

Algorithmica
Research AB

Quantlab Editor and Debugger

for Quantlab version 3.1.2067 and later

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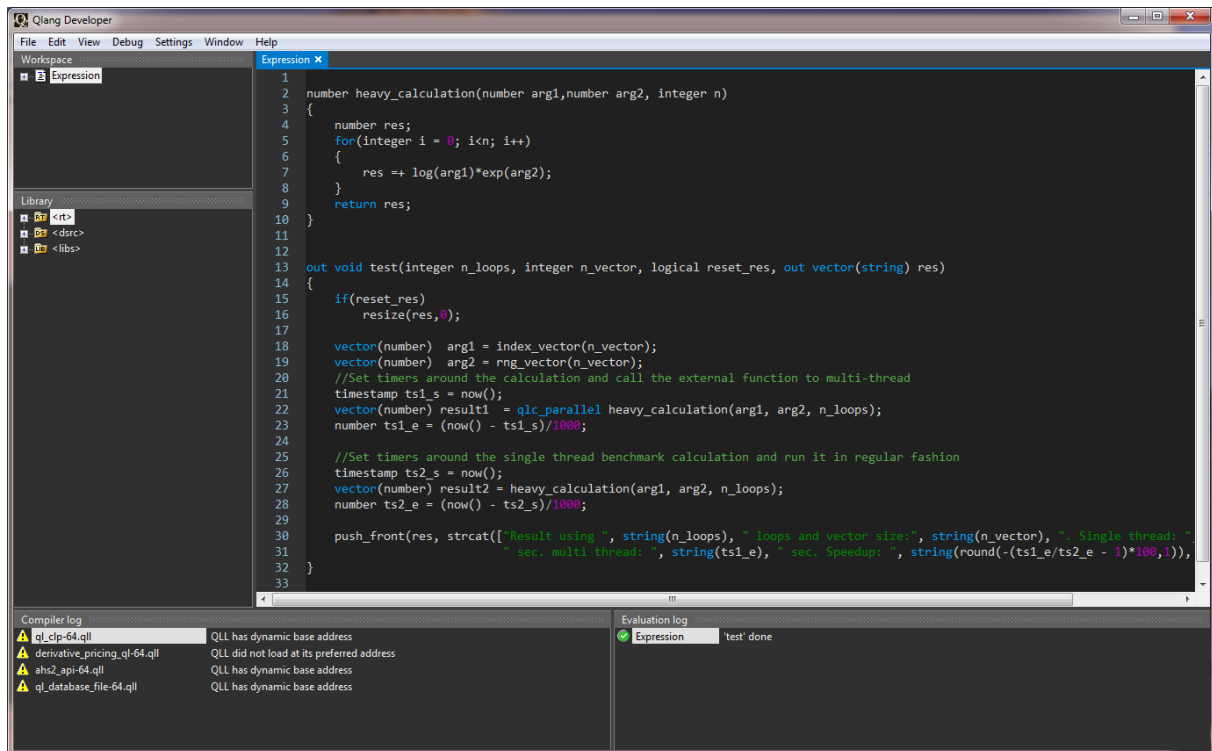
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Introduction to the Editor and Debugger environment

This document aims to highlight functions and features of the new editor and debugger environment in Quantlab introduced with version 3.1.2040 and later.

First, the environment is held in a separate windows structure and no longer as expressions within the Quantlab workspace itself. The workspace code is still saved in the workspace file.

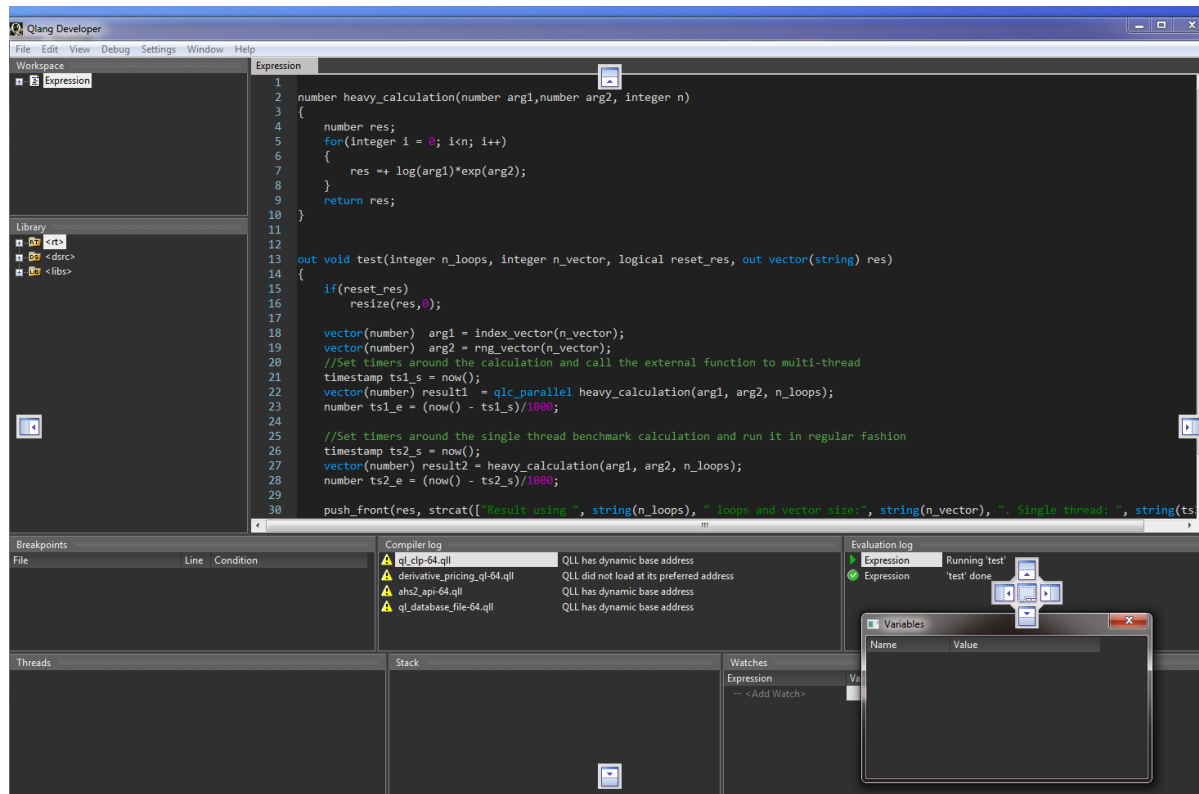
To open the editor, press **Ctrl+L** or double click on the expression code in the workspace. This opens the editor environment in non-debug mode.



Note that the compiler tab/log previously found in the workspace "view messages" window is now only found in the new editor.

The controls

By switching to debug mode using menu Debug | Toggle debugging (or **ctrl + shift + D**) will open a predefined set of small working windows. All can be moved around by simply grabbing the header frame and undocking or docking within the larger window. A set of guiding docking markers will assist.



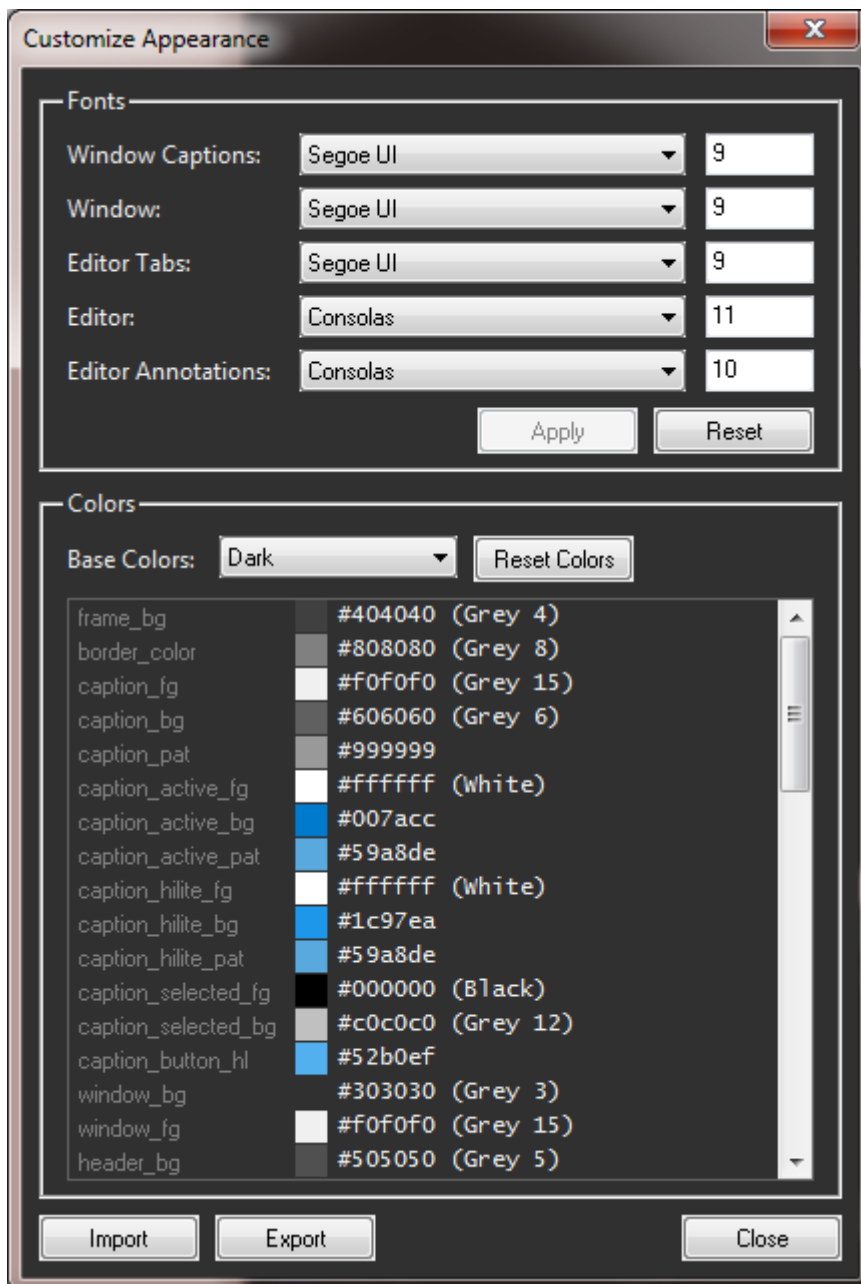
Windows can be switched on/off using the View menu or by simply detaching and closing them. Settings will be remembered between sessions in the user registry.

Following is a list of widows and their purpose:

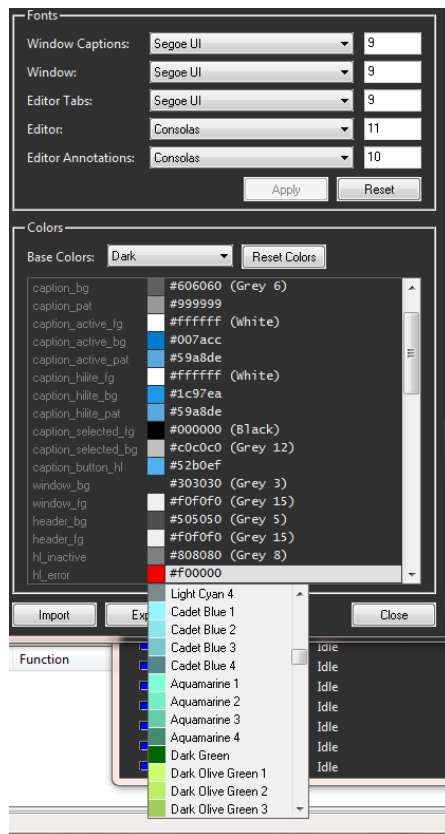
| Name | Usage |
|-----------------------|---|
| Main Editor | The editor window itself. Can be split into multiple windows both horizontal and vertically split. |
| Workspace | Displaying all Expression code files in a particular workspace |
| Library | Showing the library code tree. Right click in the tree to also see built-in functions. |
| Breakpoints | Display all break-points and set optional break conditions. |
| Threads | View running threads and manage in which thread to debug. |
| Compiler log | Show all compiler messages. Double click to go to any compilation errors. |
| Stack | View call stack when debugging. |
| Watches | Add watches for variables and expressions when stepping through code. (Replaces the “Immediate window” of the old debug environment.) |
| Evaluation log | Run-time messages from running the code. |
| Variables | List of variables and their in-scope values. Displays both scalar and vector values. |
| Profiler | Opens when toggling to File Toggle Profiling (ctrl + shift + P). Used for performance profiling. |

Environment appearance

Open menu Settings | Appearance to customize the environment. Font, font size, and coloring can all be adapted to user preference.



To get a predefined style, use the Base Colors drop-down. Using a base color scheme, all individual components can be adjusted. By double clicking on the color square, a custom color editor will open. By right-clicking on the color code itself, a menu of pre-defined named colors will open. (It is also possible to write the color code directly in the control box.)



Any alterations to color or fonts etc will be stored in the user registry. It is also possible to export the settings using the import / export buttons. This will enable sharing of a personalized scheme with others.

See appendix for the complete list and description of the settings.

Short-cuts for Windows, Editor, and Debugger

There are many short-cuts available. Some of these are context sensitive and only apply within that context. Below is a summary of the most important short-cuts.

| Context | Short-cut key(s) | Description |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Main | F1 | Open function browser |
| | Ctrl + Shift + F, H | Open Global Find /Replace in library and/or Editor windows. See detail below. |
| | Ctrl + Shift + D | Toggle Debugging on/off (will generate re-compile) |
| | Ctrl + Shift + P | Toggle Profiling on/off |
| | Ctrl + P | Find library file (only) |
| | Ctrl + Page up/down | Cycle through open windows and expressions |
| | Ctrl + Tab | Cycle through Tabs in Editor window |
| | Ctrl + 2 | Open additional Editor window vertical split |
| | Ctrl + W | Close current Editor Tab |
| | Ctrl + 3 | Open additional Editor window horizontal split |
| | Ctrl + 1 | Unsplit vertical / horizontal split |
| Glob. Find /Replace | Ctrl + I, C | Toggle case (in)sensitive search |
| | Ctrl + F | Match any string |
| | Ctrl + W | Match whole word only |
| | Ctrl + R | Search using regular expressions |
| | Ctrl + D | Search in current document only |
| | Ctrl + S | Search in selection only |
| | Ctrl + L | Search in Library only |
| | Ctrl + K | Search in Workspace code only |
| | Ctrl + O | Search in all open documents only |
| | Ctrl + U | Search in all documents |
| | Ctrl + Alt + Enter | Replace All |
| Editor | Ctrl + F | Quick find in editor |
| | Ctrl + H | Open Find and replace for current document only. |
| | Ctrl + A | Select All |
| | Ctrl + Z | Undo |
| | Ctrl + Y | Redo |
| | Ctrl + X, C, V | Cut, copy, paste |
| | Ctrl + Shift + X, C | Cut or copy entire line |
| | Ctrl + T | Transpose lines |
| | Tab | Indent using tab |
| | Shift + Tab | Reverse indent |
| | Ctrl + Space | Show tooltip when inside brackets () |
| | Alt + right/left arrow | In tooltip, cycle through function overloading |
| | Alt + Up/Down | To move line(s) up and down |
| | Ctrl (+ Shift) + U | Switch to lower / upper case |
| | Ctrl + D | For multiple line selection of words, add next occurrence to multi caret editing. |
| | Ctrl + mouse wheel | Zoom in and out in Editor code window |
| | Ctrl (+Shift) + 0 | Go-to definition (when cursor is on variable, function, class or enum) |
| | Ctrl + Q | Jump back from previous go-to-definition |
| | Ctrl + Shift + I | To automatically indent the entire file or selection |
| Debugger | F7 | Compile all |
| | Ctrl + F7 | Check for compile errors in editor window |
| | F10 | Step Over |
| | F11 | Step Into (function) |
| | Shift + F11 | Step out of function |
| | F5 | Continue (for highlighted thread, when using multiple) |
| | Shift + F5 | Continue all threads |
| | Ctrl + F5 | Continue all other than active thread |
| | F9 | Toggle break-point on row |
| | Ctrl + F9 | Remove break-point |

Many shortcuts used in Scintilla based editors will also work in the Qlang Editor.

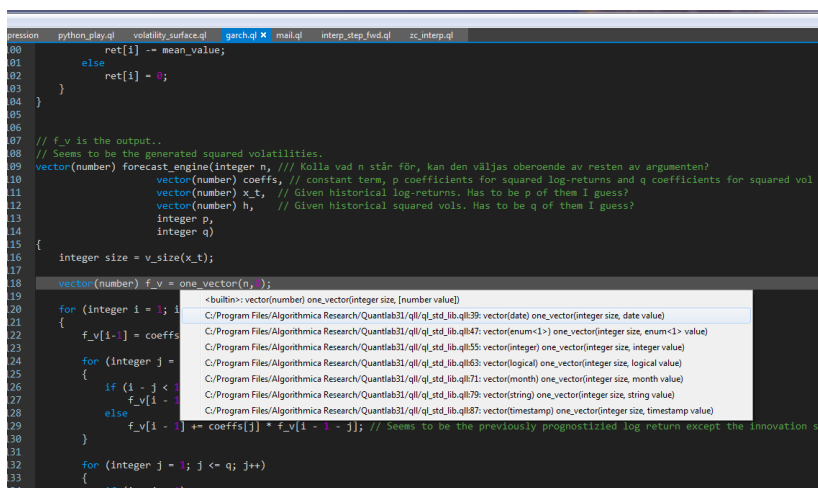
The Editor

Using the editor should work much similar to other popular editors. Many features from popular editors such as Notepad++, Visual Studio Code, and Sublime can be found in the new Quantlab Editor. The main reason for using the Quantlab built-in editor is its direct link to the (multi-threaded) debugger.

We have already addressed the possibility to work with personalized appearance, by setting fonts and coloring. Below are some of the key features described one-by-one.

Go-to-definition

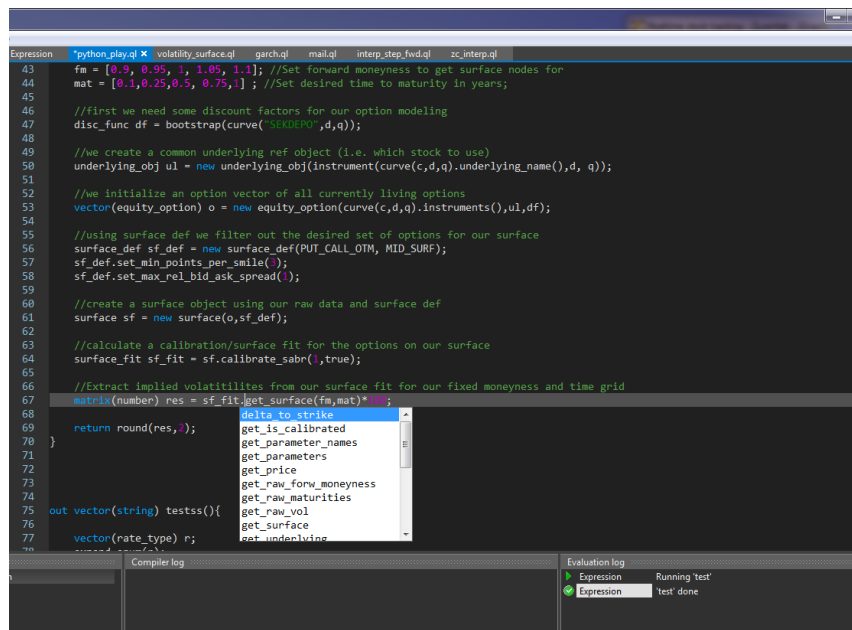
By right-clicking (**ctrl + 0**) on an Enumerator, Function, Class, Class member, go-to-definition will appear in the menu. If the function is openly readable and only exist in one instance, it will jump straight to that place in the expression window or library. If there are multiple instances of the function, a selectable list will open. If the function is built-in or used from a compiled qll, the list will high-light <built-in> and the relevant qll will be highlighted.



Call-tip and member completion

When writing a function and setting the first function bracket, a call-tip with all alternative variants of the function will appear. By clicking on the right / left arrow (**alt + right/left arrow key**) will cycle through all the variants. The current variable will highlight. If the call-tip is lost, pressing **ctrl + space** will get it back when inside the brackets.

When working with an object, class or enumerator, its available and public members will appear in a drop-down in alphabetical order.



Multi-caret/cursor editing

By double clicking on a variable word or other character in the editor, all instances will highlight. To enable multiple simultaneous editing, repeated use of **Ctrl + D** will add next appearance and leave a caret/cursor point at all those places. Then the all can be edited at the same time.

Using **Ctrl + selection** (using mouse left click) in code, will leave a caret/cursor at all places where clicked. Then multi-instance editing can be done.

Using **Alt + selection** (using mouse left click) will highlight a “box” of lines and open up for multi-caret/cursor editing at the point where the mouse cursor ends.

Revert all Changes / Revert to Compiled State

When coding in an old library or workspace, revert all changes will undo all changes in the current file/expression done in the current session. To un revert, either revert to latest compiled state, or “redo” using ctrl + shift + z.

Revert to compiled state will do just that – revert to latest compiled state in the current file and session.

Other Editor Settings

A number of visual features and settings can be found in the Setting menu. The most important are;

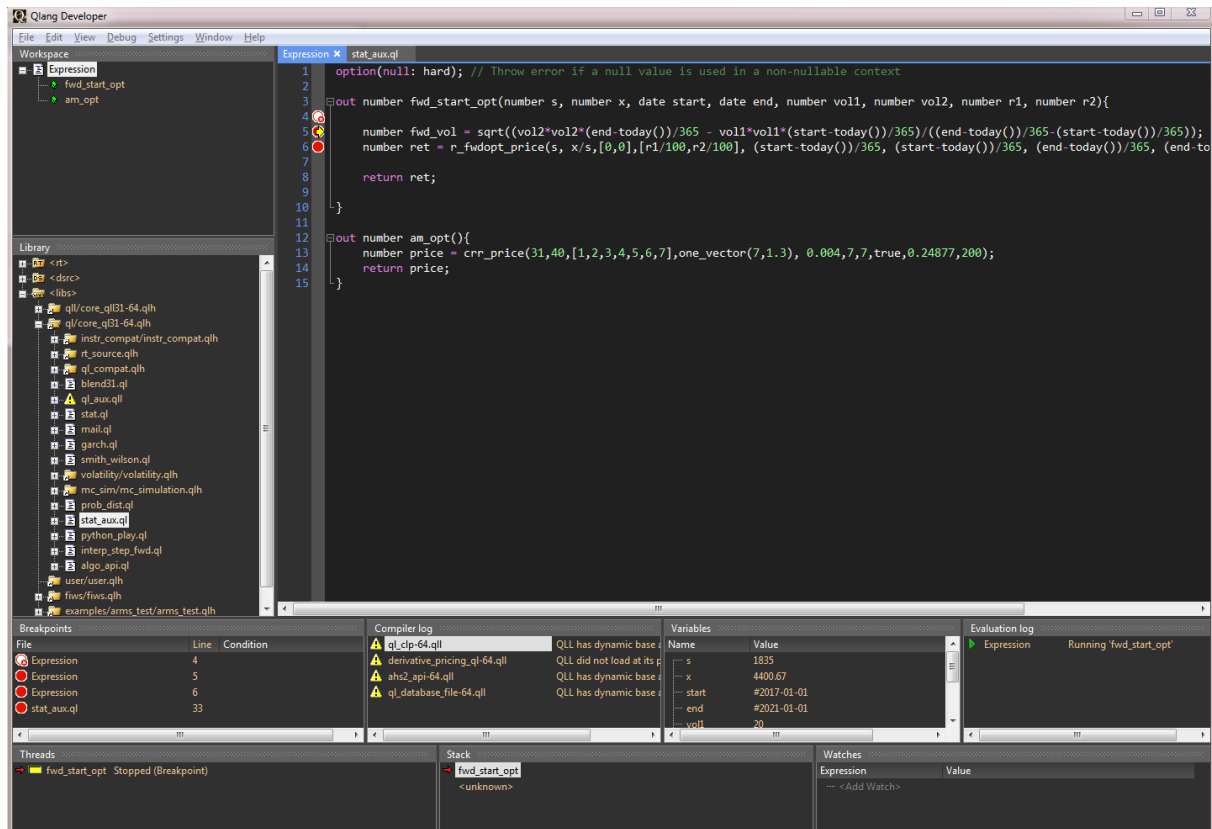
| Setting | Description |
|--|---|
| Appearance | Open the menu for all font and coloring options |
| Show line numbers | Turn line numbers on/off |
| Show whitespace | Display tab / space in the editor |
| Show line endings | Display all line-endings |
| Highlight current line | Change display of current line highlighting, none, box, filled etc |
| Caret width | Number of pixel points to display the caret/cursor line with |
| Show diagnostics inline | Turn on to show message in-line with the code in the editor |
| Show diagnostics in the margin | Turn on to show a graphic element with mouse over diagnostics in the left column |
| Auto indent | Turn auto indentation on/off |
| Indent and tab size | Set indent and tab size |
| Indent with spaces | Turn on to set indents using space instead of tab |
| Show indentation guides | Show vertical lines to indicate where indentation is set on each row |
| Enable Code Folding | Show / hide the vertical folding markers on the left-hand side of the code. Can fold code per bracket tuple. |
| Auto-save library recovery backup | Turn on/off auto-save library file. A backup will be created in the same folder and with the same name as the original with a ~bu~ file type extension. Any time the library file is in uncompiled state the back-up will be created. |

Debugging

Start by switching to debug mode using the menu Debug | Toggle Debugging (Ctrl + Shift + D). A default window layout will appear. Move, close and resize to your preferences.

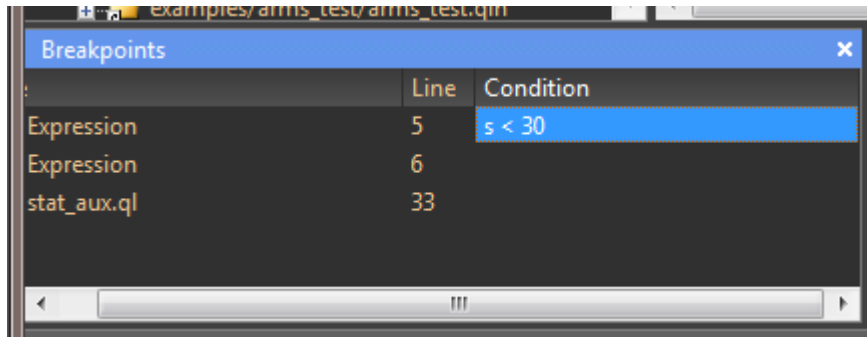
Breakpoints and conditional breakpoints are set using the mouse on the vertical bar next to row numbering. Can also be switched on/off using F9 for the line where the cursor is at.

All breakpoints are displayed in the Breakpoints window. Also, breakpoints in the library files will show here. If an invalid breakpoint is set, it will show as an empty circle.



Conditional breakpoints

To create a conditional breakpoint, simply enter a valid logical expression directly in the Breakpoints window box, in the Condition column.

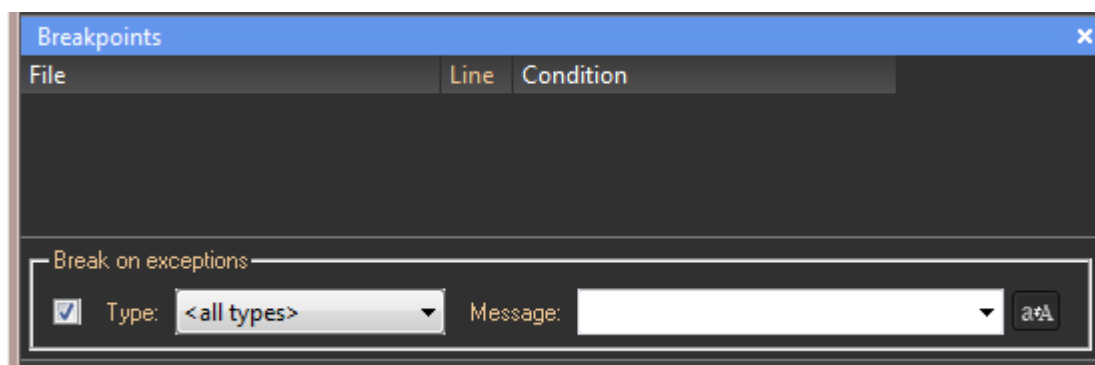


Conditional breakpoints will be marked with a plus in the red circle.

*Tip! As the conditional breakpoints are code lines that are actually compiled into the code at the point where inserted, any valid Qlang expression can be used given that it returns a logical.
Example: `v_size(vect) > 2 && vect[0] != 0`.*

Breakpoints can be stored on file, shared and loaded into other Quantlab sessions. This can be done using the menu Debug | Import / Export Breakpoints.

As a complement to setting break points manually, “Break on exceptions” can be configured so that it automatically breaks on a certain exception. Filter can be set on a specific type and/or thrown message.



Multi-thread debug

If running a multi-threaded program, each individual thread can be debugged using the list in the Threads window.

If a breakpoint is inserted in the function that is evaluated using multiple parallel threads. A list will appear. Initially, the pointer will be on the main worker thread, and not show the yellow stop cursor. By double clicking on any of the threads in the window, its location and variable contents will show.

F5 will continue only the highlighted thread, Shift + F5 all threads, and Ctrl + F5 all but the highlighted thread. Note that when continuing a worker thread individually, it will finish the task for all threads. However, the results will not be released and displayed in the output until also the other threads are released from their respective breakpoints even though there is no more work to perform.

The screenshot displays a code editor with a multi-threaded program. The code defines a `heavy_calculation` function (lines 4-13) and a `test` function (lines 16-28). A breakpoint is set at line 12 of `heavy_calculation`. The `test` function calls `qlc_parallel` to execute `heavy_calculation` in parallel.

The **Threads** window at the bottom shows the following threads:

| Thread Name | Status |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| test | Running |
| worker0:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |
| worker1:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |
| worker2:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |
| worker3:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |
| worker4:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |
| worker5:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |
| worker6:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |
| worker7:heavy_calculation | Stopped (Breakpoint) |

The **Variables** window shows the state of variables for the selected thread (`worker0:heavy_calculation`):

| Name | Value |
|------|---------|
| arg1 | 3 |
| arg2 | 0.99412 |
| n | 100000 |
| res | 6.15208 |

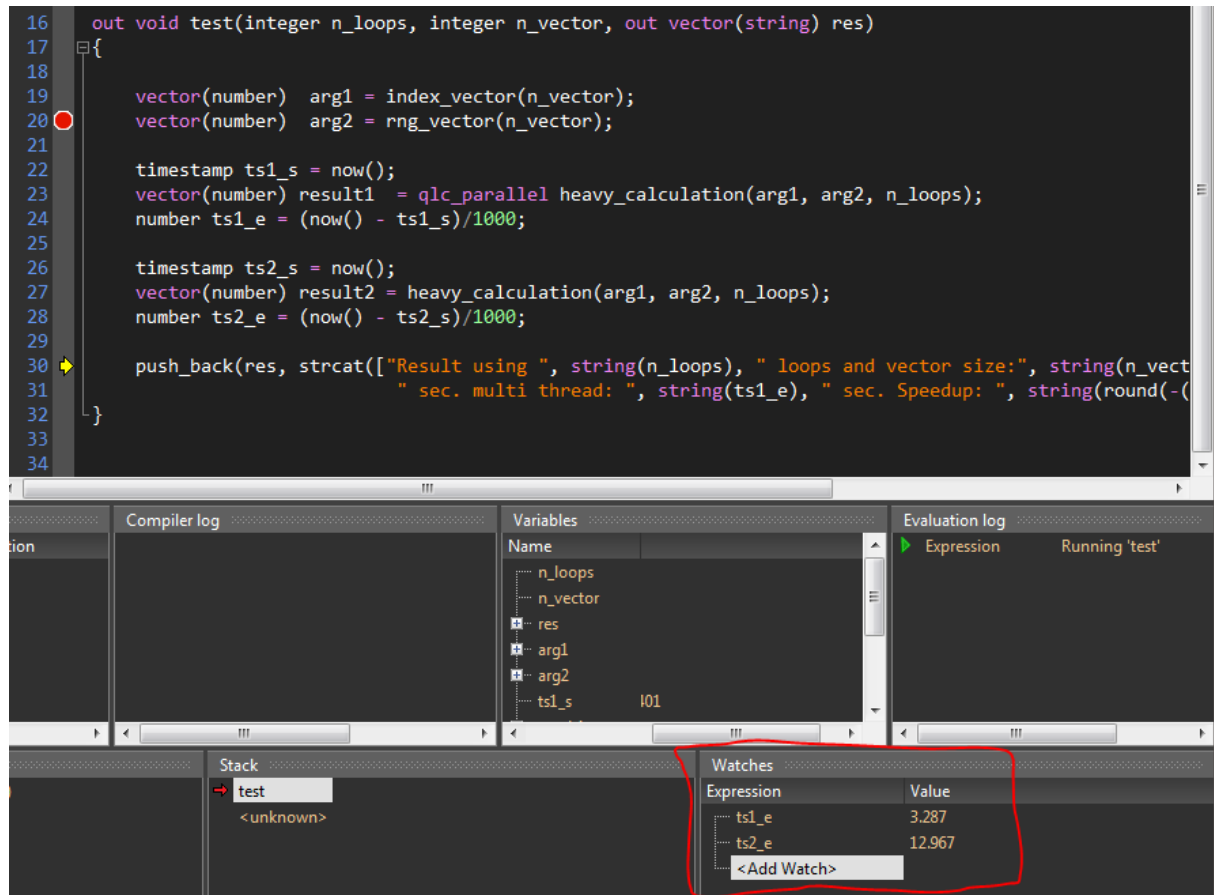
The **Stack** window shows the current stack frame:

| Function |
|-------------------|
| heavy_calculation |
| <unknown> |

Watches

In previous versions of Quantlab, the way to view and interact with a variable during debug was via the Immediate window. This has now been replaced by the Watches window, having the same functionality. The expression can be any type of valid Qlang code, at minimum showing variable's contents when stepping in the function.

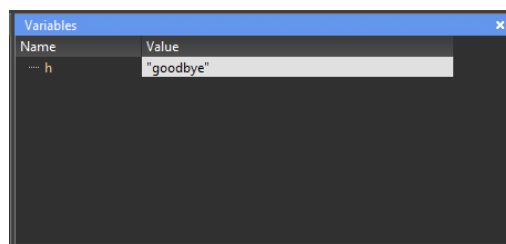
Note that the watch expressions will stay in the Watch window even though stepping out of scope for that particular variable. It will then show "Undeclared identifier" if not yet passed or just null value.



Variables

In the variables window, all variables in a debug function will display their contents. It will try to show both simple types and object types if possible. For viewing your own class members etc please view the section on "Adding custom debug value browsing" below.

Note that you can interact with the values in the variables by simply editing in the control-box. This is equivalent to how the "Immediate" window used to work.



Adding custom debug value browsing

When working with objects and classes, the default is to show the class name in the Variables view and the Tooltip when debugging. By adding your own custom debug value functions, `__dbg_print()`, and `__dbg_browse()` to your class, the chosen member values will show in both Tooltips and Variable view. This can be very useful when working and debugging large data structures that is frequently visited. Using the auxiliary custom defined browse and print, a particular class data is easily found.

The double underscore prefix ensures that these member functions are automatically hidden from code completion and function browser view.

Below is a complete mock-up example of adding the `__dbg_print()` and `__dbg_browse()` to a simple class.

```
class my_instr
    option(category: "Curve and Instrument")
{
public:
    my_instr(string ric, date d, string fid);

    integer            id();
    string             name();
    number             quote();

    void               __dbg_print(__dbg_label);
    void               __dbg_browse(__dbg_split);

public:
    integer            id_;
    string             ric_;
    date               d_;
    string             fid_;
    number             quote_;
};

my_instr my_instr(string ric, date d, string fid = "22")
    option(category: "Curve and Instrument")
{
    return new my_instr(ric, d, fid);
}

my_instr.my_instr(string ric, date d, string fid)
    : id_(-1),
      ric_(ric),
      d_(d),
      fid_(fid),
      quote_(rt.get_num(ric, fid, "RFA", "IDN_SELECTFEED"))
{
    switch (ric) {
    case "SEK=": id_ = 101; break;
    case "EUR=": id_ = 102; break;
    case "GBP=": id_ = 103; break;
    case "NOK=": id_ = 104; break;
    case "JPY=": id_ = 105; break;
    case "AUD=": id_ = 106; break;
    }
}

integer my_instr.id()
{
    return id_;
}

string my_instr.name()
{

```



```

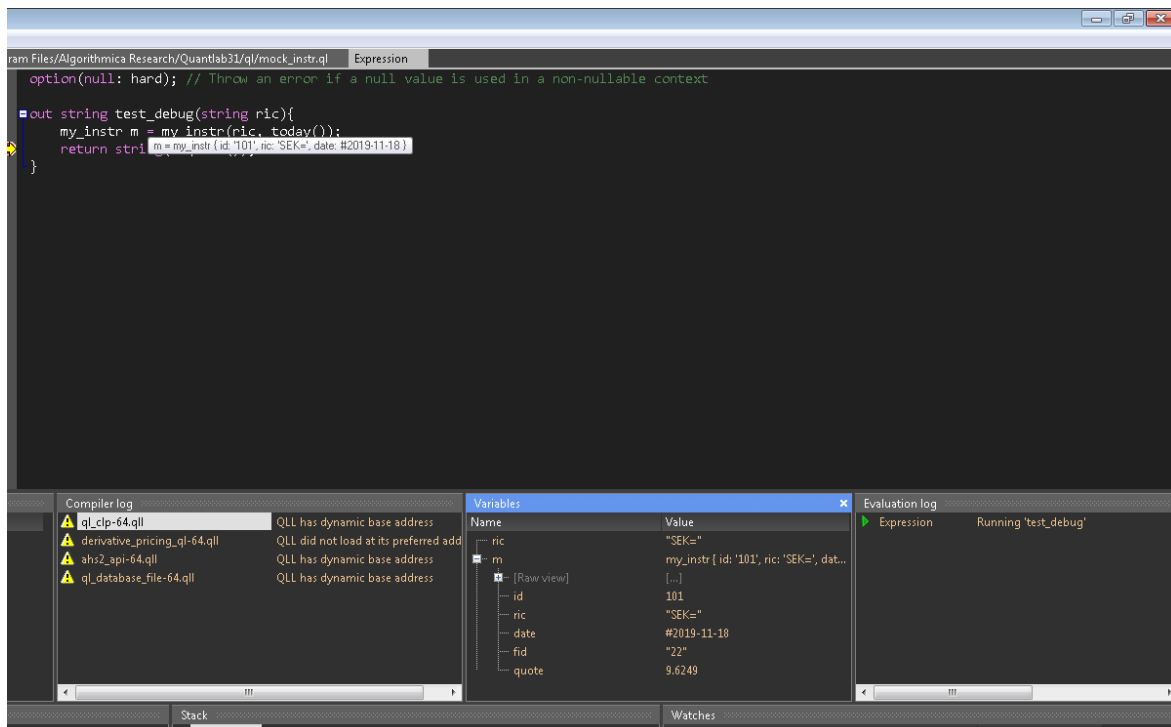
    return ric_;
}
number my_instr.quote()
{
    return quote_;
}
void my_instr.__dbg_print(__dbg_label l)
{
    l.set_text(strcat([ "my_instr { id: '", string(id_),
                        "'", ric: "'", ric_,
                        "'", date: #", string(d_),
                        " }" ]));
}
void my_instr.__dbg_browse(__dbg_split s)
{
    s.resize(5);

    s.set_text(0, "id");
    s.set_value(0, id_);
    if (id_ < 0)
        s.set_hl(0, __dbg_hl.INACTIVE);

    s.set_text(1, "ric");
    s.set_value(1, ric_);
    s.set_text(2, "date");
    s.set_value(2, d_);
    s.set_text(3, "fid");
    s.set_value(3, fid_);

    s.set_text(4, "quote");
    s.set_value(4, quote_);
}

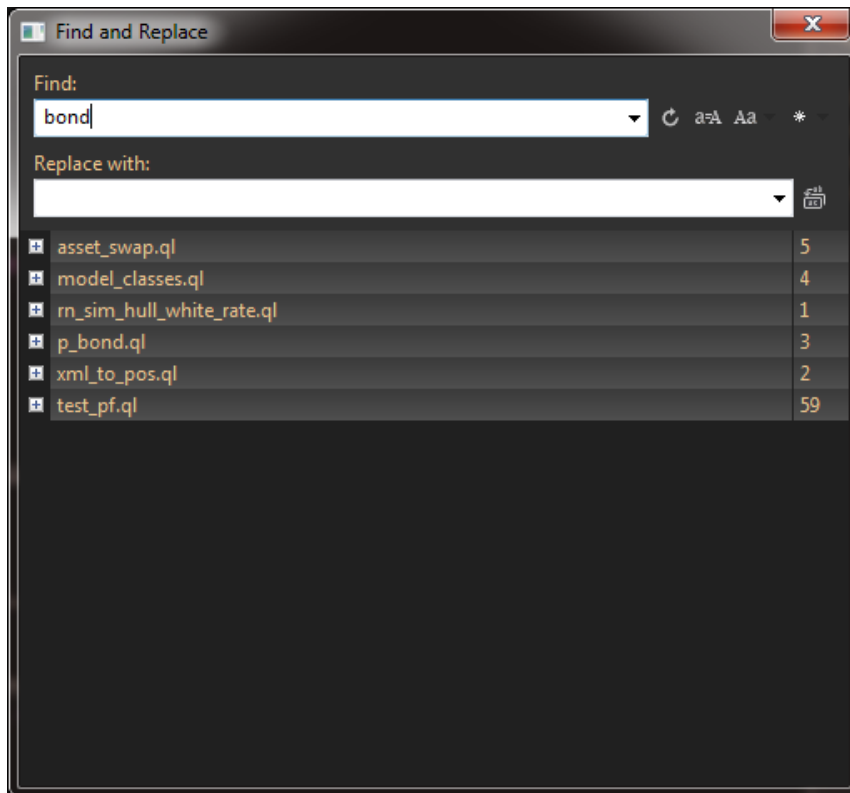
```



Result of running the mock example above (note also the tooltip on mouse over)

Global Find and Replace

Ctrl + Shift + F / H will open the global find and replace window.



Searching can be performed in different contexts.

- 1) In the Current Document
- 2) In Selection only
- 3) In Library files
- 4) In Workspace expressions
- 5) All Open Documents
- 6) All Documents

Further, the search can be done using case sensitive or not, matching whole words or not.

Occurrences will be highlighted when the relevant file is expanded. Click on the line of code to go to / and open that file.

Advanced search can be done using regex syntax.

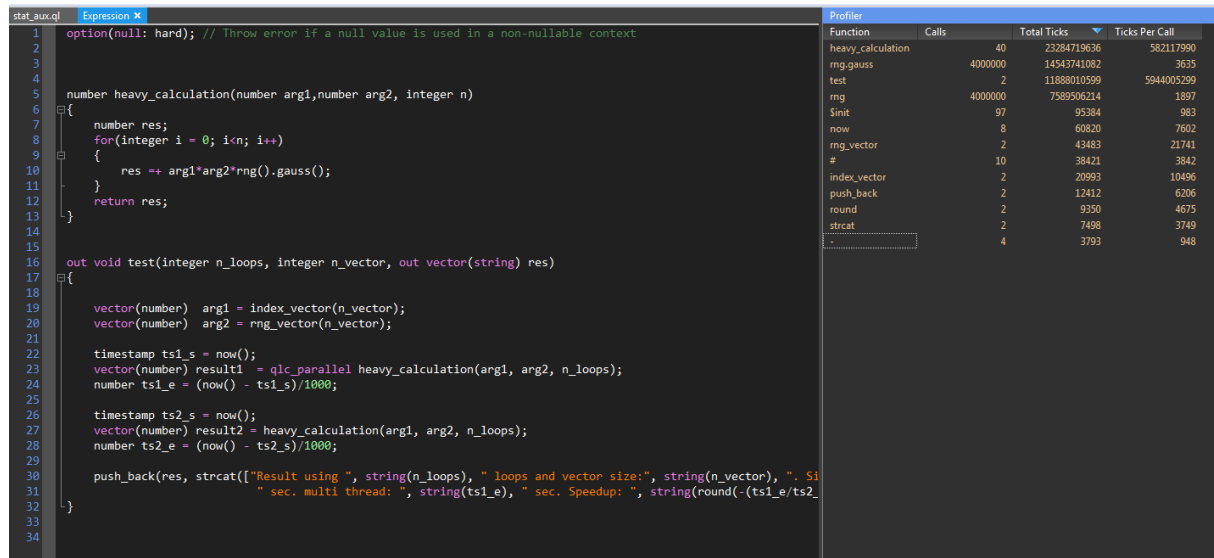
To replace all occurrences, press on the icon right of the Replace with dialog (or press Ctrl + Alt + H). To replace one found match at a time, simply press Ctrl + H, repeatedly.

To revert changes, open each file and use Ctrl + Z to revert the changes in that file.

Using the Profiler

Open the profiler using menu View | Profiler (or Ctrl + Shift + P).

In profile mode there are two options, showing the results for each run and then resetting the counter, or aggregated with total and average run times. To change between the two, right click on the Profiler pane and choose to Accumulate or not. Here you may also clear the results and start over.



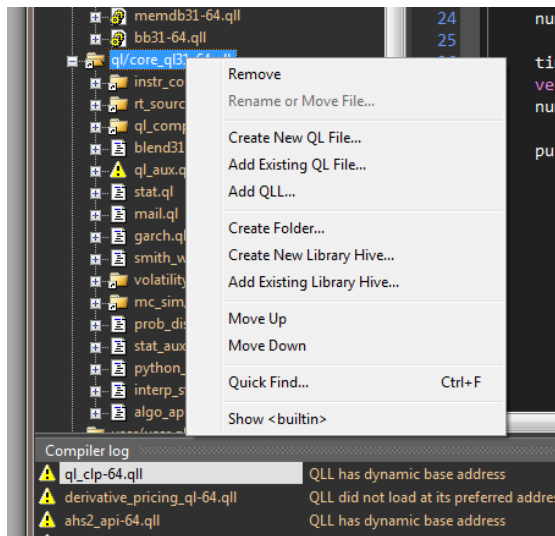
| Function | Calls | Total Ticks | Ticks Per Call |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|----------------|
| heavy_calculation | 40 | 23284719636 | 582117990 |
| rng-gauss | 4000000 | 14543741082 | 3635 |
| test | 2 | 11888010599 | 5944005299 |
| rng | 4000000 | 7589506214 | 1897 |
| \$init | 97 | 95384 | 983 |
| now | 8 | 60820 | 7602 |
| rng_vector | 2 | 43483 | 21741 |
| # | 10 | 38421 | 3842 |
| index_vector | 2 | 20993 | 10496 |
| push_back | 2 | 12412 | 6206 |
| round | 2 | 9350 | 4675 |
| strcat | 2 | 7498 | 3749 |
| . | 4 | 3793 | 948 |

In the Profiler window you will see;

- Which function that is called
- How many calls that was made
- Total number of Ticks (CPU cycles)
- Number of Ticks (CPU cycles) per call

Sort by clicking on the appropriate column header.

Library file functions



Right clicking on a folder in the library tree opens the following functions:

| Setting | Description |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Remove | Removes the file from being included in startup of Quantlab. It does not delete the file from the windows directory. |
| Create New QL file | Create a library file in the windows directory and include it in the ini-file |
| Add existing QL file | Add an existing ql-file from the chosen directory |
| Add QLL | Add existing QLL file from chosen directory |
| | |
| Create folder | Create a new folder in the library tree (in the ini-file not on disc) |
| Create New Library Hive | A hive is a separate mini ini-file, that can contain one or several ql files or qll:s. The main library tree will point to include the hive file and not the individual code files. |
| Add Existing Library Hive | Include an already created hive file. |
| Move up/down | Move library files, qlls, or hives up or down in the ini file tree. Code will be compiled from top -> down so dependent code must be loaded after the files on which it depends. |
| Quick find (Ctrl + F) | Will search in the library only. Note that Ctrl + P will search library file names only. |
| | |

Encryption

When right clicking on an ql-file, an option to encrypt the file will be given. It will encrypt the file both in the library tree and also the physical ql-file on disc. To recover a file with a forgotten password, please contact the Quantlab Support team.