, see below. Any errors are silently ignored.

Save Settings... Save Debugger settings to a file. The settings include the set of interpreted files, breakpoints, and the selected options. The settings can be restored in a later Debugger session using *Load Settings...*, see above. Any errors are silently ignored.

Exit Stop Debugger.

The Edit Menu

Refresh Update information about debugged processes. Removes information about all terminated processes from the window, and also closes all Attach Process windows for terminated processes.

Kill All Terminate all processes listed in the window using `exit(Pid,kill)`.

The Module Menu

Interpret... Open the Interpret Dialog window [page 10] where new modules to be interpreted can be specified.

Delete All Stop interpreting all modules. Processes executing in interpreted modules will terminate.

For each interpreted module, a corresponding entry is added to the Module menu, with the following submenu:

Delete Stop interpreting the selected module. Processes executing in this module will terminate.

View Open a View Module window [page 15] showing the contents of the selected module.

The Process Menu

The following menu items apply to the currently selected process, provided it is stopped at a breakpoint. See the chapter about the Attach Process window [page 12] for more information.

Step

Next

Continue

Finish

The following menu items apply to the currently selected process.

Attach Attach to the process and open a Attach Process window [page 12].

Kill Terminate the process using `exit(Pid,kill)`.

The Break Menu

The items in this menu are used to create and delete breakpoints. See the Breakpoints [page 2] chapter for more information.

Line Break... Set a line breakpoint.

Conditional Break... Set a conditional breakpoint.

Function Break... Set a function breakpoint.

Delete All Remove all breakpoints.

For each breakpoint, a corresponding entry is added to the Break menu, from which it is possible to disable/enable or delete the breakpoint, and to change its trigger action.

The Options Menu

Trace Window Set which areas should be visible in an Attach Process window [page 12]. Does not affect already existing Attach Process windows.

Auto Attach Set at which events a debugged process should be automatically attached to. Affects existing debugged processes.

- *First Call* - the first time a process calls a function in an interpreted module.
- *On Exit* - at process termination.
- *On Break* - when a process reaches a breakpoint.

Stack Trace Set stack trace option, see section Stack Trace [page 5]. Does not affect already existing debugged processes.

- *Stack On, Tail* - save information about all current calls.
- *Stack On, No Tail* - save information about current calls, discarding previous information when a tail recursive call is made.
- *Stack Off* - do not save any information about current calls.

Back Trace Size... Set how many call frames should be fetched when inspecting the call stack from the Attach Process window. Does not affect already existing Attach Process windows.

The Windows Menu

Contains a menu item for each open Debugger window. Selecting one of the items will raise the corresponding window.

The Help Menu

Help View the Debugger documentation. Currently this function requires Netscape to be up and running.

1.1.6 The Interpret Dialog Window

The interpret dialog module is used for selecting which modules to interpret. Initially, the window shows the modules (`erl` files) and subdirectories of the current working directory.

Interpretable modules are modules for which a BEAM file, compiled with the option `debug_info` set, can be found in the same directory as the source code, or in an `ebin` directory next to it.

Modules, for which the above requirements are not fulfilled, are not interpretable and are therefore displayed within parentheses.

The `debug_info` option causes *debug information* or *abstract code* to be added to the BEAM file. This will increase the size of the file, and also makes it possible to reconstruct the source code. It is therefore recommended not to include debug information in code aimed for target systems.

An example of how to compile code with debug information using `erlc`:

```
% erlc +debug_info module.erl
```

An example of how to compile code with debug information from the Erlang shell:

```
4> c(module, debug_info).
```

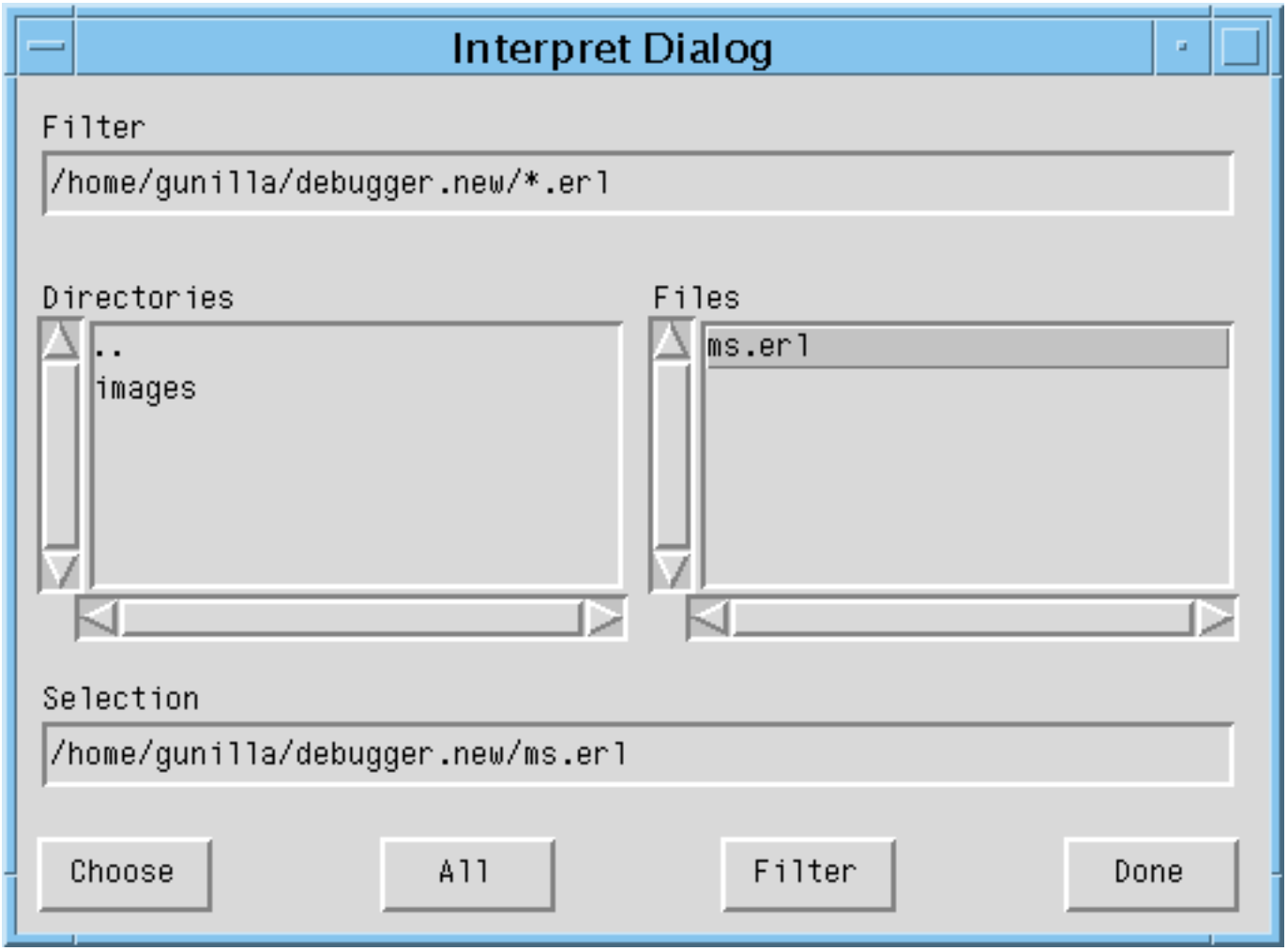

Figure 1.5: The Interpret Dialog Window.

Browse the file hierarchy and interpret the appropriate modules by selecting a module name and pressing *Choose* (or carriage return), or by double clicking the module name. Interpreted modules are displayed with a * in front of the name.

Pressing *All* will interpret all displayed modules in the chosen directory.

Pressing *Done* will close the window.

Note:
When the Debugger is started in global mode (which is the default, see [debugger:start/1]), modules added (or deleted) for interpretation will be added (or deleted) on all known Erlang nodes.

1.1.7 The Attach Process Window

From an Attach Process window the user can interact with a debugged process. One window is opened for each process that has been attached to. Note that when attaching to a process, its execution is automatically stopped.

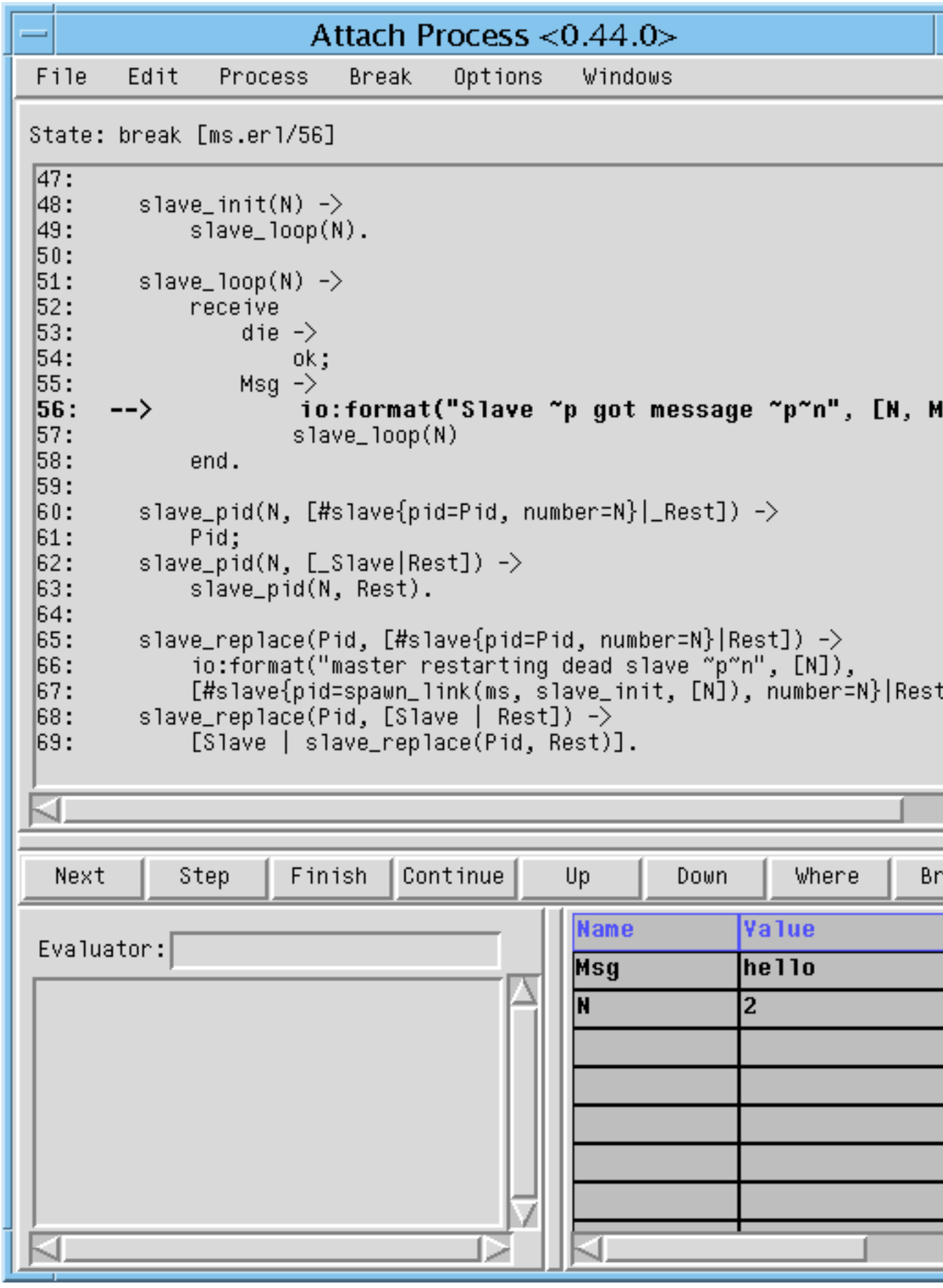

Figure 1.6: The Attach Process Window.

The window is divided into five parts:

- The Code area, showing the code being executed. The code is indented and each line is prefixed with its line number. If the process execution is stopped, the current line is marked with –>. An existing break point at a line is marked with -@-. In the example above, the execution has been stopped at line 56, before the execution of `io:format/2`.
  Active breakpoints are shown in red, while inactive breakpoints are shown in blue.
- The Button area, with buttons for quick access to frequently used functions in the Process menu.
- The Evaluator area, where the user can evaluate functions within the context of the debugged process, provided that process execution has been stopped.
- The Bindings area, showing all variables bindings. Clicking on a variable name will result in the value being displayed in the Evaluator area. Double-clicking on a variable name will open a window where the variable value may be edited. Note however that pid, reference, binary or port values can not be edited.
- The Trace area, showing a trace output for the process.

  `++ (N) <L>` Function call, where `N` is the call level and `L` the line number.

  `-- (N)` Function return value.

  `==> Pid : Msg` The message `Msg` is sent to process `Pid`.

  `<== Msg` The message `Msg` is received.

  `++ (N) receive` Waiting in a `receive`.

  `++ (N) receive with timeout` Waiting in a `receive...after`.

  Also the back trace, a summary of the current function calls on the stack, is displayed in the Trace area.

It is configurable using the Options menu which areas should be shown or hidden. By default, all areas except the Trace area is shown.

The File Menu

Close Close this window and detach from the process.

The Edit Menu

Go to line... Go to a specified line number.

Search... Search for a specified string.

The Process Menu

Step Execute the current line of code, stepping into any (interpreted) function calls.

Next Execute the current line of code and stop at the next line.

Continue Continue the execution.

Finish Continue the execution until the current function returns.

Skip Skip the current line of code and stop at the next line. If used on the last line in a function body, the function will return `skipped`.

Time Out Simulate a timeout when executing a `receive...after` statement.

Stop Stop the execution of a running process, that is, make the process stop as at a breakpoint. The command will take effect (visibly) the next time the process receives a message.

Where Make sure the current location of the execution is visible in the code area.

Kill Terminate the process using `exit(Pid,kill)`.

Messages Inspect the message queue of the process. The queue is printed in the evaluator area.

Back Trace Display the back trace of the process, a summary of the current function calls on the stack, in the trace area. Requires that the Trace area is visible and that the stack trace option is 'Stack On, Tail' or 'Stack On, No Tail'.

Up Inspect the previous function call on the stack, showing the location and variable bindings.

Down Inspect the next function call on the stack, showing the location and variable bindings.

The Options Menu

Trace Window Set which areas should be visible. Does not affect other Attach Process windows.

Stack Trace Same as in the Monitor window [page 6], but does only affect the debugged process the window is attached to.

Back Trace Size... Set how many call frames should be fetched when inspecting the call stack. Does not affect other Attach Process windows.

Break, Windows and Help Menus

See the chapter The Monitor Window [page 6].

1.1.8 The View Module Window

The View Module window shows the contents of an interpreted module and makes it possible to set breakpoints.

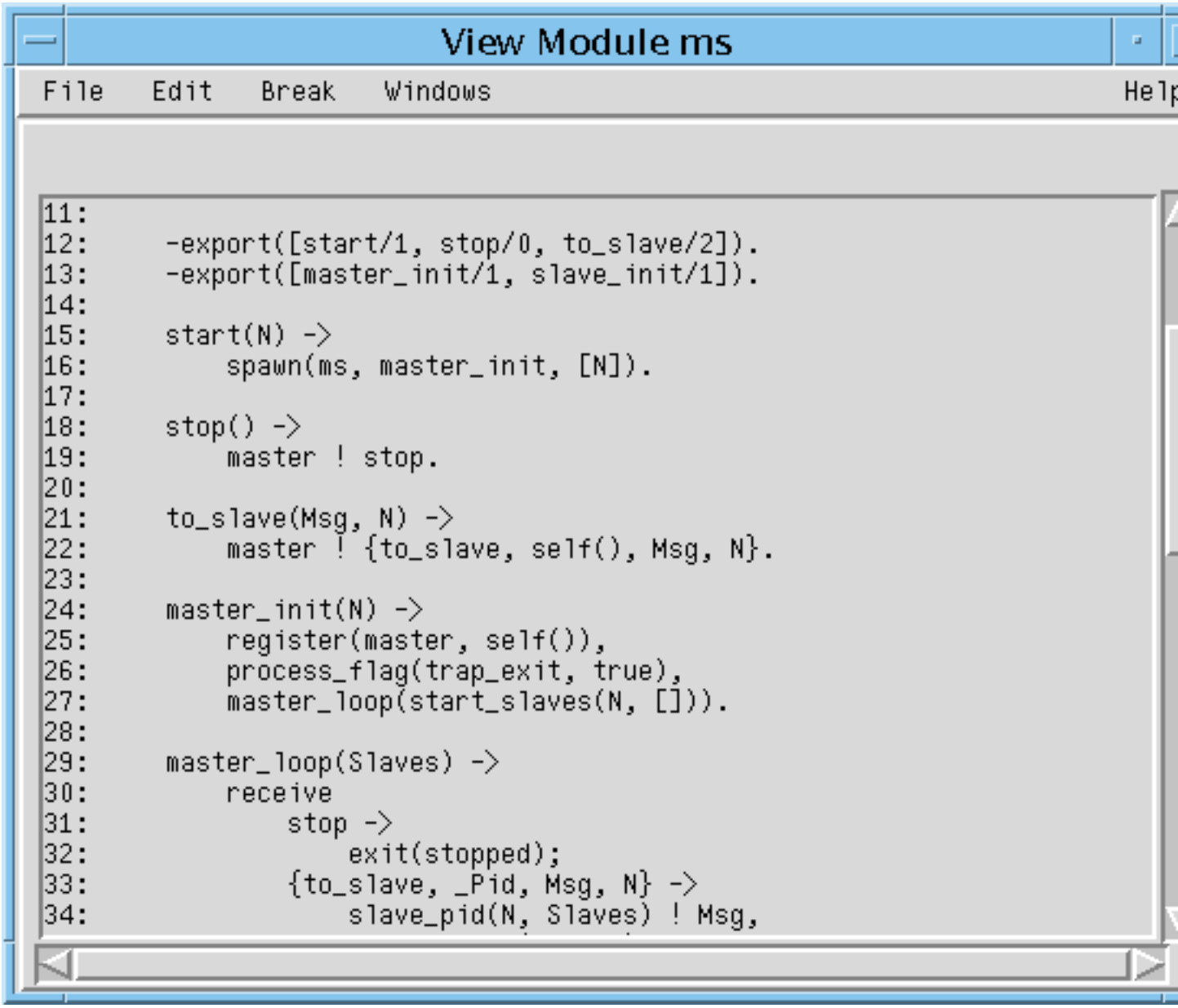

Figure 1.7: The View Module Window.

The source code is indented and each line is prefixed with its line number.

Clicking a line will highlight it and select it to be the target of the breakpoint functions available from the Break menu. Doubleclicking a line will set a line breakpoint on that line. Doubleclicking a line with an existing breakpoint will remove the breakpoint.

Breakpoints are marked with -@-.

The Break Menu

The Break menu looks the same as the Break menu in the Monitor window, see the chapter The Monitor Window [page 6], except that only breakpoints in the viewed module are shown.

File and Edit Menus

See the chapter The Attach Process Window [page 12].

Windows and Help Menus

See the chapter The Monitor Window [page 6].

1.1.9 Miscellaneous

Performance

Execution of interpreted code is naturally slower than for regularly compiled modules. Using the Debugger also increases the number of processes in the system, as for each debugged process another process (the meta process) is created.

It is also worth to keep in mind that programs with timers may behave differently when debugged. This is especially true when stopping the execution of a process, for example at a breakpoint. Timeouts can then occur in other processes that continue execution as normal.

Code loading mechanism

Code loading works almost as usual, except that interpreted modules are also stored in a database and debugged processes uses only this stored code. Re-interpreting an interpreted module will result in the new version being stored as well, but does not affect existing processes executing an older version of the code. This means that the code replacement mechanism of Erlang does not work for debugged processes.

1.1.10 Debugging Remote Nodes

By using `debugger:start/1`, it can be specified if Debugger should be started in local or global mode.

```
debugger:start(local | global)
```

If no argument is provided, Debugger is started in global mode.

In local mode, code is interpreted only at the current node. In global mode, code is interpreted at all known nodes. Processes at other nodes executing interpreted code will automatically be shown in the Monitor window and can be attached to like any other debugged process.

It is possible, but definitely not recommended to start Debugger in global mode on more than one node in a network, as they will interfer with each other leading to inconsistent behaviour.

Debugger Reference Manual

Short Summaries

- Erlang Module debugger [page 23] – Erlang Debugger
- Erlang Module i [page 24] – Debugger/Interpreter Interface
- Erlang Module int [page 29] – Interpreter Interface

debugger

The following functions are exported:

- `start()`
  [page 23] Start Debugger.
- `start(File)`
  [page 23] Start Debugger.
- `start(Mode)`
  [page 23] Start Debugger.
- `start(Mode, File)`
  [page 23] Start Debugger.
- `quick(Module, Name, Args)`
  [page 23] Debug a process.

i

The following functions are exported:

- `im() -> pid()`
  [page 24] Start a graphical monitor
- `ii(AbsModules) -> ok`
  [page 24] Interpret a module
- `ii(AbsModule) -> {module, Module} | error`
  [page 24] Interpret a module
- `ini(AbsModules) -> ok`
  [page 24] Interpret a module
- `ini(AbsModule) -> {module, Module} | error`
  [page 24] Interpret a module
- `iq(AbsModule) -> ok`
  [page 24] Stop interpreting a module

- `inq(AbsModule) -> ok`
  [page 24] Stop interpreting a module
- `il() -> ok`
  [page 25] Make a printout of all interpreted modules
- `ip() -> ok`
  [page 25] Make a printout of the current status of all interpreted processes
- `ic() -> ok`
  [page 25] Clear information about processes executing interpreted code
- `iaa(Flags) -> true`
  [page 25] Set when and how to attach to a process
- `iaa(Flags, Function) -> true`
  [page 25] Set when and how to attach to a process
- `ist(Flag) -> true`
  [page 25] Set how to save call frames
- `ia(Pid) -> ok | no_proc`
  [page 25] Attach to a process
- `ia(X,Y,Z) -> ok | no_proc`
  [page 25] Attach to a process
- `ia(Pid, Function) -> ok | no_proc`
  [page 25] Attach to a process
- `ia(X,Y,Z, Function) -> ok | no_proc`
  [page 26] Attach to a process
- `ib(Module, Line) -> ok | {error, break_exists}`
  [page 26] Create a breakpoint
- `ib(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error, function_not_found}`
  [page 26] Create breakpoints in the specified function
- `ir() -> ok`
  [page 26] Delete all breakpoints
- `ir(Module) -> ok`
  [page 26] Delete all breakpoints in a module
- `ir(Module, Line) -> ok`
  [page 26] Delete a breakpoint
- `ir(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error, function_not_found}`
  [page 27] Delete breakpoints from the specified function
- `ibd(Module, Line) -> ok`
  [page 27] Make a breakpoint inactive
- `ibe(Module, Line) -> ok`
  [page 27] Make a breakpoint active
- `iba(Module, Line, Action) -> ok`
  [page 27] Set the trigger action of a breakpoint
- `ibc(Module, Line, Function) -> ok`
  [page 27] Set the conditional test of a breakpoint
- `ipb() -> ok`
  [page 27] Make a printout of all existing breakpoints
- `ipb(Module) -> ok`
  [page 27] Make a printout of all breakpoints in a module

- `iv() -> atom()`
  [page 28] Current version number of the interpreter
- `help() -> ok`
  [page 28] Print help text

int

The following functions are exported:

- `i(AbsModule) -> {module,Module} | error`
  [page 30] Interpret a module
- `i(AbsModules) -> ok`
  [page 30] Interpret a module
- `ni(AbsModule) -> {module,Module} | error`
  [page 30] Interpret a module
- `ni(AbsModules) -> ok`
  [page 30] Interpret a module
- `n(AbsModule) -> ok`
  [page 30] Stop interpreting a module
- `nn(AbsModule) -> ok`
  [page 30] Stop interpreting a module
- `interpreted() -> [Module]`
  [page 30] Get all interpreted modules
- `file(Module) -> File | {error,not_loaded}`
  [page 31] Get the file name for an interpreted module
- `interpretable(AbsModule) -> true | {error,Reason}`
  [page 31] Check if a module is possible to interpret
- `auto_attach() -> false | {Flags,Function}`
  [page 31] Get/set when and how to attach to a process
- `auto_attach(false)`
  [page 31] Get/set when and how to attach to a process
- `auto_attach(Flags, Function)`
  [page 31] Get/set when and how to attach to a process
- `stack_trace() -> Flag`
  [page 32] Get/set if and how to save call frames
- `stack_trace(Flag)`
  [page 32] Get/set if and how to save call frames
- `break(Module, Line) -> ok | {error,break_exists}`
  [page 32] Create a breakpoint
- `delete_break(Module, Line) -> ok`
  [page 32] Delete a breakpoint
- `break_in(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error,function_not_found}`
  [page 32] Create breakpoints in the specified function
- `del_break_in(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error,function_not_found}`
  [page 32] Delete breakpoints from the specified function
- `no_break() -> ok`
  [page 32] Delete all breakpoints

- `no_break(Module) -> ok`
  [page 33] Delete all breakpoints
- `disable_break(Module, Line) -> ok`
  [page 33] Make a breakpoint inactive
- `enable_break(Module, Line) -> ok`
  [page 33] Make a breakpoint active
- `action_at_break(Module, Line, Action) -> ok`
  [page 33] Set the trigger action of a breakpoint
- `test_at_break(Module, Line, Function) -> ok`
  [page 33] Set the conditional test of a breakpoint
- `get_binding(Var, Bindings) -> {value,Value} | unbound`
  [page 33] Retrieve a variable binding
- `all_breaks() -> [Break]`
  [page 33] Get all breakpoints
- `all_breaks(Module) -> [Break]`
  [page 33] Get all breakpoints
- `snapshot() -> [Snapshot]`
  [page 34] Get information about all processes excuting interpreted code
- `clear() -> ok`
  [page 34] Clear information about processes executing interpreted code
- `continue(Pid) -> ok | {error,not_interpreted}`
  [page 34] Resume process execution
- `continue(X,Y,Z) -> ok | {error,not_interpreted}`
  [page 35] Resume process execution

debugger

Erlang Module

Erlang Debugger for debugging and testing of Erlang programs.

Exports

`start()`
`start(File)`
`start(Mode)`
`start(Mode, File)`

Types:

- Mode = local | global
- File = string()

Starts Debugger.

If given a file name as argument, Debugger will try to load its settings from this file. Refer to Debugger User's Guide for more information about settings.

If given `local` as argument, Debugger will interpret code only at the current node. If given `global` as argument, Debugger will interpret code at all known nodes, this is the default.

`quick(Module, Name, Args)`

Types:

- Module = Name = atom()
- Args = [term()]

This function can be used to debug a single process. The module `Module` is interpreted and `apply(Module,Name,Args)` is called. This will open an Attach Process window, refer to Debugger User's Guide for more information.

i

Erlang Module

The module `i` provides short forms for some of the functions used by the graphical Debugger and some of the functions in the `int` module, the Erlang interpreter.

This module also provides facilities for displaying status information about interpreted processes and break points.

It is possible to attach to interpreted processes by giving the corresponding process identity only. By default, an attachment window pops up. Processes at other Erlang nodes can be attached manually or automatically.

By preference, these functions can be included in the module `shell_default`. By default, they are.

Exports

`im() -> pid()`

Starts a new graphical monitor. This is the Monitor window, the main window of the Debugger. All of the Debugger and interpreter functionality is accessed from the Monitor window. The Monitor window displays the status of all processes that have been/are executing interpreted modules.

```
ii(AbsModules) -> ok
ii(AbsModule) -> {module, Module} | error
ini(AbsModules) -> ok
ini(AbsModule) -> {module, Module} | error
```

Types:

- AbsModules = [AbsModule]
- AbsModule = Module | File
- Module = atom()
- File = string()

Interprets the specified module(s). `ii/1` interprets the module(s) only at the current node, see int:i/1 [page 30]. `ini/1` interprets the module(s) at all known nodes, see int:ni/1 [page 30].

```
iq(AbsModule) -> ok
inq(AbsModule) -> ok
```

Types:

- AbsModule = Module | File

- Module = atom()
- File = string()

Stops interpreting the specified module. `iq/1` stops interpreting the module only at the current node. `inq/1` stops interpreting the module at all known nodes.

`il() -> ok`

Makes a printout of all interpreted modules. Modules are printed together with the full path name of the corresponding source code file.

`ip() -> ok`

Makes a printout of the current status of all interpreted processes.

`ic() -> ok`

Clears information about processes executing interpreted code byt removing all information about terminated processes.

`iaa(Flags) -> true`
`iaa(Flags, Function) -> true`

Types:

- Flags = [init | break | exit]
- Function = {Module,Name,Args}
- Module = Name = atom()
- Args = [term()]

Sets when and how to automatically attach to a debugged process, see int:auto_attach/2 [page 31]. `Function` defaults to the standard function used by the Debugger.

`ist(Flag) -> true`

Types:

- Flag = all | no_tail | false

Sets how to save call frames in the stack, see int:stack_trace/1 [page 32].

`ia(Pid) -> ok | no_proc`

Types:

- Pid = pid()

Attaches to the debugged process `Pid`. A Debugger Attach Process window is opened for the process.

`ia(X,Y,Z) -> ok | no_proc`

Types:

- X = Y = Z = int()

Same as `ia(Pid)`, where `Pid` is the result of calling the shell function `pid(X,Y,Z)`.

`ia(Pid, Function) -> ok | no_proc`

Types:

- Pid = pid()
- Function = {Module,Name}
- Module = Name = atom()

Attaches to the debugged process `Pid`. The interpreter will call `spawn(Module, Name, [Pid])` (and ignore the result).

```
ia(X,Y,Z, Function) -> ok | no_proc
```

Types:

- X = Y = Z = int()
- Function = {Module,Name}
- Module = Name = atom()

Same as `ia(Pid, Function)`, where `Pid` is the result of calling the shell function `pid(X,Y,Z)`. An attached process is expected to call the unofficial `int:attached(Pid)` function and to be able to handle messages from the interpreter, see `dbg_ui_trace.erl` for an example.

```
ib(Module, Line) -> ok | {error, break_exists}
```

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Creates a breakpoint at `Line` in `Module`.

```
ib(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error, function_not_found}
```

Types:

- Module = Name = atom()
- Arity = int()

Creates breakpoints at the first line of every clause of the `Module:Name/Arity` function.

```
ir() -> ok
```

Deletes all breakpoints.

```
ir(Module) -> ok
```

Types:

- Module = atom()

Deletes all breakpoints in `Module`.

```
ir(Module, Line) -> ok
```

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Deletes the breakpoint located at `Line` in `Module`.

`ir(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error, function_not_found}`

Types:

- Module = Name = atom()
- Arity = int()

Deletes the breakpoints at the first line of every clause of the `Module:Name/Arity` function.

`ibd(Module, Line) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Makes the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` inactive.

`ibe(Module, Line) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Makes the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` active.

`iba(Module, Line, Action) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()
- Action = enable | disable | delete

Sets the trigger action of the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` to `Action`.

`ibc(Module, Line, Function) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()
- Function = {Module,Name}
- Name = atom()

Sets the conditional test of the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` to `Function`.

The conditional test is performed by calling `Module:Name(Bindings)`, where `Bindings` is the current variable bindings. The function must return `true` (break) or `false` (do not break). Use `int:get_binding(Var, Bindings)` to retrieve the value of a variable `Var`.

`ipb() -> ok`

Makes a printout of all existing breakpoints.

`ipb(Module) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()

Makes a printout of all existing breakpoints in `Module`.

`iv() -> atom()`

Returns the current version number of the interpreter. The same as the version number of the Debugger application.

`help() -> ok`

Prints help text.

Usage

Refer to the Debugger User's Guide for information about the Debugger.

See Also

`int(3)`

int

Erlang Module

The Erlang interpreter provides mechanisms for breakpoints and stepwise execution of code. It is mainly intended to be used by the *Debugger*, see Debugger User's Guide and `debugger(3)`.

From the shell, it is possible to:

- Specify which modules should be interpreted.
- Specify breakpoints.
- Monitor the current status of all processes executing code in interpreted modules, also processes at other Erlang nodes.

By *attaching to* a process executing interpreted code, it is possible to examine variable bindings and order stepwise execution. This is done by sending and receiving information to/from the process via a third process, called the meta process. It is possible to implement your own attached process. See `int.erl` for available functions and `dbg_ui_trace.erl` for possible messages.

Breakpoints

Breakpoints are specified on a line basis. When a process executing code in an interpreted module reaches a breakpoint, it will stop. This means that that a breakpoint must be set at an executable line, that is, a line of code containing an executable expression.

A breakpoint have a status, a trigger action and may have a condition associated with it. The status is either *active* or *inactive*. An inactive breakpoint is ignored. When a breakpoint is reached, the trigger action specifies if the breakpoint should continue to be active (*enable*), if it should become inactive (*disable*), or if it should be removed (*delete*). A condition is a tuple {`Module,Name`}. When the breakpoint is reached, `Module:Name(Bindings)` is called. If this evaluates to `true`, execution will stop. If this evaluates to `false`, the breakpoint is ignored. `Bindings` contains the current variable bindings, use `get_binding` to retrieve the value for a given variable.

By default, a breakpoint is active, has trigger action `enable` and has no condition associated with it. For more detailed information about breakpoints, refer to Debugger User's Guide.

Exports

```
i(AbsModule) -> {module,Module} | error
i(AbsModules) -> ok
ni(AbsModule) -> {module,Module} | error
ni(AbsModules) -> ok
```

Types:

- AbsModules = [AbsModule]
- AbsModule = Module | File | [Module | File]
- Module = atom()
- File = string()

Interprets the specified module(s). `i/1` interprets the module only at the current node. `ni/1` interprets the module at all known nodes.

A module may be given by its module name (atom) or by its file name. If given by its module name, the object code `Module.beam` is searched for in the current path. The source code `Module.erl` is searched for first in the same directory as the object code, then in a `src` directory next to it.

If given by its file name, the file name may include a path and the `.erl` extension may be omitted. The object code `Module.beam` is searched for first in the same directory as the source code, then in an `ebin` directory next to it, and then in the current path.

> **Note:**
> The interpreter needs both the source code and the object code, and the object code *must* include debug information. That is, only modules compiled with the option `debug_info` set can be interpreted.

The functions returns `{module,Module}` if the module was interpreted, or `error` if it was not.

The argument may also be a list of modules/file names, in which case the function tries to interpret each module as specified above. The function then always returns `ok`, but prints some information to stdout if a module could not be interpreted.

```
n(AbsModule) -> ok
nn(AbsModule) -> ok
```

Types:

- AbsModule = Module | File | [Module | File]
- Module = atom()
- File = string()

Stops interpreting the specified module. `n/1` stops interpreting the module only at the current node. `nn/1` stops interpreting the module at all known nodes.

As for `i/1` and `ni/1`, a module may be given by either its module name or its file name.

```
interpreted() -> [Module]
```

Types:

- Module = atom()

Returns a list with all interpreted modules.

`file(Module) -> File | {error,not_loaded}`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- File = string()

Returns the source code file name `File` for an interpreted module `Module`.

`interpretable(AbsModule) -> true | {error,Reason}`

Types:

- AbsModule = Module | File
- Module = atom()
- File = string()
- Reason = no_src | no_beam | no_debug_info | badarg

Checks if a module is possible to interpret. The module can be given by its module name `Module` or its file name `File`.

The function returns `true` if both source code and object code for the module is found, and the module has been compiled with the option `debug_info` set.

The function returns {`error,Reason`} where `Reason` is `no_src` if no source code is found, `no_beam` if no object code is found, `no_debug_info` if the module has not been compiled with the option `debug_info` set, or `badarg` if `AbsModule` does not exist.

`auto_attach() -> false | {Flags,Function}`
`auto_attach(false)`
`auto_attach(Flags, Function)`

Types:

- Flags = [init | break | exit]
- Function = {Module,Name,Args}
- Module = Name = atom()
- Args = [term()]

Gets and sets when and how to automatically attach to a process executing code in interpreted modules. `false` means never automatically attach, this is the default. Otherwise automatic attach is defined by a list of flags and a function. The following flags may be specified:

- `init` - attach when a process for the very first time calls an interpreted function.
- `break` - attach whenever a process reaches a breakpoint.
- `exit` - attach when a process terminates.

When the specified event occurs, the function `Function` will be called as:

`spawn(Module, Name, [Pid | Args])`

Pid is the pid of the process executing interpreted code.

```
stack_trace() -> Flag
stack_trace(Flag)
```

Types:

- Flag = all | no_tail | false

Gets and sets how to save call frames in the stack. Saving call frames makes it possible to inspect the call chain of a process, and is also used to emulate the stack trace if an error (an exception of class error) occurs.

- `all` - save information about all current calls, that is, function calls that have not yet returned a value. This is the default.
- `no_tail` - save information about current calls, but discard previous information when a tail recursive call is made. This option consumes less memory and may be necessary to use for processes with long lifetimes and many tail recursive calls.
- `false` - do not save any information about current calls.

```
break(Module, Line) -> ok | {error,break_exists}
```

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Creates a breakpoint at Line in Module.

```
delete_break(Module, Line) -> ok
```

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Deletes the breakpoint located at Line in Module.

```
break_in(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error,function_not_found}
```

Types:

- Module = Name = atom()
- Arity = int()

Creates a breakpoint at the first line of every clause of the Module:Name/Arity function.

```
del_break_in(Module, Name, Arity) -> ok | {error,function_not_found}
```

Types:

- Module = Name = atom()
- Arity = int()

Deletes the breakpoints at the first line of every clause of the Module:Name/Arity function.

```
no_break() -> ok
```

`no_break(Module) -> ok`

Deletes all breakpoints, or all breakpoints in `Module`.

`disable_break(Module, Line) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Makes the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` inactive.

`enable_break(Module, Line) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()

Makes the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` active.

`action_at_break(Module, Line, Action) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()
- Action = enable | disable | delete

Sets the trigger action of the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` to `Action`.

`test_at_break(Module, Line, Function) -> ok`

Types:

- Module = atom()
- Line = int()
- Function = {Module,Name}
- Name = atom()

Sets the conditional test of the breakpoint at `Line` in `Module` to `Function`. The function must fulfill the requirements specified in the section *Breakpoints* above.

`get_binding(Var, Bindings) -> {value,Value} | unbound`

Types:

- Var = atom()
- Bindings = term()
- Value = term()

Retrieves the binding of `Var`. This function is intended to be used by the conditional function of a breakpoint.

`all_breaks() -> [Break]`
`all_breaks(Module) -> [Break]`

Types:

- Break = {Point,Options}

- Point = {Module,Line}
- Module = atom()
- Line = int()
- Options = [Status,Trigger,null,Cond|]
- Status = active | inactive
- Trigger = enable | disable | delete
- Cond = null | Function
- Function = {Module,Name}
- Name = atom()

Gets all breakpoints, or all breakpoints in `Module`.

`snapshot() -> [Snapshot]`

Types:

- Snapshot = {Pid, Function, Status, Info}
- Pid = pid()
- Function = {Module,Name,Args}
- Module = Name = atom()
- Args = [term()]
- Status = idle | running | waiting | break | exit | no_conn
- Info = {} | {Module,Line} | ExitReason
- Line = int()
- ExitReason = term()

Gets information about all processes executing interpreted code.

- `Pid` - process identifier.
- `Function` - first interpreted function called by the process.
- `Status` - current status of the process.
- `Info` - additional information.

`Status` is one of:

- `idle` - the process is no longer executing interpreted code. `Info={}`.
- `running` - the process is running. `Info={}`.
- `waiting` - the process is waiting at a `receive`. `Info={}`.
- `break` - process execution has been stopped, normally at a breakpoint. `Info={Module,Line}`.
- `exit` - the process has terminated. `Info=ExitReason`.
- `no_conn` - the connection is down to the node where the process is running. `Info={}`.

`clear() -> ok`

Clears information about processes executing interpreted code by removing all information about terminated processes.

`continue(Pid) -> ok | {error,not_interpreted}`

`continue(X,Y,Z) -> ok | {error,not_interpreted}`

Types:

- Pid = pid()
- X = Y = Z = int()

Resume process execution for `Pid`, or for `c:pid(X,Y,Z)`.

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