

# 15-410

*“...and then it crashes!!!”*

Debugging  
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# What is “Debugging”?

## **Debugging is resolving a clash between stories**

- Your hopeful story of achievement
- The world's sad tale of woe

## **The stories look alike!**

- At the beginning, they both start with main()...
- Key step: finding the divergence

## **Stories are fractal**

- You can zoom in on them and get more detail each time
- The divergence is typically a tiny detail
  - You will need to zoom in quite a lot

# Move Beyond “Plot Summaries”

## “When I install my keyboard handler it crashes”

- Insufficient detail
- This is a “plot summary”, not a tale of woe
- Don't ask us to look at your code yet!

## Deepen your level of detail

- What was your story of hope, in detail?
- What parts of your story *already happened*?