

# GDB - Tutorial

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## 1 Starting and invoking gdb

1. Inserting debugging information inside the output executable files created after compilation and to start debugging session.

```
$ gcc -o fact fact.c -g
```

```
$ gdb fact
```

2. Giving shell commands from within gdb

```
(gdb) shell clear
```

3. Set breakpoint at the function main()

```
(gdb) break main
```

4. Delete break point number 1

```
(gdb) delete 1
```

*Note: Pressing enter with no command executes the previous command*

## 2 Running and navigating in gdb

1. Run program to be debugged

```
(gdb) run
```

2. See where program stopped

```
(gdb) list
```

3. Execute next line of the program

```
(gdb) next (gdb) n
```

4. Step inside

```
(gdb) step
```

5. Print stack trace
  - (gdb) where
  - (gdb) frame 0
  - (gdb) frame 1
6. Return back from function
  - (gdb) return
7. Continue execution until the next break point.
  - (gdb) continue

### 3 Retrieving values of variables

1. Display the value of a variable "i"
  - (gdb) display i
2. Set hardware/software watch point for variable "i"
  - (gdb) watch i
3. Print the value of variable "i"
  - (gdb) print i
4. Print the address of variable "i"
  - (gdb) print &i
5. Reassign a value to n
  - (gdb) set variable n=6
  - (gdb) continue
6. Call fact() function with different parameters.
  - (gdb) call fact(4)
7. Display the data type of a variable:
  - (gdb) ptype i
  - (gdb) whatis i

### 4 Segmentation faults

1. Segmentation faults Here we compile and execute a program with results in a segmentation fault. The snapshot of memory is saved in a file called "core"
  - \$ gcc -o demo demo.c -g

\$ gdb demo core  
(gdb) disassembly  
*note: sethi = an assembly instruction*  
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