

GNU MP

The GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic Library
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1 Introduction to GNU MP

GNU MP is a portable library written in C for arbitrary precision arithmetic on integers, rational numbers, and floating-point numbers. It aims to provide the fastest possible arithmetic for all applications that need higher precision than is directly supported by the basic C types.

Many applications use just a few hundred bits of precision; but some applications may need thousands or even millions of bits. MP is designed to give good performance for both, by choosing algorithms based on the sizes of the operands, and by carefully keeping the overhead at a minimum.

The speed of MP is achieved by using fullwords as the basic arithmetic type, by using sophisticated algorithms, by including carefully optimized assembly code for the most common inner loops for many different CPUs, and by a general emphasis on speed (as opposed to simplicity or elegance).

There is carefully optimized assembly code for these CPUs: DEC Alpha, Amd 29000, HPPA 1.0 and 1.1, Intel Pentium and generic x86, Intel i960, Motorola MC68000, MC68020, MC88100, and MC88110, Motorola/IBM PowerPC, National NS32000, IBM POWER, MIPS R3000, R4000, SPARCv7, SuperSPARC, generic SPARCv8, and DEC VAX. Some optimizations also for ARM, Clipper, IBM ROMP (RT), and Pyramid AP/XP.

This version of MP is released under a more liberal license than previous versions. It is now permitted to link MP to non-free programs, as long as MP source code is provided when distributing the non-free program.

1.1 How to use this Manual

Everyone should read Chapter 3 [MP Basics], page 5. If you need to install the library yourself, you need to read Chapter 2 [Installing MP], page 3, too.

The rest of the manual can be used for later reference, although it is probably a good idea to glance through it.

2 Installing MP

To build MP, you first have to configure it for your CPU and operating system. You need a C compiler, preferably GCC, but any reasonable compiler should work. And you need a standard Unix ‘make’ program, plus some other standard Unix utility programs.

(If you’re on an MS-DOS machine, you can build MP using `make.bat`. It requires that `djgpp` is installed. It does not require configuration, nor is ‘make’ needed; `make.bat` both configures and builds the library.)

Here are the steps needed to install the library on Unix systems:

1. In most cases, ‘`./configure --target=cpu-vendor-os`’, should work both for native and cross-compilation. If you get error messages, your machine might not be supported.

If you want to compile in a separate object directory, `cd` to that directory, and prefix the `configure` command with the path to the MP source directory. Not all ‘make’ programs have the necessary features to support this. In particular, SunOS and Solaris ‘make’ have bugs that makes them unable to build from a separate object directory. Use GNU ‘make’ instead.

In addition to the standard `cpu-vendor-os` tuples, MP recognizes `sparc8` and `supersparc` as valid CPU names. Specifying these CPU names for relevant systems will improve performance significantly.

In general, if you want a library that runs as fast as possible, you should make sure you configure MP for the exact CPU type your system uses.

If you have `gcc` in your `PATH`, it will be used by default. To override this, pass ‘`-with-gcc=no`’ to `configure`.

2. ‘make’

This will compile MP, and create a library archive file `libgmp.a` in the working directory.

3. ‘make check’

This will make sure MP was built correctly. If you get error messages, please report this to ‘`bug-gmp@prep.ai.mit.edu`’. (See Chapter 4 [Reporting Bugs], page 8, for information on what to include in useful bug reports.)

4. ‘make install’

This will copy the file `gmp.h` and `libgmp.a`, as well as the info files, to `/usr/local` (or if you passed the ‘`--prefix`’ option to `configure`, to the directory given as argument to ‘`--prefix`’).

If you wish to build and install the BSD MP compatible functions, use ‘`make libmp.a`’ and ‘`make install-bsdmp`’.

There are some other useful make targets:

- ‘doc’
Create a DVI version of the manual, in `gmp.dvi` and a set of info files, in `gmp.info`, `gmp.info-1`, `gmp.info-2`, etc.
- ‘ps’
Create a Postscript version of the manual, in `gmp.ps`.
- ‘html’
Create a HTML version of the manual, in `gmp.html`.
- ‘clean’
Delete all object files and archive files, but not the configuration files.

- ‘distclean’
Delete all files not included in the distribution.
- ‘uninstall’
Delete all files copied by ‘make install’.

2.1 Known Build Problems

GCC 2.7.2 (as well as 2.6.3) for the RS/6000 and PowerPC can not be used to compile MP, due to a bug in GCC. If you want to use GCC for these machines, you need to apply the patch below to GCC, or use a later version of the compiler.

If you are on a Sequent Symmetry, use the GNU assembler instead of the system’s assembler, since the latter has serious bugs.

The system compiler on NeXT is a massacred and old gcc, even if the compiler calls itself `cc`. This compiler cannot be used to build MP. You need to get a real gcc, and install that before you compile MP. (NeXT might have fixed this in newer releases of their system.)

The system C compiler under SunOS 4 has a bug that makes it miscompile `mpq/get_d.c`. This will make ‘make check’ fail.

Please report other problems to ‘bug-gmp@prep.ai.mit.edu’. See Chapter 4 [Reporting Bugs], page 8.

Patch to apply to GCC 2.6.3 and 2.7.2:

```

*** config/rs6000/rs6000.md Sun Feb 11 08:22:11 1996
--- config/rs6000/rs6000.md.new Sun Feb 18 03:33:37 1996
*****
*** 920,926 ****
      (set (match_operand:SI 0 "gpc_reg_operand" "=r")
          (not:SI (match_dup 1)))
      ""
!   "nor. %0,%2,%1"
      [(set_attr "type" "compare")]

      (define_insn ""
--- 920,926 ----
      (set (match_operand:SI 0 "gpc_reg_operand" "=r")
          (not:SI (match_dup 1)))
      ""
!   "nor. %0,%1,%1"
      [(set_attr "type" "compare")]

      (define_insn ""

```

3 MP Basics

All declarations needed to use MP are collected in the include file `gmp.h`. It is designed to work with both C and C++ compilers.

3.1 Nomenclature and Types

In this manual, *integer* usually means a multiple precision integer, as defined by the MP library. The C data type for such integers is `mpz_t`. Here are some examples of how to declare such integers:

```
mpz_t sum;

struct foo { mpz_t x, y; };

mpz_t vec[20];
```

Rational number means a multiple precision fraction. The C data type for these fractions is `mpq_t`. For example:

```
mpq_t quotient;
```

Floating point number or *Float* for short, is an arbitrary precision mantissa with an limited precision exponent. The C data type for such objects is `mpf_t`.

A *limb* means the part of a multi-precision number that fits in a single word. (We chose this word because a limb of the human body is analogous to a digit, only larger, and containing several digits.) Normally a limb contains 32 or 64 bits. The C data type for a limb is `mp_limb_t`.

3.2 Function Classes

There are six classes of functions in the MP library:

1. Functions for signed integer arithmetic, with names beginning with `mpz_`. The associated type is `mpz_t`. There are about 100 functions in this class.
2. Functions for rational number arithmetic, with names beginning with `mpq_`. The associated type is `mpq_t`. There are about 20 functions in this class, but the functions in the previous class can be used for performing arithmetic on the numerator and denominator separately.
3. Functions for floating-point arithmetic, with names beginning with `mpf_`. The associated type is `mpf_t`. There are about 50 functions in this class.
4. Functions compatible with Berkeley MP, such as `itom`, `madd`, and `mult`. The associated type is `MINT`.
5. Fast low-level functions that operate on natural numbers. These are used by the functions in the preceding groups, and you can also call them directly from very time-critical user programs. These functions' names begin with `mpn_`. There are about 30 (hard-to-use) functions in this class.

The associated type is array of `mp_limb_t`.

6. Miscellaneous functions. Functions for setting up custom allocation.

3.3 MP Variable Conventions

As a general rule, all MP functions expect output arguments before input arguments. This notation is based on an analogy with the assignment operator. (The BSD MP compatibility functions disobey this rule, having the output argument(s) last.)

MP allows you to use the same variable for both input and output in the same expression. For example, the main function for integer multiplication, `mpz_mul`, can be used like this: `mpz_mul(x, x, x)`. This computes the square of `x` and puts the result back in `x`.

Before you can assign to an MP variable, you need to initialize it by calling one of the special initialization functions. When you're done with a variable, you need to clear it out, using one of the functions for that purpose. Which function to use depends on the type of variable. See the chapters on integer functions, rational number functions, and floating-point functions for details.

A variable should only be initialized once, or at least cleared out between each initialization. After a variable has been initialized, it may be assigned to any number of times.

For efficiency reasons, avoid to initialize and clear out a variable in loops. Instead, initialize it before entering the loop, and clear it out after the loop has exited.

You don't need to be concerned about allocating additional space for MP variables. All functions in MP automatically allocate additional space when a variable does not already have enough space. They do not, however, reduce the space when a smaller number is stored in the object. Most of the time, this policy is best, since it avoids frequent re-allocation.

3.4 Useful Macros and Constants

`const int mp_bits_per_limb` [Global Constant]
The number of bits per limb.

`__GNU_MP_VERSION` [Macro]
`__GNU_MP_VERSION_MINOR` [Macro]
The major and minor MP version, respectively, as integers.

3.5 Compatibility with Version 1.x

This version of MP is upward compatible with previous versions of MP, with a few exceptions.

1. Integer division functions round the result differently. The old functions (`mpz_div`, `mpz_divmod`, `mpz_mdiv`, `mpz_mdivmod`, etc) now all use floor rounding (i.e., they round the quotient to $-\infty$). There are a lot of new functions for integer division, giving the user better control over the rounding.
2. The function `mpz_mod` now compute the true **mod** function.
3. The functions `mpz_powm` and `mpz_powm_ui` now use **mod** for reduction.
4. The assignment functions for rational numbers do no longer canonicalize their results. In the case a non-canonical result could arise from an assignment, the user need to insert an explicit call to `mpq_canonicalize`. This change was made for efficiency.
5. Output generated by `mpz_out_raw` in this release cannot be read by `mpz_inp_raw` in previous releases. This change was made for making the file format truly portable between machines with different word sizes.
6. Several `mpn` functions have changed. But they were intentionally undocumented in previous releases.
7. The functions `mpz_cmp_ui`, `mpz_cmp_si`, and `mpq_cmp_ui` are now implemented as macros, and thereby sometimes evaluate their arguments multiple times.
8. The functions `mpz_pow_ui` and `mpz_ui_pow_ui` now yield 1 for 0^0 . (In version 1, they yielded 0.)

3.6 Getting the Latest Version of MP

The latest version of the MP library is available by anonymous ftp from from `'prep.ai.mit.edu'`. The file name is `/pub/gnu/gmp-M.N.tar.gz`. Many sites around the world mirror `'prep'`; please use a mirror site near you.

4 Reporting Bugs

If you think you have found a bug in the MP library, please investigate it and report it. We have made this library available to you, and it is not to ask too much from you, to ask you to report the bugs that you find.

There are a few things you should think about when you put your bug report together.

You have to send us a test case that makes it possible for us to reproduce the bug. Include instructions on how to run the test case.

You also have to explain what is wrong; if you get a crash, or if the results printed are incorrect and in that case, in what way.

It is not uncommon that an observed problem is actually due to a bug in the compiler used when building MP; the MP code tends to explore interesting corners in compilers. Therefore, please include compiler version information in your bug report. This can be extracted using `'what 'which cc''`, or, if you're using gcc, `'gcc -v'`. Also, include the output from `'uname -a'`.

If your bug report is good, we will do our best to help you to get a corrected version of the library; if the bug report is poor, we won't do anything about it (aside of chiding you to send better bug reports).

Send your bug report to: `'bug-gmp@prep.ai.mit.edu'`.

If you think something in this manual is unclear, or downright incorrect, or if the language needs to be improved, please send a note to the same address.

5 Integer Functions

This chapter describes the MP functions for performing integer arithmetic. These functions start with the prefix `mpz_`.

Arbitrary precision integers are stored in objects of type `mpz_t`.

5.1 Initialization and Assignment Functions

The functions for integer arithmetic assume that all integer objects are initialized. You do that by calling the function `mpz_init`.

```
void mpz_init (mpz_t integer) [Function]
  Initialize integer with limb space and set the initial numeric value to 0. Each variable should normally only be initialized once, or at least cleared out (using mpz_clear) between each initialization.
```

Here is an example of using `mpz_init`:

```
{
  mpz_t integ;
  mpz_init (integ);
  ...
  mpz_add (integ, ...);
  ...
  mpz_sub (integ, ...);

  /* Unless the program is about to exit, do ... */
  mpz_clear (integ);
}
```

As you can see, you can store new values any number of times, once an object is initialized.

```
void mpz_clear (mpz_t integer) [Function]
  Free the limb space occupied by integer. Make sure to call this function for all mpz_t variables when you are done with them.
```

```
void * _mpz_realloc (mpz_t integer, mp_size_t new_alloc) [Function]
  Change the limb space allocation to new_alloc limbs. This function is not normally called from user code, but it can be used to give memory back to the heap, or to increase the space of a variable to avoid repeated automatic re-allocation.
```

```
void mpz_array_init (mpz_t integer_array[], size_t array_size, [Function]
                    mp_size_t fixed_num_bits)
```

Allocate **fixed** limb space for all *array_size* integers in *integer_array*. The fixed allocation for each integer in the array is enough to store *fixed_num_bits*. If the fixed space will be insufficient for storing the result of a subsequent calculation, the result is unpredictable.

This function is useful for decreasing the working set for some algorithms that use large integer arrays.

There is no way to de-allocate the storage allocated by this function. Don't call `mpz_clear`!

5.1.1 Assignment Functions

These functions assign new values to already initialized integers (see Section 5.1 [Initializing Integers], page 9).

```
void mpz_set (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op) [Function]
void mpz_set_ui (mpz_t rop, unsigned long int op) [Function]
void mpz_set_si (mpz_t rop, signed long int op) [Function]
void mpz_set_d (mpz_t rop, double op) [Function]
void mpz_set_q (mpz_t rop, mpq_t op) [Function]
void mpz_set_f (mpz_t rop, mpf_t op) [Function]
    Set the value of rop from op.
```

```
int mpz_set_str (mpz_t rop, char *str, int base) [Function]
    Set the value of rop from str, a '\0'-terminated C string in base base. White space is allowed in the string, and is simply ignored. The base may vary from 2 to 36. If base is 0, the actual base is determined from the leading characters: if the first two characters are '0x' or '0X', hexadecimal is assumed, otherwise if the first character is '0', octal is assumed, otherwise decimal is assumed.
```

This function returns 0 if the entire string up to the '\0' is a valid number in base *base*. Otherwise it returns -1.

5.1.2 Combined Initialization and Assignment Functions

For convenience, MP provides a parallel series of initialize-and-set functions which initialize the output and then store the value there. These functions' names have the form `mpz_init_set...`

Here is an example of using one:

```
{
    mpz_t pie;
    mpz_init_set_str (pie, "3141592653589793238462643383279502884", 10);
    ...
    mpz_sub (pie, ...);
    ...
    mpz_clear (pie);
}
```

Once the integer has been initialized by any of the `mpz_init_set...` functions, it can be used as the source or destination operand for the ordinary integer functions. Don't use an initialize-and-set function on a variable already initialized!

```
void mpz_init_set (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op) [Function]
void mpz_init_set_ui (mpz_t rop, unsigned long int op) [Function]
void mpz_init_set_si (mpz_t rop, signed long int op) [Function]
void mpz_init_set_d (mpz_t rop, double op) [Function]
    Initialize rop with limb space and set the initial numeric value from op.
```

```
int mpz_init_set_str (mpz_t rop, char *str, int base) [Function]
    Initialize rop and set its value like mpz_set_str (see its documentation above for details).
```

If the string is a correct base *base* number, the function returns 0; if an error occurs it returns -1. *rop* is initialized even if an error occurs. (I.e., you have to call `mpz_clear` for it.)

5.2 Conversion Functions

This section describes functions for converting arbitrary precision integers to standard C types. Functions for converting *to* arbitrary precision integers are described in Section 5.1.1 [Assigning Integers], page 10, and Section 5.6 [I/O of Integers], page 16.

`unsigned long int mpz_get_ui (mpz_t op)` [Function]

Return the least significant part from *op*. This function combined with `mpz_tdiv_q_2exp(..., op, CHAR_BIT*sizeof(unsigned long int))` can be used to extract the limbs of an integer.

`signed long int mpz_get_si (mpz_t op)` [Function]

If *op* fits into a `signed long int` return the value of *op*. Otherwise return the least significant part of *op*, with the same sign as *op*.

If *op* is too large to fit in a `signed long int`, the returned result is probably not very useful.

`double mpz_get_d (mpz_t op)` [Function]

Convert *op* to a double.

`char * mpz_get_str (char *str, int base, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Convert *op* to a string of digits in base *base*. The base may vary from 2 to 36.

If *str* is NULL, space for the result string is allocated using the default allocation function, and a pointer to the string is returned.

If *str* is not NULL, it should point to a block of storage enough large for the result. To find out the right amount of space to provide for *str*, use `mpz_sizeinbase (op, base) + 2`. The two extra bytes are for a possible minus sign, and for the terminating null character.

5.3 Arithmetic Functions

`void mpz_add (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

`void mpz_add_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $op1 + op2$.

`void mpz_sub (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

`void mpz_sub_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $op1 - op2$.

`void mpz_mul (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

`void mpz_mul_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $op1 \times op2$.

`void mpz_mul_2exp (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $op1 \times 2^{op2}$. This operation can also be defined as a left shift, *op2* steps.

`void mpz_neg (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $-op$.

`void mpz_abs (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Set *rop* to the absolute value of *op*.

`void mpz_fac_ui (mpz_t rop, unsigned long int op)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $op!$, the factorial of *op*.

5.3.1 Division functions

Division is undefined if the divisor is zero, and passing a zero divisor to the divide or modulo functions, as well passing a zero mod argument to the `mpz_powm` and `mpz_powm_ui` functions, will make these functions intentionally divide by zero. This gives the user the possibility to handle arithmetic exceptions in these functions in the same manner as other arithmetic exceptions.

There are three main groups of division functions:

- Functions that truncate the quotient towards 0. The names of these functions start with `mpz_tdiv`. The ‘t’ in the name is short for ‘truncate’.
- Functions that round the quotient towards $-\infty$. The names of these routines start with `mpz_fdiv`. The ‘f’ in the name is short for ‘floor’.
- Functions that round the quotient towards $+\infty$. The names of these routines start with `mpz_cdiv`. The ‘c’ in the name is short for ‘ceil’.

For each rounding mode, there are a couple of variants. Here ‘q’ means that the quotient is computed, while ‘r’ means that the remainder is computed. Functions that compute both the quotient and remainder have ‘qr’ in the name.

```
void mpz_tdiv_q (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2) [Function]
void mpz_tdiv_q_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2) [Function]
    Set rop to  $[op1/op2]$ . The quotient is truncated towards 0.
```

```
void mpz_tdiv_r (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2) [Function]
void mpz_tdiv_r_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2) [Function]
    Set rop to  $(op1 - [op1/op2] * op2)$ . Unless the remainder is zero, it has the same sign as the dividend.
```

```
void mpz_tdiv_qr (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t rop2, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2) [Function]
void mpz_tdiv_qr_ui (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t rop2, mpz_t op1, unsigned [Function]
                    long int op2)
```

Divide *op1* by *op2* and put the quotient in *rop1* and the remainder in *rop2*. The quotient is rounded towards 0. Unless the remainder is zero, it has the same sign as the dividend.

If *rop1* and *rop2* are the same variable, the results are undefined.

```
void mpz_fdiv_q (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2) [Function]
void mpz_fdiv_q_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2) [Function]
    Set rop to  $[op1/op2]$ . (I.e., round the quotient towards  $-\infty$ .)
```

```
void mpz_fdiv_r (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2) [Function]
unsigned long int mpz_fdiv_r_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned [Function]
                                long int op2)
```

Divide *op1* by *op2* and put the remainder in *rop*. Unless the remainder is zero, it has the same sign as the divisor.

For `mpz_fdiv_r_ui` the remainder is small enough to fit in an `unsigned long int`, and is therefore returned.

```
void mpz_fdiv_qr (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t rop2, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2) [Function]
unsigned long int mpz_fdiv_qr_ui (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t rop2, mpz_t [Function]
                                  op1, unsigned long int op2)
```

Divide *op1* by *op2* and put the quotient in *rop1* and the remainder in *rop2*. The quotient is rounded towards $-\infty$. Unless the remainder is zero, it has the same sign as the divisor.

For `mpz_fdiv_qr_ui` the remainder is small enough to fit in an `unsigned long int`, and is therefore returned.

If `rop1` and `rop2` are the same variable, the results are undefined.

`unsigned long int mpz_fdiv_ui (mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
This function is similar to `mpz_fdiv_r_ui`, but the remainder is only returned; it is not stored anywhere.

`void mpz_cdiv_q (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]
`void mpz_cdiv_q_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
Set `rop` to $\lceil op1/op2 \rceil$. (I.e., round the quotient towards $+\infty$.)

`void mpz_cdiv_r (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]
`unsigned long int mpz_cdiv_r_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Divide `op1` by `op2` and put the remainder in `rop`. Unless the remainder is zero, it has the opposite sign as the divisor.

For `mpz_cdiv_r_ui` the negated remainder is small enough to fit in an `unsigned long int`, and it is therefore returned.

`void mpz_cdiv_qr (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t rop2, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]
`unsigned long int mpz_cdiv_qr_ui (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t rop2, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Divide `op1` by `op2` and put the quotient in `rop1` and the remainder in `rop2`. The quotient is rounded towards $+\infty$. Unless the remainder is zero, it has the opposite sign as the divisor.

For `mpz_cdiv_qr_ui` the negated remainder is small enough to fit in an `unsigned long int`, and it is therefore returned.

If `rop1` and `rop2` are the same variable, the results are undefined.

`unsigned long int mpz_cdiv_ui (mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
Return the negated remainder, similar to `mpz_cdiv_r_ui`. (The difference is that this function doesn't store the remainder anywhere.)

`void mpz_mod (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]
`unsigned long int mpz_mod_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Set `rop` to `op1 mod op2`. The sign of the divisor is ignored, and the result is always non-negative.

For `mpz_mod_ui` the remainder is small enough to fit in an `unsigned long int`, and is therefore returned.

`void mpz_divexact (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]
Set `rop` to `op1/op2`. This function produces correct results only when it is known in advance that `op2` divides `op1`.

Since `mpz_divexact` is much faster than any of the other routines that produce the quotient (see [References], page 36, Jebelean), it is the best choice for instances in which exact division is known to occur, such as reducing a rational to lowest terms.

`void mpz_tdiv_q_2exp (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $op1/2^{op2}$. The quotient is rounded towards 0.

`void mpz_tdiv_r_2exp (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Divide *op1* by 2^{op2} and put the remainder in *rop*. Unless it is zero, *rop* will have the same sign as *op1*.

`void mpz_fdiv_q_2exp (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $\lfloor op1/2^{op2} \rfloor$. The quotient is rounded towards $-\infty$.

`void mpz_fdiv_r_2exp (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Divide *op1* by 2^{op2} and put the remainder in *rop*. The sign of *rop* will always be positive.

This operation can also be defined as masking of the *op2* least significant bits.

5.3.2 Exponentialization Functions

`void mpz_powm (mpz_t rop, mpz_t base, mpz_t exp, mpz_t mod)` [Function]

`void mpz_powm_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t base, unsigned long int exp, mpz_t mod)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $(base \text{ raised to } exp) \bmod mod$. If *exp* is negative, the result is undefined.

`void mpz_pow_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t base, unsigned long int exp)` [Function]

`void mpz_ui_pow_ui (mpz_t rop, unsigned long int base, unsigned long int exp)` [Function]

Set *rop* to *base* raised to *exp*. The case of 0^0 yields 1.

5.3.3 Square Root Functions

`void mpz_sqrt (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Set *rop* to $\lfloor \sqrt{op} \rfloor$, the truncated integer part of the square root of *op*.

`void mpz_sqrtrem (mpz_t rop1, mpz_t rop2, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Set *rop1* to $\lfloor \sqrt{op} \rfloor$, like `mpz_sqrt`. Set *rop2* to $(op - rop1^2)$, (i.e., zero if *op* is a perfect square).

If *rop1* and *rop2* are the same variable, the results are undefined.

`int mpz_perfect_square_p (mpz_t op)` [Function]

Return non-zero if *op* is a perfect square, i.e., if the square root of *op* is an integer. Return zero otherwise.

5.3.4 Number Theoretic Functions

`int mpz_probab_prime_p (mpz_t op, int reps)` [Function]

If this function returns 0, *op* is definitely not prime. If it returns 1, then *op* is ‘probably’ prime. The probability of a false positive is $(1/4)^{reps}$. A reasonable value of *reps* is 25.

An implementation of the probabilistic primality test found in *Seminumerical Algorithms* (see [References], page 36, Knuth).

`void mpz_gcd (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

Set *rop* to the greatest common divisor of *op1* and *op2*.

`unsigned long int mpz_gcd_ui (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

Compute the greatest common divisor of *op1* and *op2*. If *rop* is not NULL, store the result there.

If the result is small enough to fit in an `unsigned long int`, it is returned. If the result does not fit, 0 is returned, and the result is equal to the argument *op1*. Note that the result will always fit if *op2* is non-zero.

`void mpz_gcdext (mpz_t g, mpz_t s, mpz_t t, mpz_t a, mpz_t b)` [Function]

Compute *g*, *s*, and *t*, such that $as + bt = g = \gcd(a, b)$. If *t* is NULL, that argument is not computed.

`int mpz_invert (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

Compute the inverse of *op1* modulo *op2* and put the result in *rop*. Return non-zero if an inverse exist, zero otherwise. When the function returns zero, do not assume anything about the value in *rop*.

`int mpz_jacobi (mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

`int mpz_legendre (mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

Compute the Jacobi and Legendre symbols, respectively.

5.4 Comparison Functions

`int mpz_cmp (mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

Compare *op1* and *op2*. Return a positive value if $op1 > op2$, zero if $op1 = op2$, and a negative value if $op1 < op2$.

`int mpz_cmp_ui (mpz_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Macro]

`int mpz_cmp_si (mpz_t op1, signed long int op2)` [Macro]

Compare *op1* and *op2*. Return a positive value if $op1 > op2$, zero if $op1 = op2$, and a negative value if $op1 < op2$.

These functions are actually implemented as macros. They evaluate their arguments multiple times.

`int mpz_sgn (mpz_t op)` [Macro]

Return +1 if $op > 0$, 0 if $op = 0$, and -1 if $op < 0$.

This function is actually implemented as a macro. It evaluates its arguments multiple times.

5.5 Logical and Bit Manipulation Functions

These functions behave as if two's complement arithmetic were used (although sign-magnitude is used by the actual implementation).

`void mpz_and (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

Set *rop* to *op1* logical-and *op2*.

`void mpz_ior (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

Set *rop* to *op1* inclusive-or *op2*.

`void mpz_com (mpz_t rop, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Set *rop* to the one's complement of *op*.

`unsigned long int mpz_popcount (mpz_t op)` [Function]

For non-negative numbers, return the population count of *op*. For negative numbers, return the largest possible value (*MAX_ULONG*).

`unsigned long int mpz_hamdist (mpz_t op1, mpz_t op2)` [Function]

If *op1* and *op2* are both non-negative, return the hamming distance between the two operands. Otherwise, return the largest possible value (*MAX_ULONG*).

It is possible to extend this function to return a useful value when the operands are both negative, but the current implementation returns *MAX_ULONG* in this case. **Do not depend on this behavior, since it will change in future versions of the library.**

`unsigned long int mpz_scan0 (mpz_t op, unsigned long int starting_bit)` [Function]

Scan *op*, starting with bit *starting_bit*, towards more significant bits, until the first clear bit is found. Return the index of the found bit.

`unsigned long int mpz_scan1 (mpz_t op, unsigned long int starting_bit)` [Function]

Scan *op*, starting with bit *starting_bit*, towards more significant bits, until the first set bit is found. Return the index of the found bit.

`void mpz_setbit (mpz_t rop, unsigned long int bit_index)` [Function]

Set bit *bit_index* in *op1*.

`void mpz_clrbit (mpz_t rop, unsigned long int bit_index)` [Function]

Clear bit *bit_index* in *op1*.

5.6 Input and Output Functions

Functions that perform input from a stdio stream, and functions that output to a stdio stream. Passing a NULL pointer for a *stream* argument to any of these functions will make them read from *stdin* and write to *stdout*, respectively.

When using any of these functions, it is a good idea to include *stdio.h* before *gmp.h*, since that will allow *gmp.h* to define prototypes for these functions.

`size_t mpz_out_str (FILE *stream, int base, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Output *op* on stdio stream *stream*, as a string of digits in base *base*. The base may vary from 2 to 36.

Return the number of bytes written, or if an error occurred, return 0.

`size_t mpz_inp_str (mpz_t rop, FILE *stream, int base)` [Function]

Input a possibly white-space preceded string in base *base* from stdio stream *stream*, and put the read integer in *rop*. The base may vary from 2 to 36. If *base* is 0, the actual base is determined from the leading characters: if the first two characters are '0x' or '0X', hexadecimal is assumed, otherwise if the first character is '0', octal is assumed, otherwise decimal is assumed.

Return the number of bytes read, or if an error occurred, return 0.

`size_t mpz_out_raw (FILE *stream, mpz_t op)` [Function]

Output *op* on stdio stream *stream*, in raw binary format. The integer is written in a portable format, with 4 bytes of size information, and that many bytes of limbs. Both the size and the limbs are written in decreasing significance order (i.e., in big-endian).

The output can be read with `mpz_inp_raw`.

Return the number of bytes written, or if an error occurred, return 0.

The output of this can not be read by `mpz_inp_raw` from GMP 1, because of changes necessary for compatibility between 32-bit and 64-bit machines.

`size_t mpz_inp_raw (mpz_t rop, FILE *stream)` [Function]

Input from stdio stream *stream* in the format written by `mpz_out_raw`, and put the result in *rop*. Return the number of bytes read, or if an error occurred, return 0.

This routine can read the output from `mpz_out_raw` also from GMP 1, in spite of changes necessary for compatibility between 32-bit and 64-bit machines.

5.7 Miscellaneous Functions

`void mpz_random (mpz_t rop, mp_size_t max_size)` [Function]

Generate a random integer of at most *max_size* limbs. The generated random number doesn't satisfy any particular requirements of randomness. Negative random numbers are generated when *max_size* is negative.

`void mpz_random2 (mpz_t rop, mp_size_t max_size)` [Function]

Generate a random integer of at most *max_size* limbs, with long strings of zeros and ones in the binary representation. Useful for testing functions and algorithms, since this kind of random numbers have proven to be more likely to trigger corner-case bugs. Negative random numbers are generated when *max_size* is negative.

`size_t mpz_size (mpz_t op)` [Function]

Return the size of *op* measured in number of limbs. If *op* is zero, the returned value will be zero.

This function is obsolete. It will disappear from future MP releases.

`size_t mpz_sizeinbase (mpz_t op, int base)` [Function]

Return the size of *op* measured in number of digits in base *base*. The base may vary from 2 to 36. The returned value will be exact or 1 too big. If *base* is a power of 2, the returned value will always be exact.

This function is useful in order to allocate the right amount of space before converting *op* to a string. The right amount of allocation is normally two more than the value returned by `mpz_sizeinbase` (one extra for a minus sign and one for the terminating '\0').

6 Rational Number Functions

This chapter describes the MP functions for performing arithmetic on rational numbers. These functions start with the prefix `mpq_`.

Rational numbers are stored in objects of type `mpq_t`.

All rational arithmetic functions assume operands have a canonical form, and canonicalize their result. The canonical form means that the denominator and the numerator have no common factors, and that the denominator is positive. Zero has the unique representation 0/1.

Pure assignment functions do not canonicalize the assigned variable. It is the responsibility of the user to canonicalize the assigned variable before any arithmetic operations are performed on that variable. **Note that this is an incompatible change from version 1 of the library.**

`void mpq_canonicalize (mpq_t op)` [Function]
Remove any factors that are common to the numerator and denominator of *op*, and make the denominator positive.

6.1 Initialization and Assignment Functions

`void mpq_init (mpq_t dest_rational)` [Function]
Initialize *dest_rational* and set it to 0/1. Each variable should normally only be initialized once, or at least cleared out (using the function `mpq_clear`) between each initialization.

`void mpq_clear (mpq_t rational_number)` [Function]
Free the space occupied by *rational_number*. Make sure to call this function for all `mpq_t` variables when you are done with them.

`void mpq_set (mpq_t rop, mpq_t op)` [Function]
`void mpq_set_z (mpq_t rop, mpz_t op)` [Function]
Assign *rop* from *op*.

`void mpq_set_ui (mpq_t rop, unsigned long int op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]

`void mpq_set_si (mpq_t rop, signed long int op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
Set the value of *rop* to *op1/op2*. Note that if *op1* and *op2* have common factors, *rop* has to be passed to `mpq_canonicalize` before any operations are performed on *rop*.

6.2 Arithmetic Functions

`void mpq_add (mpq_t sum, mpq_t addend1, mpq_t addend2)` [Function]
Set *sum* to *addend1* + *addend2*.

`void mpq_sub (mpq_t difference, mpq_t minuend, mpq_t subtrahend)` [Function]
Set *difference* to *minuend* – *subtrahend*.

`void mpq_mul (mpq_t product, mpq_t multiplier, mpq_t multiplicand)` [Function]
Set *product* to *multiplier* × *multiplicand*.

`void mpq_div (mpq_t quotient, mpq_t dividend, mpq_t divisor)` [Function]
Set *quotient* to *dividend/divisor*.

`void mpq_neg (mpq_t negated_operand, mpq_t operand)` [Function]
 Set *negated_operand* to $-operand$.

`void mpq_inv (mpq_t inverted_number, mpq_t number)` [Function]
 Set *inverted_number* to $1/number$. If the new denominator is zero, this routine will divide by zero.

6.3 Comparison Functions

`int mpq_cmp (mpq_t op1, mpq_t op2)` [Function]
 Compare *op1* and *op2*. Return a positive value if $op1 > op2$, zero if $op1 = op2$, and a negative value if $op1 < op2$.

To determine if two rationals are equal, `mpq_equal` is faster than `mpq_cmp`.

`int mpq_cmp_ui (mpq_t op1, unsigned long int num2, unsigned long int den2)` [Macro]
 Compare *op1* and $num2/den2$. Return a positive value if $op1 > num2/den2$, zero if $op1 = num2/den2$, and a negative value if $op1 < num2/den2$.

This routine allows that *num2* and *den2* have common factors.

This function is actually implemented as a macro. It evaluates its arguments multiple times.

`int mpq_sgn (mpq_t op)` [Macro]
 Return +1 if $op > 0$, 0 if $op = 0$, and -1 if $op < 0$.

This function is actually implemented as a macro. It evaluates its arguments multiple times.

`int mpq_equal (mpq_t op1, mpq_t op2)` [Function]
 Return non-zero if *op1* and *op2* are equal, zero if they are non-equal. Although `mpq_cmp` can be used for the same purpose, this function is much faster.

6.4 Applying Integer Functions to Rationals

The set of `mpq` functions is quite small. In particular, there are no functions for either input or output. But there are two macros that allow us to apply any `mpz` function on the numerator or denominator of a rational number. If these macros are used to assign to the rational number, `mpq_canonicalize` normally need to be called afterwards.

`mpz_t mpq_numref (mpq_t op)` [Macro]
`mpz_t mpq_denref (mpq_t op)` [Macro]

Return a reference to the numerator and denominator of *op*, respectively. The `mpz` functions can be used on the result of these macros.

6.5 Miscellaneous Functions

`double mpq_get_d (mpq_t op)` [Function]
 Convert *op* to a double.

These functions assign between either the numerator or denominator of a rational, and an integer. Instead of using these functions, it is preferable to use the more general mechanisms `mpq_numref` and `mpq_denref`, together with `mpz_set`.

`void mpq_set_num (mpq_t rational, mpz_t numerator)` [Function]
 Copy *numerator* to the numerator of *rational*. When this risks to make the numerator and denominator of *rational* have common factors, you have to pass *rational* to `mpq_canonicalize` before any operations are performed on *rational*.

This function is equivalent to `mpz_set (mpq_numref (rational), numerator)`.

`void mpq_set_den (mpq_t rational, mpz_t denominator)` [Function]
 Copy *denominator* to the denominator of *rational*. When this risks to make the numerator and denominator of *rational* have common factors, or if the denominator might be negative, you have to pass *rational* to `mpq_canonicalize` before any operations are performed on *rational*.

In version 1 of the library, negative denominators were handled by copying the sign to the numerator. That is no longer done.

This function is equivalent to `mpz_set (mpq_denref (rational), denominators)`.

`void mpq_get_num (mpz_t numerator, mpq_t rational)` [Function]
 Copy the numerator of *rational* to the integer *numerator*, to prepare for integer operations on the numerator.

This function is equivalent to `mpz_set (numerator, mpq_numref (rational))`.

`void mpq_get_den (mpz_t denominator, mpq_t rational)` [Function]
 Copy the denominator of *rational* to the integer *denominator*, to prepare for integer operations on the denominator.

This function is equivalent to `mpz_set (denominator, mpq_denref (rational))`.

7 Floating-point Functions

This is a description of the *preliminary* interface for floating-point arithmetic in GNU MP 2.

The floating-point functions expect arguments of type `mpf_t`.

The MP floating-point functions have an interface that is similar to the MP integer functions. The function prefix for floating-point operations is `mpf_`.

There is one significant characteristic of floating-point numbers that has motivated a difference between this function class and other MP function classes: the inherent inexactness of floating point arithmetic. The user has to specify the precision of each variable. A computation that assigns a variable will take place with the precision of the assigned variable; the precision of variables used as input is ignored.

The precision of a calculation is defined as follows: Compute the requested operation exactly (with “infinite precision”), and truncate the result to the destination variable precision. Even if the user has asked for a very high precision, MP will not calculate with superfluous digits. For example, if two low-precision numbers of nearly equal magnitude are added, the precision of the result will be limited to what is required to represent the result accurately.

The MP floating-point functions are *not* intended as a smooth extension to the IEEE P754 arithmetic. Specifically, the results obtained on one computer often differs from the results obtained on a computer with a different word size.

7.1 Initialization and Assignment Functions

`void mpf_set_default_prec (unsigned long int prec)` [Function]
 Set the default precision to be **at least** *prec* bits. All subsequent calls to `mpf_init` will use this precision, but previously initialized variables are unaffected.

An `mpf_t` object must be initialized before storing the first value in it. The functions `mpf_init` and `mpf_init2` are used for that purpose.

`void mpf_init (mpf_t x)` [Function]
 Initialize *x* to 0. Normally, a variable should be initialized once only or at least be cleared, using `mpf_clear`, between initializations. The precision of *x* is undefined unless a default precision has already been established by a call to `mpf_set_default_prec`.

`void mpf_init2 (mpf_t x, unsigned long int prec)` [Function]
 Initialize *x* to 0 and set its precision to be **at least** *prec* bits. Normally, a variable should be initialized once only or at least be cleared, using `mpf_clear`, between initializations.

`void mpf_clear (mpf_t x)` [Function]
 Free the space occupied by *x*. Make sure to call this function for all `mpf_t` variables when you are done with them.

Here is an example on how to initialize floating-point variables:

```
{
  mpf_t x, y;
  mpf_init (x); /* use default precision */
  mpf_init2 (y, 256); /* precision at least 256 bits */
  ...
  /* Unless the program is about to exit, do ... */
  mpf_clear (x);
  mpf_clear (y);
}
```

The following three functions are useful for changing the precision during a calculation. A typical use would be for adjusting the precision gradually in iterative algorithms like Newton-Raphson, making the computation precision closely match the actual accurate part of the numbers.

`void mpf_set_prec (mpf_t rop, unsigned long int prec)` [Function]
Set the precision of *rop* to be **at least** *prec* bits. Since changing the precision involves calls to `realloc`, this routine should not be called in a tight loop.

`unsigned long int mpf_get_prec (mpf_t op)` [Function]
Return the precision actually used for assignments of *op*.

`void mpf_set_prec_raw (mpf_t rop, unsigned long int prec)` [Function]
Set the precision of *rop* to be **at least** *prec* bits. This is a low-level function that does not change the allocation. The *prec* argument must not be larger than the precision previously returned by `mpf_get_prec`. It is crucial that the precision of *rop* is ultimately reset to exactly the value returned by `mpf_get_prec`.

7.1.1 Assignment Functions

These functions assign new values to already initialized floats (see Section 7.1 [Initializing Floats], page 21).

`void mpf_set (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op)` [Function]
`void mpf_set_ui (mpf_t rop, unsigned long int op)` [Function]
`void mpf_set_si (mpf_t rop, signed long int op)` [Function]
`void mpf_set_d (mpf_t rop, double op)` [Function]
`void mpf_set_z (mpf_t rop, mpz_t op)` [Function]
`void mpf_set_q (mpf_t rop, mpq_t op)` [Function]
Set the value of *rop* from *op*.

`int mpf_set_str (mpf_t rop, char *str, int base)` [Function]
Set the value of *rop* from the string in *str*. The string is of the form ‘M@N’ or, if the base is 10 or less, alternatively ‘MeN’. ‘M’ is the mantissa and ‘N’ is the exponent. The mantissa is always in the specified base. The exponent is either in the specified base or, if *base* is negative, in decimal.

The argument *base* may be in the ranges 2 to 36, or -36 to -2 . Negative values are used to specify that the exponent is in decimal.

Unlike the corresponding `mpz` function, the base will not be determined from the leading characters of the string if *base* is 0. This is so that numbers like ‘0.23’ are not interpreted as octal.

White space is allowed in the string, and is simply ignored.

This function returns 0 if the entire string up to the '\0' is a valid number in base *base*. Otherwise it returns -1.

7.1.2 Combined Initialization and Assignment Functions

For convenience, MP provides a parallel series of initialize-and-set functions which initialize the output and then store the value there. These functions' names have the form `mpf_init_set...`

Once the float has been initialized by any of the `mpf_init_set...` functions, it can be used as the source or destination operand for the ordinary float functions. Don't use an initialize-and-set function on a variable already initialized!

```
void mpf_init_set (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op) [Function]
void mpf_init_set_ui (mpf_t rop, unsigned long int op) [Function]
void mpf_init_set_si (mpf_t rop, signed long int op) [Function]
void mpf_init_set_d (mpf_t rop, double op) [Function]
```

Initialize *rop* and set its value from *op*.

The precision of *rop* will be taken from the active default precision, as set by `mpf_set_default_prec`.

```
int mpf_init_set_str (mpf_t rop, char *str, int base) [Function]
```

Initialize *rop* and set its value from the string in *str*. See `mpf_set_str` above for details on the assignment operation.

Note that *rop* is initialized even if an error occurs. (I.e., you have to call `mpf_clear` for it.)

The precision of *rop* will be taken from the active default precision, as set by `mpf_set_default_prec`.

7.2 Conversion Functions

```
double mpf_get_d (mpf_t op) [Function]
```

Convert *op* to a double.

```
char * mpf_get_str (char *str, mp_exp_t *exp_ptr, int base, size_t n_digits, mpf_t op) [Function]
```

Convert *op* to a string of digits in base *base*. The base may vary from 2 to 36. Generate at most *n_digits* significant digits, or if *n_digits* is 0, the maximum number of digits accurately representable by *op*.

If *str* is NULL, space for the mantissa is allocated using the default allocation function, and a pointer to the string is returned.

If *str* is not NULL, it should point to a block of storage enough large for the mantissa, i.e., *n_digits* + 2. The two extra bytes are for a possible minus sign, and for the terminating null character.

The exponent is written through the pointer *exp_ptr*.

If *n_digits* is 0, the maximum number of digits meaningfully achievable from the precision of *op* will be generated. Note that the space requirements for *str* in this case will be impossible for the user to predetermine. Therefore, you need to pass NULL for the string argument whenever *n_digits* is 0.

The generated string is a fraction, with an implicit radix point immediately to the left of the first digit. For example, the number 3.1416 would be returned as "31416" in the string and 1 written at *exp_ptr*.

7.3 Arithmetic Functions

`void mpf_add (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
`void mpf_add_ui (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $op1 + op2$.

`void mpf_sub (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
`void mpf_ui_sub (mpf_t rop, unsigned long int op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
`void mpf_sub_ui (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $op1 - op2$.

`void mpf_mul (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
`void mpf_mul_ui (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $op1 \times op2$.

Division is undefined if the divisor is zero, and passing a zero divisor to the divide functions will make these functions intentionally divide by zero. This gives the user the possibility to handle arithmetic exceptions in these functions in the same manner as other arithmetic exceptions.

`void mpf_div (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
`void mpf_ui_div (mpf_t rop, unsigned long int op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
`void mpf_div_ui (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $op1/op2$.

`void mpf_sqrt (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op)` [Function]
`void mpf_sqrt_ui (mpf_t rop, unsigned long int op)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to \sqrt{op} .

`void mpf_neg (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $-op$.

`void mpf_abs (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to the absolute value of *op*.

`void mpf_mul_2exp (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $op1 \times 2^{op2}$.

`void mpf_div_2exp (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
 Set *rop* to $op1/2^{op2}$.

7.4 Comparison Functions

`int mpf_cmp (mpf_t op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
`int mpf_cmp_ui (mpf_t op1, unsigned long int op2)` [Function]
`int mpf_cmp_si (mpf_t op1, signed long int op2)` [Function]
 Compare *op1* and *op2*. Return a positive value if $op1 > op2$, zero if $op1 = op2$, and a negative value if $op1 < op2$.

`int mpf_eq (mpf_t op1, mpf_t op2, unsigned long int op3)` [Function]
 Return non-zero if the first *op3* bits of *op1* and *op2* are equal, zero otherwise. I.e., test of *op1* and *op2* are approximately equal.

`void mpf_reldiff (mpf_t rop, mpf_t op1, mpf_t op2)` [Function]
 Compute the relative difference between *op1* and *op2* and store the result in *rop*.

`int mpf_sgn (mpf_t op)` [Macro]
 Return +1 if *op* > 0, 0 if *op* = 0, and -1 if *op* < 0.

This function is actually implemented as a macro. It evaluates its arguments multiple times.

7.5 Input and Output Functions

Functions that perform input from a stdio stream, and functions that output to a stdio stream. Passing a NULL pointer for a *stream* argument to any of these functions will make them read from `stdin` and write to `stdout`, respectively.

When using any of these functions, it is a good idea to include `stdio.h` before `gmp.h`, since that will allow `gmp.h` to define prototypes for these functions.

`size_t mpf_out_str (FILE *stream, int base, size_t n_digits, mpf_t op)` [Function]
 Output *op* on stdio stream *stream*, as a string of digits in base *base*. The base may vary from 2 to 36. Print at most *n_digits* significant digits, or if *n_digits* is 0, the maximum number of digits accurately representable by *op*.

In addition to the significant digits, a leading ‘0.’ and a trailing exponent, in the form ‘eNNN’, are printed. If *base* is greater than 10, ‘@’ will be used instead of ‘e’ as exponent delimiter.

Return the number of bytes written, or if an error occurred, return 0.

`size_t mpf_inp_str (mpf_t rop, FILE *stream, int base)` [Function]
 Input a string in base *base* from stdio stream *stream*, and put the read float in *rop*. The string is of the form ‘M@N’ or, if the base is 10 or less, alternatively ‘MeN’. ‘M’ is the mantissa and ‘N’ is the exponent. The mantissa is always in the specified base. The exponent is either in the specified base or, if *base* is negative, in decimal.

The argument *base* may be in the ranges 2 to 36, or -36 to -2. Negative values are used to specify that the exponent is in decimal.

Unlike the corresponding `mpz` function, the base will not be determined from the leading characters of the string if *base* is 0. This is so that numbers like ‘0.23’ are not interpreted as octal.

Return the number of bytes read, or if an error occurred, return 0.

7.6 Miscellaneous Functions

`void mpf_random2 (mpf_t rop, mp_size_t max_size, mp_exp_t max_exp)` [Function]
 Generate a random float of at most *max_size* limbs, with long strings of zeros and ones in the binary representation. The exponent of the number is in the interval $-exp$ to exp . This function is useful for testing functions and algorithms, since this kind of random numbers have proven to be more likely to trigger corner-case bugs. Negative random numbers are generated when *max_size* is negative.

8 Low-level Functions

This chapter describes low-level MP functions, used to implement the high-level MP functions, but also intended for time-critical user code.

These functions start with the prefix `mpn_`.

The `mpn` functions are designed to be as fast as possible, **not** to provide a coherent calling interface. The different functions have somewhat similar interfaces, but there are variations that make them hard to use. These functions do as little as possible apart from the real multiple precision computation, so that no time is spent on things that not all callers need.

A source operand is specified by a pointer to the least significant limb and a limb count. A destination operand is specified by just a pointer. It is the responsibility of the caller to ensure that the destination has enough space for storing the result.

With this way of specifying operands, it is possible to perform computations on subranges of an argument, and store the result into a subrange of a destination.

A common requirement for all functions is that each source area needs at least one limb. No size argument may be zero.

The `mpn` functions is the base for the implementation of the `mpz_`, `mpf_`, and `mpq_` functions.

This example adds the number beginning at `src1_ptr` and the number beginning at `src2_ptr` and writes the sum at `dest_ptr`. All areas have `size` limbs.

```
cy = mpn_add_n (dest_ptr, src1_ptr, src2_ptr, size)
```

In the notation used here, a source operand is identified by the pointer to the least significant limb, and the limb count in braces. For example, `{s1_ptr, s1_size}`.

```
mp_limb_t mpn_add_n (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t *      [Function]
                    src1_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t size)
```

Add `{src1_ptr, size}` and `{src2_ptr, size}`, and write the `size` least significant limbs of the result to `dest_ptr`. Return carry, either 0 or 1.

This is the lowest-level function for addition. It is the preferred function for addition, since it is written in assembly for most targets. For addition of a variable to itself (i.e., `src1_ptr` equals `src2_ptr`), use `mpn_lshift` with a count of 1 for optimal speed.

```
mp_limb_t mpn_add_1 (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t *      [Function]
                    src1_ptr, mp_size_t size, mp_limb_t src2_limb)
```

Add `{src1_ptr, size}` and `src2_limb`, and write the `size` least significant limbs of the result to `dest_ptr`. Return carry, either 0 or 1.

```
mp_limb_t mpn_add (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t *      [Function]
                  src1_ptr, mp_size_t src1_size, const mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t
                  src2_size)
```

Add `{src1_ptr, src1_size}` and `{src2_ptr, src2_size}`, and write the `src1_size` least significant limbs of the result to `dest_ptr`. Return carry, either 0 or 1.

This function requires that `src1_size` is greater than or equal to `src2_size`.

`mp_limb_t mpn_sub_n (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t size)` [Function]

Subtract $\{src2_ptr, src2_size\}$ from $\{src1_ptr, size\}$, and write the *size* least significant limbs of the result to *dest_ptr*. Return borrow, either 0 or 1.

This is the lowest-level function for subtraction. It is the preferred function for subtraction, since it is written in assembly for most targets.

`mp_limb_t mpn_sub_1 (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t size, mp_limb_t src2_limb)` [Function]

Subtract *src2_limb* from $\{src1_ptr, size\}$, and write the *size* least significant limbs of the result to *dest_ptr*. Return borrow, either 0 or 1.

`mp_limb_t mpn_sub (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t src1_size, const mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t src2_size)` [Function]

Subtract $\{src2_ptr, src2_size\}$ from $\{src1_ptr, src1_size\}$, and write the *src1_size* least significant limbs of the result to *dest_ptr*. Return borrow, either 0 or 1.

This function requires that *src1_size* is greater than or equal to *src2_size*.

`void mpn_mul_n (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t size)` [Function]

Multiply $\{src1_ptr, size\}$ and $\{src2_ptr, size\}$, and write the **entire** result to *dest_ptr*.

The destination has to have space for $2size$ limbs, even if the significant result might be one limb smaller.

`mp_limb_t mpn_mul_1 (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t size, mp_limb_t src2_limb)` [Function]

Multiply $\{src1_ptr, size\}$ and *src2_limb*, and write the *size* least significant limbs of the product to *dest_ptr*. Return the most significant limb of the product.

This is a low-level function that is a building block for general multiplication as well as other operations in MP. It is written in assembly for most targets.

Don't call this function if *src2_limb* is a power of 2; use `mpn_lshift` with a count equal to the logarithm of *src2_limb* instead, for optimal speed.

`mp_limb_t mpn_addmul_1 (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t size, mp_limb_t src2_limb)` [Function]

Multiply $\{src1_ptr, size\}$ and *src2_limb*, and add the *size* least significant limbs of the product to $\{dest_ptr, size\}$ and write the result to *dest_ptr*. Return the most significant limb of the product, plus carry-out from the addition.

This is a low-level function that is a building block for general multiplication as well as other operations in MP. It is written in assembly for most targets.

`mp_limb_t mpn_submul_1 (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t size, mp_limb_t src2_limb)` [Function]

Multiply $\{src1_ptr, size\}$ and *src2_limb*, and subtract the *size* least significant limbs of the product from $\{dest_ptr, size\}$ and write the result to *dest_ptr*. Return the most significant limb of the product, minus borrow-out from the subtraction.

This is a low-level function that is a building block for general multiplication and division as well as other operations in MP. It is written in assembly for most targets.

`mp_limb_t mpn_mul (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t src1_size, const mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t src2_size)` [Function]

Multiply $\{src1_ptr, src1_size\}$ and $\{src2_ptr, src2_size\}$, and write the result to *dest_ptr*. Return the most significant limb of the result.

The destination has to have space for $src1_size + src2_size$ limbs, even if the result might be one limb smaller.

This function requires that *src1_size* is greater than or equal to *src2_size*. The destination must be distinct from either input operands.

`mp_size_t mpn_divrem (mp_limb_t * r1p, mp_size_t xsize, mp_limb_t * rs2p, mp_size_t rs2size, const mp_limb_t * s3p, mp_size_t s3size)` [Function]

Divide $\{rs2p, rs2size\}$ by $\{s3p, s3size\}$, and write the quotient at *r1p*, with the exception of the most significant limb, which is returned. The remainder replaces the dividend at *rs2p*.

In addition to an integer quotient, *xsize* fraction limbs are developed, and stored after the integral limbs. For most usages, *xsize* will be zero.

It is required that *rs2size* is greater than or equal to *s3size*. It is required that the most significant bit of the divisor is set.

If the quotient is not needed, pass $rs2p + s3size$ as *r1p*. Aside from that special case, no overlap between arguments is permitted.

Return the most significant limb of the quotient, either 0 or 1.

The area at *r1p* needs to be $rs2size - s3size + xsize$ limbs large.

`mp_limb_t mpn_divrem_1 (mp_limb_t * r1p, mp_size_t xsize, mp_limb_t * s2p, mp_size_t s2size, mp_limb_t s3limb)` [Function]

Divide $\{s2p, s2size\}$ by *s3limb*, and write the quotient at *r1p*. Return the remainder.

In addition to an integer quotient, *xsize* fraction limbs are developed, and stored after the integral limbs. For most usages, *xsize* will be zero.

The areas at *r1p* and *s2p* have to be identical or completely separate, not partially overlapping.

`mp_size_t mpn_divmod (mp_limb_t * r1p, mp_limb_t * rs2p, mp_size_t rs2size, const mp_limb_t * s3p, mp_size_t s3size)` [Function]

This interface is obsolete. It will disappear from future releases. Use `mpn_divrem` in its stead.

`mp_limb_t mpn_divmod_1 (mp_limb_t * r1p, mp_limb_t * s2p, mp_size_t s2size, mp_limb_t s3limb)` [Function]

This interface is obsolete. It will disappear from future releases. Use `mpn_divrem_1` in its stead.

`mp_limb_t mpn_mod_1 (mp_limb_t * s1p, mp_size_t s1size, mp_limb_t s2limb)` [Function]

Divide $\{s1p, s1size\}$ by *s2limb*, and return the remainder.

`mp_limb_t mpn_preinv_mod_1 (mp_limb_t * s1p, mp_size_t s1size, mp_limb_t s2limb, mp_limb_t s3limb)` [Function]

This interface is obsolete. It will disappear from future releases. Use `mpn_mod_1` in its stead.

`mp_limb_t mpn_bdivmod (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, mp_limb_t * s1p, mp_size_t s1size, const mp_limb_t * s2p, mp_size_t s2size, unsigned long int d)` [Function]

The function puts the low $[d/BITS_PER_MP_LIMB]$ limbs of $q = \{s1p, s1size\}/\{s2p, s2size\} \bmod 2^d$ at `dest_ptr`, and returns the high $d \bmod BITS_PER_MP_LIMB$ bits of q .

$\{s1p, s1size\} - q * \{s2p, s2size\} \bmod 2^{(s1size * BITS_PER_MP_LIMB)}$ is placed at `s1p`. Since the low $[d/BITS_PER_MP_LIMB]$ limbs of this difference are zero, it is possible to overwrite the low limbs at `s1p` with this difference, provided `dest_ptr <= s1p`.

This function requires that $s1size * BITS_PER_MP_LIMB \geq D$, and that $\{s2p, s2size\}$ is odd.

This interface is preliminary. It might change incompatibly in future revisions.

`mp_limb_t mpn_lshift (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src_ptr, mp_size_t src_size, unsigned long int count)` [Function]

Shift $\{src_ptr, src_size\}$ `count` bits to the left, and write the `src_size` least significant limbs of the result to `dest_ptr`. `count` might be in the range 1 to $n - 1$, on an n -bit machine. The bits shifted out to the left are returned.

Overlapping of the destination space and the source space is allowed in this function, provided `dest_ptr >= src_ptr`.

This function is written in assembly for most targets.

`mp_limb_t mpn_rshift (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src_ptr, mp_size_t src_size, unsigned long int count)` [Function]

Shift $\{src_ptr, src_size\}$ `count` bits to the right, and write the `src_size` most significant limbs of the result to `dest_ptr`. `count` might be in the range 1 to $n - 1$, on an n -bit machine. The bits shifted out to the right are returned.

Overlapping of the destination space and the source space is allowed in this function, provided `dest_ptr <= src_ptr`.

This function is written in assembly for most targets.

`int mpn_cmp (const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, const mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t size)` [Function]

Compare $\{src1_ptr, size\}$ and $\{src2_ptr, size\}$ and return a positive value if $src1 > src2$, 0 if they are equal, and a negative value if $src1 < src2$.

`mp_size_t mpn_gcd (mp_limb_t * dest_ptr, mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t src1_size, mp_limb_t * src2_ptr, mp_size_t src2_size)` [Function]

Puts at `dest_ptr` the greatest common divisor of $\{src1_ptr, src1_size\}$ and $\{src2_ptr, src2_size\}$; both source operands are destroyed by the operation. The size in limbs of the greatest common divisor is returned.

$\{src1_ptr, src1_size\}$ must be odd, and $\{src2_ptr, src2_size\}$ must have at least as many bits as $\{src1_ptr, src1_size\}$.

This interface is preliminary. It might change incompatibly in future revisions.

`mp_limb_t mpn_gcd_1 (const mp_limb_t * src1_ptr, mp_size_t src1_size, mp_limb_t src2_limb)` [Function]

Return the greatest common divisor of $\{src1_ptr, src1_size\}$ and $src2_limb$, where $src2_limb$ (as well as $src1_size$) must be different from 0.

`mp_size_t mpn_gcdext (mp_limb_t * r1p, mp_limb_t * r2p, mp_limb_t * s1p, mp_size_t s1size, mp_limb_t * s2p, mp_size_t s2size)` [Function]

Puts at $r1p$ the greatest common divisor of $\{s1p, s1size\}$ and $\{s2p, s2size\}$. The first cofactor is written at $r2p$. Both source operands are destroyed by the operation. The size in limbs of the greatest common divisor is returned.

This interface is preliminary. It might change incompatibly in future revisions.

`mp_size_t mpn_sqrtrem (mp_limb_t * r1p, mp_limb_t * r2p, const mp_limb_t * sp, mp_size_t size)` [Function]

Compute the square root of $\{sp, size\}$ and put the result at $r1p$. Write the remainder at $r2p$, unless $r2p$ is NULL.

Return the size of the remainder, whether $r2p$ was NULL or non-NULL. If the operand was a perfect square, the return value will be 0.

The areas at $r1p$ and sp have to be distinct. The areas at $r2p$ and sp have to be identical or completely separate, not partially overlapping.

The area at $r1p$ needs to have space for $\lceil size/2 \rceil$ limbs. The area at $r2p$ needs to be $size$ limbs large.

This interface is preliminary. It might change incompatibly in future revisions.

`mp_size_t mpn_get_str (unsigned char *str, int base, mp_limb_t * s1p, mp_size_t s1size)` [Function]

Convert $\{s1p, s1size\}$ to a raw unsigned char array in base $base$. The string is not in ASCII; to convert it to printable format, add the ASCII codes for '0' or 'A', depending on the base and range. There may be leading zeros in the string.

The area at $s1p$ is clobbered.

Return the number of characters in str .

The area at str has to have space for the largest possible number represented by a $s1size$ long limb array, plus one extra character.

`mp_size_t mpn_set_str (mp_limb_t * r1p, const char *str, size_t strsize, int base)` [Function]

Convert the raw unsigned char array at str of length $strsize$ to a limb array $\{s1p, s1size\}$. The base of str is $base$.

Return the number of limbs stored in $r1p$.

`unsigned long int mpn_scan0 (const mp_limb_t * s1p, unsigned long int bit)` [Function]

Scan $s1p$ from bit position bit for the next clear bit.

It is required that there be a clear bit within the area at $s1p$ at or beyond bit position bit , so that the function has something to return.

This interface is preliminary. It might change incompatibly in future revisions.

`unsigned long int mpn_scan1 (const mp_limb_t * s1p, unsigned long int bit)` [Function]

Scan *s1p* from bit position *bit* for the next set bit.

It is required that there be a set bit within the area at *s1p* at or beyond bit position *bit*, so that the function has something to return.

This interface is preliminary. It might change incompatibly in future revisions.

`void mpn_random2 (mp_limb_t * r1p, mp_size_t r1size)` [Function]

Generate a random number of length *r1size* with long strings of zeros and ones in the binary representation, and store it at *r1p*.

The generated random numbers are intended for testing the correctness of the implementation of the `mpn` routines.

`unsigned long int mpn_popcount (const mp_limb_t * s1p, unsigned long int size)` [Function]

Count the number of set bits in $\{s1p, size\}$.

`unsigned long int mpn_hamdist (const mp_limb_t * s1p, const mp_limb_t * s2p, unsigned long int size)` [Function]

Compute the hamming distance between $\{s1p, size\}$ and $\{s2p, size\}$.

`int mpn_perfect_square_p (const mp_limb_t * s1p, mp_size_t size)` [Function]

Return non-zero iff $\{s1p, size\}$ is a perfect square.

9 Berkeley MP Compatible Functions

These functions are intended to be fully compatible with the Berkeley MP library which is available on many BSD derived U*ix systems.

The original Berkeley MP library has a usage restriction: you cannot use the same variable as both source and destination in a single function call. The compatible functions in GNU MP do not share this restriction—inputs and outputs may overlap.

It is not recommended that new programs are written using these functions. Apart from the incomplete set of functions, the interface for initializing MINT objects is more error prone, and the `pow` function collides with `pow` in `libm.a`.

Include the header `mp.h` to get the definition of the necessary types and functions. If you are on a BSD derived system, make sure to include GNU `mp.h` if you are going to link the GNU `libmp.a` to your program. This means that you probably need to give the `-I<dir>` option to the compiler, where `<dir>` is the directory where you have GNU `mp.h`.

`MINT * itom (signed short int initial_value)` [Function]
 Allocate an integer consisting of a MINT object and dynamic limb space. Initialize the integer to *initial_value*. Return a pointer to the MINT object.

`MINT * xtom (char *initial_value)` [Function]
 Allocate an integer consisting of a MINT object and dynamic limb space. Initialize the integer from *initial_value*, a hexadecimal, '\0'-terminate C string. Return a pointer to the MINT object.

`void move (MINT *src, MINT *dest)` [Function]
 Set *dest* to *src* by copying. Both variables must be previously initialized.

`void madd (MINT *src_1, MINT *src_2, MINT *destination)` [Function]
 Add *src_1* and *src_2* and put the sum in *destination*.

`void msub (MINT *src_1, MINT *src_2, MINT *destination)` [Function]
 Subtract *src_2* from *src_1* and put the difference in *destination*.

`void mult (MINT *src_1, MINT *src_2, MINT *destination)` [Function]
 Multiply *src_1* and *src_2* and put the product in *destination*.

`void mdiv (MINT *dividend, MINT *divisor, MINT *quotient, MINT *remainder)` [Function]

`void sdiv (MINT *dividend, signed short int divisor, MINT *quotient, signed short int *remainder)` [Function]

Set *quotient* to *dividend/divisor*, and *remainder* to *dividend mod divisor*. The quotient is rounded towards zero; the remainder has the same sign as the dividend unless it is zero.

Some implementations of these functions work differently—or not at all—for negative arguments.

`void msqrt (MINT *operand, MINT *root, MINT *remainder)` [Function]
 Set *root* to $\lfloor \sqrt{\text{operand}} \rfloor$, like `mpz_sqrt`. Set *remainder* to $(\text{operand} - \text{root}^2)$, (i.e., zero if *operand* is a perfect square).

If *root* and *remainder* are the same variable, the results are undefined.

- `void pow (MINT *base, MINT *exp, MINT *mod, MINT *dest)` [Function]
Set *dest* to (*base* raised to *exp*) modulo *mod*.
- `void rpow (MINT *base, signed short int exp, MINT *dest)` [Function]
Set *dest* to *base* raised to *exp*.
- `void gcd (MINT *operand1, MINT *operand2, MINT *res)` [Function]
Set *res* to the greatest common divisor of *operand1* and *operand2*.
- `int mcmp (MINT *operand1, MINT *operand2)` [Function]
Compare *operand1* and *operand2*. Return a positive value if *operand1* > *operand2*, zero if *operand1* = *operand2*, and a negative value if *operand1* < *operand2*.
- `void min (MINT *dest)` [Function]
Input a decimal string from `stdin`, and put the read integer in *dest*. SPC and TAB are allowed in the number string, and are ignored.
- `void mout (MINT *src)` [Function]
Output *src* to `stdout`, as a decimal string. Also output a newline.
- `char * mtox (MINT *operand)` [Function]
Convert *operand* to a hexadecimal string, and return a pointer to the string. The returned string is allocated using the default memory allocation function, `malloc` by default.
- `void mfree (MINT *operand)` [Function]
De-allocate, the space used by *operand*. **This function should only be passed a value returned by `itom` or `xtom`.**

10 Custom Allocation

By default, the MP functions use `malloc`, `realloc`, and `free` for memory allocation. If `malloc` or `realloc` fails, the MP library terminates execution after printing a fatal error message to standard error.

For some applications, you may wish to allocate memory in other ways, or you may not want to have a fatal error when there is no more memory available. To accomplish this, you can specify alternative memory allocation functions.

```
void mp_set_memory_functions (                                [Function]
    void *(*alloc_func_ptr) (size_t),
    void *(*realloc_func_ptr) (void *, size_t, size_t),
    void *(*free_func_ptr) (void *, size_t))
```

Replace the current allocation functions from the arguments. If an argument is `NULL`, the corresponding default function is retained.

Make sure to call this function in such a way that there are no active MP objects that were allocated using the previously active allocation function! Usually, that means that you have to call this function before any other MP function.

The functions you supply should fit the following declarations:

```
void * allocate_function (size_t alloc_size)                [Function]
    This function should return a pointer to newly allocated space with at least alloc_size storage units.
```

```
void * realloc_function (void *ptr, size_t old_size, size_t
    new_size)                                                [Function]
    This function should return a pointer to newly allocated space of at least new_size storage units, after copying at least the first old_size storage units from ptr. It should also de-allocate the space at ptr.
```

You can assume that the space at *ptr* was formerly returned from `allocate_function` or `realloc_function`, for a request for *old_size* storage units.

```
void deallocate_function (void *ptr, size_t size)          [Function]
    De-allocate the space pointed to by ptr.
```

You can assume that the space at *ptr* was formerly returned from `allocate_function` or `realloc_function`, for a request for *size* storage units.

(A *storage unit* is the unit in which the `sizeof` operator returns the size of an object, normally an 8 bit byte.)

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Concept Index

A

Arithmetic functions 11, 24

B

Bit manipulation functions 15

BSD MP compatible functions 32

C

Comparison functions 24

Conditions for copying GNU MP 1

Conversion functions 11, 23

Copying conditions 1

F

Float arithmetic functions 24

Float assignment functions 22

Float comparisons functions 24

Float functions 21

Float input and output functions 25

Floating-point functions 21

Floating-point number 5

G

`gmp.h` 5

I

I/O functions 16, 25

Initialization and assignment functions 10, 23

Input functions 16, 25

Installation 3

Integer 5

Integer arithmetic functions 11

Integer assignment functions 10

Integer conversion functions 11

Integer functions 9

Integer input and output functions 16

L

Limb 5

Logical functions 15

Low-level functions 26

M

Miscellaneous float functions 25

Miscellaneous integer functions 17

`mp.h` 32

O

Output functions 16, 25

R

Rational number 5

Rational number functions 18

Reporting bugs 8

U

User-defined precision 21

Function and Type Index

-	
__GNU_MP_VERSION	6
__GNU_MP_VERSION_MINOR	6
_mpz_realloc	9
A	
allocate_function	34
D	
deallocate_function	34
G	
gcd	33
I	
itom	32
M	
madd	32
mcmp	33
mdiv	32
mfree	33
min	33
mout	33
move	32
mp_limb_t	5
mp_set_memory_functions	34
mpf_abs	24
mpf_add	24
mpf_add_ui	24
mpf_clear	21
mpf_cmp	24
mpf_cmp_si	24
mpf_cmp_ui	24
mpf_div	24
mpf_div_2exp	24
mpf_div_ui	24
mpf_eq	25
mpf_get_d	23
mpf_get_prec	22
mpf_get_str	23
mpf_init	21
mpf_init_set	23
mpf_init_set_d	23
mpf_init_set_si	23
mpf_init_set_str	23
mpf_init_set_ui	23
mpf_init2	21
mpf_inp_str	25
mpf_mul	24
mpf_mul_2exp	24
mpf_mul_ui	24
mpf_neg	24
mpf_out_str	25
mpf_random2	25
mpf_reldiff	25
mpf_set	22
mpf_set_d	22
mpf_set_default_prec	21
mpf_set_prec	22
mpf_set_prec_raw	22
mpf_set_q	22
mpf_set_si	22
mpf_set_str	22
mpf_set_ui	22
mpf_set_z	22
mpf_sgn	25
mpf_sqrt	24
mpf_sqrt_ui	24
mpf_sub	24
mpf_sub_ui	24
mpf_t	5
mpf_ui_div	24
mpf_ui_sub	24
mpn_add	26
mpn_add_1	26
mpn_add_n	26
mpn_addmul_1	27
mpn_bdivmod	29
mpn_cmp	29
mpn_divmod	28
mpn_divmod_1	28
mpn_divrem	28
mpn_divrem_1	28
mpn_gcd	29
mpn_gcd_1	30
mpn_gcdext	30
mpn_get_str	30
mpn_hamdist	31
mpn_lshift	29
mpn_mod_1	28
mpn_mul	28
mpn_mul_1	27
mpn_mul_n	27
mpn_perfect_square_p	31
mpn_popcount	31
mpn_preinv_mod_1	29
mpn_random2	31
mpn_rshift	29
mpn_scan0	30
mpn_scan1	31
mpn_set_str	30
mpn_sqrtrem	30
mpn_sub	27
mpn_sub_1	27
mpn_sub_n	27
mpn_submul_1	27
mpq_add	18
mpq_canonicalize	18
mpq_clear	18
mpq_cmp	19
mpq_cmp_ui	19
mpq_denref	19
mpq_div	18
mpq_equal	19
mpq_get_d	20

mpq_get_den	20	mpz_mod	13
mpq_get_num	20	mpz_mod_ui	13
mpq_init	18	mpz_mul	11
mpq_inv	19	mpz_mul_2exp	11
mpq_mul	18	mpz_mul_ui	11
mpq_neg	19	mpz_neg	11
mpq_numref	19	mpz_out_raw	17
mpq_set	18	mpz_out_str	16
mpq_set_den	20	mpz_perfect_square_p	14
mpq_set_num	20	mpz_popcount	16
mpq_set_si	18	mpz_pow_ui	14
mpq_set_ui	18	mpz_powm	14
mpq_set_z	18	mpz_powm_ui	14
mpq_sgn	19	mpz_probab_prime_p	14
mpq_sub	18	mpz_random	17
mpq_t	5	mpz_random2	17
mpz_abs	11	mpz_scan0	16
mpz_add	11	mpz_scan1	16
mpz_add_ui	11	mpz_set	10
mpz_and	15	mpz_set_d	10
mpz_array_init	9	mpz_set_f	10
mpz_cdiv_q	13	mpz_set_q	10
mpz_cdiv_q_ui	13	mpz_set_si	10
mpz_cdiv_qr	13	mpz_set_str	10
mpz_cdiv_qr_ui	13	mpz_set_ui	10
mpz_cdiv_r	13	mpz_setbit	16
mpz_cdiv_r_ui	13	mpz_sgn	15
mpz_cdiv_ui	13	mpz_size	17
mpz_clear	9	mpz_sizeinbase	17
mpz_clrbit	16	mpz_sqrt	14
mpz_cmp	15	mpz_sqrtrem	14
mpz_cmp_si	15	mpz_sub	11
mpz_cmp_ui	15	mpz_sub_ui	11
mpz_com	15	mpz_t	5
mpz_divexact	13	mpz_tdiv_q	12
mpz_fac_ui	11	mpz_tdiv_q_2exp	14
mpz_fdiv_q	12	mpz_tdiv_q_ui	12
mpz_fdiv_q_2exp	14	mpz_tdiv_qr	12
mpz_fdiv_q_ui	12	mpz_tdiv_qr_ui	12
mpz_fdiv_qr	12	mpz_tdiv_r	12
mpz_fdiv_qr_ui	12	mpz_tdiv_r_2exp	14
mpz_fdiv_r	12	mpz_tdiv_r_ui	12
mpz_fdiv_r_2exp	14	mpz_ui_pow_ui	14
mpz_fdiv_r_ui	12	msqrt	32
mpz_fdiv_ui	13	msub	32
mpz_gcd	14	mtox	33
mpz_gcd_ui	15	mult	32
mpz_gcdext	15		
mpz_get_d	11	P	
mpz_get_si	11	pow	33
mpz_get_str	11		
mpz_get_ui	11	R	
mpz_hamdist	16	reallocate_function	34
mpz_init	9	rpow	33
mpz_init_set	10		
mpz_init_set_d	10	S	
mpz_init_set_si	10	sdiv	32
mpz_init_set_str	10		
mpz_init_set_ui	10	X	
mpz_inp_raw	17	xtom	32
mpz_inp_str	16		
mpz_invert	15		
mpz_ior	15		
mpz_jacobi	15		
mpz_legendre	15		

Table of Contents

GNU MP Copying Conditions	1
1 Introduction to GNU MP	2
1.1 How to use this Manual	2
2 Installing MP	3
2.1 Known Build Problems	4
3 MP Basics	5
3.1 Nomenclature and Types	5
3.2 Function Classes	5
3.3 MP Variable Conventions	5
3.4 Useful Macros and Constants	6
3.5 Compatibility with Version 1.x	6
3.6 Getting the Latest Version of MP	7
4 Reporting Bugs	8
5 Integer Functions	9
5.1 Initialization and Assignment Functions	9
5.1.1 Assignment Functions	10
5.1.2 Combined Initialization and Assignment Functions	10
5.2 Conversion Functions	11
5.3 Arithmetic Functions	11
5.3.1 Division functions	12
5.3.2 Exponentialization Functions	14
5.3.3 Square Root Functions	14
5.3.4 Number Theoretic Functions	14
5.4 Comparison Functions	15
5.5 Logical and Bit Manipulation Functions	15
5.6 Input and Output Functions	16
5.7 Miscellaneous Functions	17
6 Rational Number Functions	18
6.1 Initialization and Assignment Functions	18
6.2 Arithmetic Functions	18
6.3 Comparison Functions	19
6.4 Applying Integer Functions to Rationals	19
6.5 Miscellaneous Functions	20
7 Floating-point Functions	21
7.1 Initialization and Assignment Functions	21
7.1.1 Assignment Functions	22
7.1.2 Combined Initialization and Assignment Functions	23
7.2 Conversion Functions	23

7.3	Arithmetic Functions	24
7.4	Comparison Functions	24
7.5	Input and Output Functions	25
7.6	Miscellaneous Functions	25
8	Low-level Functions	26
9	Berkeley MP Compatible Functions	32
10	Custom Allocation	34
	Contributors	35
	References	36
	Concept Index	37
	Function and Type Index	38