GDB cheatsheet - page 1

Running

gdb --pid <pid>
Start GDB and attach to process.

set args <args...>

Set arguments to pass to program to be debugged.

run

Run the program to be debugged.

kill

Kill the running program.

Breakpoints

break <where>

Set a new breakpoint.

delete <bre> <bre>breakpoint#>
 Remove a breakpoint.

clear

Delete all breakpoints.

enable *
breakpoint#>*Enable a disabled breakpoint.

disable *
breakpoint#>*Disable a breakpoint.

Watchpoints

watch <where>

Set a new watchpoint.

delete/enable/disable <watchpoint#>
 Like breakpoints.

<where>

function_name

Break/watch the named function.

line_number

Break/watch the line number in the current source file.

file:line number

Break/watch the line number in the named source file.

Conditions

break/watch <where> if <condition>
Break/watch at the given location if the condition is met.

Conditions may be almost any C expression that evaluate to true or false.

condition

Set/change the condition of an existing break- or watchpoint.

Examining the stack

backtrace where

Show call stack.

backtrace full

where full

Show call stack, also print the local variables in each frame.

frame <frame#>

Select the stack frame to operate on.

Stepping

step

Go to next instruction (source line), diving into function.

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next

Go to next instruction (source line) but don't dive into functions.

finish

Continue until the current function returns.

continue

Continue normal execution.

Variables and memory

print/format <what>

Print content of variable/memory location/register.

display/format <what>

Like "print", but print the information after each stepping instruction.

undisplay <display#>

Remove the "display" with the given number.

enable display <display#>
disable display <display#>

En- or disable the "display" with the given number

x/nfu <address>

Print memory.

n: How many units to print (default 1).

f: Format character (like "print").

u: Unit.

Unit is one of:

b: Byte,

h: Half-word (two bytes)

w: Word (four bytes)

g: Giant word (eight bytes)).

ex: x/4xw \$esp

print 4 words of mem above esp in hex

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	Format
а	Pointer.
C	Read as integer, print as character.
d	Integer, signed decimal.
f	Floating point number.
0	Integer, print as octal.
S	Try to treat as C string.
t	Integer, print as binary ($t = \text{"two"}$).
u	Integer, unsigned decimal.
X	Integer, print as hexadecimal.

<what>

expression

Almost any C expression, including function calls (must be prefixed with a cast to tell GDB the return value type).

file_name::variable_name

Content of the variable defined in the named file (static variables).

function::variable_name

Content of the variable defined in the named function (if on the stack).

{type}address

Content at *address*, interpreted as being of the C type *type*.

\$register

Content of named register. Interesting registers are \$esp (stack pointer), \$ebp (frame pointer) and \$eip (instruction pointer).

Threads

thread <thread#>

Chose thread to operate on.

Manipulating the program

set var <variable_name>=<value>
Change the content of a variable to the given value.

return <expression>

Force the current function to return immediately, passing the given value.

Sources

directory <directory>

Add *directory* to the list of directories that is searched for sources.

list

list <filename>:<function>

list <filename>:<line_number>

list <first>,<last>

Shows the current or given source context. The *filename* may be omitted. If *last* is omitted the context starting at *start* is printed instead of centered around it.

set listsize <count>

Set how many lines to show in "list".

Signals

handle <signal> <options>

Set how to handle signles. Options are:

(no)print: (Don't) print a message when signals occurs.

(no)stop: (Don't) stop the program when signals occurs.

(no)pass: (Don't) pass the signal to the program.

Informations

disassemble

disassemble <where>

Disassemble the current function or given location.

info args

Print the arguments to the function of the current stack frame.

info breakpoints

Print informations about the break- and watchpoints.

info display

Print informations about the "displays".

info locals

Print the local variables in the currently selected stack frame.

info sharedlibrary

List loaded shared libraries.

info signals

List all signals and how they are currently handled.

info threads

List all threads.

show directories

Print all directories in which GDB searches for source files.

show listsize

Print how many are shown in the "list" command.

whatis variable name

Print type of named variable.