

# gnuplot Quick Reference

(Copyright(c) Alex Woo 1992 June 1)  
Updated by Hans-Bernhard Bröker, April 2004

## Starting gnuplot

to enter gnuplot `gnuplot`  
to enter batch gnuplot `gnuplot macro_file`  
to pipe commands to gnuplot `application | gnuplot`

see below for environment variables you might want to change before entering gnuplot.

## Exiting gnuplot

exit gnuplot `quit`

All gnuplot commands can be abbreviated to the first few unique letters, usually three characters. This reference uses the complete name for clarity.

## Getting Help

introductory help `help plot`  
help on a topic `help <topic>`  
list of all help available `help or ?`  
show current environment `show all`

## Command-line Editing

The UNIX, MS-DOS and VMS versions of gnuplot support command-line editing and a command history. EMACS style editing is supported.

Line Editing:

move back a single character `^ B`  
move forward a single character `^ F`  
moves to the beginning of the line `^ A`  
moves to the end of the line `^ E`  
delete the previous character `^ H and DEL`  
deletes the current character `^ D`  
deletes to the end of line `^ K`  
redraws line in case it gets trashed `^ L, ^ R`  
deletes the entire line `^ U`  
deletes the last word `^ W`

History:

moves back through history `^ P`  
moves forward through history `^ N`

The following arrow keys may be used on most PC versions if READLINE is used.

IBM PC Arrow Keys:

Left Arrow `same as ^ B`  
Right Arrow `same as ^ F`  
Ctrl Left Arrow `same as ^ A`  
Ctrl Right Arrow `same as ^ E`  
Up Arrow `same as ^ P`  
Down Arrow `same as ^ N`

## Graphics Devices

All screen graphics devices are specified by names and options. This information can be read from a startup file (`.gnuplot` in UNIX). If you change the graphics device, you must replot with the `replot` command or recreate it repeating the load of the script that created it.

get a list of valid devices `set terminal [options]`

Graphics Terminals:

Mac OS X `set term aqua`  
AED 512 Terminal `set term aed512`  
AED 767 Terminal `set term aed767`  
Amiga `set term amiga`  
Adobe Illustrator 3.0 Format `set term aifm`  
Apollo graphics primitive, rescalable `set term apollo`  
Atari ST `set term atari`  
BBN Bitgraph Terminal `set term bitgraph`  
SCO CGI Driver `set term cgi`  
Apollo graphics primitive, fixed window `set term gpr`  
SGI GL window `set term iris4d [8 24]`  
MS-DOS Kermit Tek4010 term - color `set term kc_tek40xx`  
MS-DOS Kermit Tek4010 term - mono `set term km_tek40xx`  
NeXTstep window system `set term next`  
OS/2 Presentation Manager `set term pm`  
REGIS graphics language `set term regis`  
Selanar Tek Terminal `set term selanar`  
SunView window system `set term sun`  
Tektronix 4106, 4107, 4109 & 420X `set term tek40D10x`  
Tektronix 4010; most TEK emulators `set term tek40xx`  
VAX UIS window system `set term VMS`  
VT-like tek40xx terminal emulator `set term vttek`  
UNIX plotting (not always supplied) `set term unixplot`  
AT&T 3b1 or 7300 UNIXPC `set term unixpc`  
MS Windows `set term windows`  
X11 display terminal `set term x11`

Turbo C PC Graphics Modes:

Hercules `set term hercules`  
Color Graphics Adaptor `set term cga`  
Monochrome CGA `set term mcga`  
Extended Graphics Adaptor `set term ega`  
VGA `set term vga`  
Monochrome VGA `set term vgamono`  
Super VGA - requires SVGA driver `set term svga`  
AT&T 6300 Micro `set term att`

Hardcopy Devices:

Unknown - not a plotting device `set term unknown`  
Dump ASCII table of X Y [Z] values `set term table`  
printer or glass dumb terminal `set term dumb`  
Roland DXY800A plotter `set term dry800a`

Dot Matrix Printers

Epson-style 60-dot per inch printers `set term epson_60dpi`  
Epson LX-800, Star NL-10 `set term epson_lx800`  
NX-1000, PROPRINTER `set term epson_lx800`  
NEC printer CP6, Epson LQ-800 `set term nec_cp6 [monochrome color draft]`  
Star Color Printer `set term starc`  
Tandy DMP-130 60-dot per inch `set term tandy_60dpi`  
Vectrix 384 & Tandy color printer `set term vx384`

Laser Printers