Debugging with GDB

Most of the commands below can be executed simply by typing their first letter (e.g., p for print). Functions' and variables' names can be auto-completed by hitting Tab.

Getting started...

% gdb foo [core] debug foo (and optionally its core dump)

run start foo

Breakpoints...

break bar temporarily stops execution as soon as bar is called break baz.c:n temporarily stops execution just before line n in baz.c

info breakpoints list breakpoints and their numbers

delete i delete breakpoint i delete all breakpoints

Walking through code...

next execute the next line of code
next n execute the next n lines of code
step step into the next line of code

continue continue execution from wherever you are to next breakpoint, if any

finish the current function's execution

list n print out some lines of code surrounding line n

backtrace display the frame stack (*i.e.*, the series of function calls that got you there) bt display the frame stack (*i.e.*, the series of function calls that got you there)

frame n change the current frame to frame n

Printing variables...

print v print the value in v

display v continually display the value in v print a[i] print the ith element of array a

print *ptr print the value stored at address ptr (i.e., dereference ptr)

print obj.b print obj's b data member

print ptr->b print data member b in object pointed to by ptr