GDB QUICK REFERENCE

GDB Version 4

Essential Commands

gdb program [core]	debug program [using coredump core]
b [file:]function	set breakpoint at function [in file]
run [arglist]	start your program [with arglist]
bt	backtrace: display program stack
p expr	display the value of an expression
C	continue running your program
n	next line, stepping over function calls
S	next line, stepping into function calls

Starting GDB

gdb	start GDB, with no debugging files
gdb program	begin debugging program
gdb program core	debug coredump core produced by program
gdbhelp	describe command line options

Stopping GDB

quit INTERRUPT

exit GDB; also q or EOF (eg C-d) (eg C-c) terminate current command, or send to running process

Getting Help

help	list classes of commands
help <i>class</i>	one-line descriptions for commands in class
help command	describe command

Executing your Program

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run <i>arglist</i>	start your program with arglist
run	start your program with current argument list
<pre>run <inf>outf</inf></pre>	start your program with input, output redirected
kill	kill running program
tty dev	use dev as stdin and stdout for next run
set args <i>arglist</i>	specify arglist for next run
set args	specify empty argument list
show args	display argument list
show env	show all environment variables
show env var	show value of environment variable var
set env var string	set environment variable var
unset env var	remove var from environment

Shell Commands

cd dir	change working directory to dir
pwd	Print working directory
make	call "make"
shell <i>cmd</i>	execute arbitrary shell command string

Breakpoints and	Watchpoints
break [file:]line	set breakpoint at <i>line</i> number [in <i>file</i>]
b [file:]line	eg: break main.c:37
break [file:]func	set breakpoint at <i>func</i> [in <i>file</i>]
break + <i>offset</i> break - <i>offset</i>	set break at offset lines from current stop
break * <i>addr</i>	set breakpoint at address addr
break	set breakpoint at next instruction
break if expr	• •
cond n [expr]	new conditional expression on breakpoint <i>n</i> ; make unconditional if no <i>expr</i>
tbreak	temporary break; disable when reached
rbreak <i>regex</i>	break on all functions matching regex
watch <i>expr</i>	set a watchpoint for expression expr
catch x	break at C++ handler for exception x
info break	show defined breakpoints
info watch	show defined watchpoints
clear	delete breakpoints at next instruction
clear [file:]fun	delete breakpoints at entry to fun()
clear [file:]line	delete breakpoints on source line
delete $[n]$	delete breakpoints [or breakpoint n]
disable [n]	disable breakpoints [or breakpoint n]
enable [n]	enable breakpoints [or breakpoint n]
enable once $[n]$	enable breakpoints [or breakpoint n]; disable again when reached
enable del [n]	enable breakpoints [or breakpoint n]; delete
	when reached
ignore n count	ignore breakpoint n, count times
commands n [silent]	execute GDB <i>command-list</i> every time breakpoint <i>n</i> is reached. [silent
command-list	suppresses default display]
end	end of <i>command-list</i>
Program Stack	
backtrace [n] bt [n]	print trace of all frames in stack; or of n frames—innermost if $n > 0$, outermost if

backtrace [n]	print trace of all frames in stack; or of n
bt [<i>n</i>]	frames—innermost if $n>0$, outermost if
	<i>n</i> <0
frame [n]	select frame number n or frame at address n ;
	if no n, display current frame
up n	select frame n frames up
down n	select frame n frames down
info frame [addr]	describe selected frame, or frame at addr
info args	arguments of selected frame
info locals	local variables of selected frame
info reg [<i>m</i>]	register values [for reg rn] in selected frame;
info all-reg [m]	all-reg includes floating point
info catch	exception handlers active in selected frame

Execution Control

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Execution Control		
<pre>continue [count] c [count]</pre>	continue running; if <i>count</i> specified, ignore this breakpoint next <i>count</i> times	
step [count] s [count]	execute until another line reached; repeat <i>count</i> times if specified	
stepi [count] si [count]	step by machine instructions rather than source lines	
next [<i>count</i>] n [<i>count</i>]	execute next line, including any function calls	
nexti [count] ni [count]	next machine instruction rather than source line	
until [<i>location</i>] finish	run until next instruction (or <i>location</i>) run until selected stack frame returns	
return [<i>expr</i>]	pop selected stack frame without executing [setting return value]	
signal <i>num</i>	resume execution with signal s (none if 0)	
jump <i>line</i> jump * <i>address</i>	resume execution at specified <i>line</i> number or <i>address</i>	
set var= <i>expr</i>	evaluate <i>expr</i> without displaying it; use for altering program variables	
Display		
print $[/f]$ [expr]	show value of <i>expr</i> [or last value \$]	
p [/f] [expr]	according to format <i>f</i> :	
x	hexadecimal	
d	signed decimal	
u	unsigned decimal	
o t	octal	
a	binary address, absolute and relative	
C	character	
f	floating point	
call $[/f]$ expr	like print but does not display void	
x [/Nuf] expr	examine memory at address <i>expr</i> ; optional format spec follows slash	
Ν	count of how many units to display	
и	unit size; one of	
	b individual bytes	
	b individual bytes h halfwords (two bytes)	
	b individual bytes h halfwords (two bytes) w words (four bytes)	
	b individual bytes h halfwords (two bytes) w words (four bytes) g giant words (eight bytes)	
f	b individual bytes h halfwords (two bytes) w words (four bytes) g giant words (eight bytes) printing format. Any print format, or	
f	b individual bytes h halfwords (two bytes) w words (four bytes) g giant words (eight bytes) printing format. Any print format, or s null-terminated string	
f disassem [addr]	b individual bytes h halfwords (two bytes) w words (four bytes) g giant words (eight bytes) printing format. Any print format, or	

Automatic Display

display [/f] expr	show value of <i>expr</i> each time program stops [according to format f]
display	display all enabled expressions on list
undisplay n	remove number(s) <i>n</i> from list of automatically displayed expressions
disable disp n	disable display for expression(s) number n
enable disp <i>n</i>	enable display for expression(s) number n
info display	numbered list of display expressions

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[] surround optional arguments.
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Expressions

expr

addr@len file::nm {type}addr \$ \$n \$\$ \$\$n \$_ \$_ \$var

show values [n]show conv

Symbol Table

info address s	show where symbol s is stored
info func [regex]	show names, types of defined functions (all, or matching <i>regex</i>)
info var [<i>regex</i>]	show names, types of global variables (all, or matching <i>regex</i>)
whatis [<i>expr</i>] ptype [<i>expr</i>] ptype <i>type</i>	show data type of <i>expr</i> [or \$] without evaluating; ptype gives more detail describe type, struct, union, or enum
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an expression in C, C++, or Modula-2

an array of len elements beginning at addr

a variable or function nm defined in file

read memory at addr as specified type

convenience variable; assign any value

show last 10 values [or surrounding n]

(including function calls), or:

most recent displayed value

displayed value previous to \$

last address examined with x

*n*th displayed value back from \$

display all convenience variables

nth displayed value

value at address \$_

GDB Scripts

source script	read, execute GDB commands from file <i>script</i>
define <i>cmd</i> <i>command-list</i>	create new GDB command <i>cmd</i> ; execute script defined by <i>command-list</i>
end	end of command-list
document <i>cmd</i> <i>help-text</i>	create online documentation for new GDB command <i>cmd</i>
end	end of help-text

Signals

handle signal act	specify GDB actions for signal:
print	announce signal
noprint	be silent for signal
stop	halt execution on signal
nostop	do not halt execution
pass	allow your program to handle signal
nopass	do not allow your program to see signal
info signals	show table of signals, GDB action for each

Debugging Targets

target <i>type param</i>	connect to target machine, process, or file
help target	display available targets
attach <i>param</i>	connect to another process
detach	release target from GDB control

Controlling GDB

set param value set one of GDB's internal parameters show param display current setting of parameter Parameters understood by set and show: complaint *limit* number of messages on unusual symbols confirm *on/off* enable or disable cautionary queries editing on/off control readline command-line editing height lpp number of lines before pause in display language *lang* Language for GDB expressions (auto, c or modula-2) listsize n number of lines shown by list use str as GDB prompt prompt str radix base octal, decimal, or hex number representation verbose on/off control messages when loading symbols width cpl number of characters before line folded Allow or forbid patching binary, core files write on/off (when reopened with exec or core) history ... groups with the following options: h ... h exp off/on disable/enable readline history expansion file for recording GDB command history h file *filename* h size size number of commands kept in history list h save off/on control use of external file for command history print ... groups with the following options: р... p address on/off print memory addresses in stacks, values p array off/on compact or attractive format for arrays p demangl on/off source (demangled) or internal form for C++ symbols p asm-dem on/off demangle C++ symbols in machineinstruction output p elements *limit* number of array elements to display p object on/off print C++ derived types for objects p pretty off/on struct display: compact or indented p union *on/off* display of union members p vtbl *off/on* display of C++ virtual function tables show last 10 commands show commands show commands n show 10 commands around number nshow commands + show next 10 commands

Working Files file

file [file]	use <i>file</i> for both symbols and executable; with no arg, discard both
core [file]	read file as coredump; or discard
exec [file]	use file as executable only; or discard
symbol [file]	use symbol table from <i>file</i> ; or discard
load <i>file</i>	dynamically link file and add its symbols
add-sym <i>file addr</i>	read additional symbols from <i>file</i> , dynamically loaded at <i>addr</i>
info files	display working files and targets in use
path dirs	add <i>dirs</i> to front of path searched for executable and symbol files
show path	display executable and symbol file path
info share	list names of shared libraries currently loaded

Source Files

bource rites	
dir names	add directory names to front of source path
dir	clear source path
show dir	show current source path
list	show next ten lines of source
list -	show previous ten lines
list <i>lines</i>	display source surrounding <i>lines</i> , specified as:
[file:]num	line number [in named file]
[file:]function	beginning of function [in named file]
+ off	off lines after last printed
-off	off lines previous to last printed
*address	line containing address
list f, l	from line f to line l
info line <i>num</i>	show starting, ending addresses of compiled code for source line <i>num</i>
info source	show name of current source file
info sources	list all source files in use
forw regex	search following source lines for regex
rev regex	search preceding source lines for regex

GDB under GNU Emacs

M-x gdb	run GDB under Emacs
C-h m	describe GDB mode
M-s	step one line (step)
M-n	next line (next)
M-i	step one instruction (stepi)
C-c C-f	finish current stack frame (finish)
M-c	continue (cont)
M-u	up arg frames (up)
M-d	down arg frames (down)
C-x &	copy number from point, insert at end
C-x SPC	(in source file) set break at point

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