

NAME

sort – sort lines of text files

SYNOPSIS

sort [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

sort [*OPTION*]... --files0-from=*F*

DESCRIPTION

Write sorted concatenation of all *FILE*(s) to standard output.

With no *FILE*, or when *FILE* is –, read standard input.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too. Ordering options:

–b, --ignore-leading-blanks

ignore leading blanks

–d, --dictionary-order

consider only blanks and alphanumeric characters

–f, --ignore-case

fold lower case to upper case characters

–g, --general-numeric-sort

compare according to general numerical value

–i, --ignore-nonprinting

consider only printable characters

–M, --month-sort

compare (unknown) < 'JAN' < ... < 'DEC'

–h, --human-numeric-sort

compare human readable numbers (e.g., 2K 1G)

–n, --numeric-sort

compare according to string numerical value

–R, --random-sort

shuffle, but group identical keys. See shuf(1)

--random-source=FILE

get random bytes from *FILE*

–r, --reverse

reverse the result of comparisons

--sort=WORD

sort according to *WORD*: general-numeric **–g**, human-numeric **–h**, month **–M**, numeric **–n**, random **–R**, version **–V**

–V, --version-sort

natural sort of (version) numbers within text

Other options:

--batch-size=NMERGE

merge at most *NMERGE* inputs at once; for more use temp files

–c, --check, --check=diagnose-first

check for sorted input; do not sort

–C, --check=quiet, --check=silent

like **–c**, but do not report first bad line

--compress-program=PROG

compress temporaries with *PROG*; decompress them with *PROG* **–d**

- debug**
annotate the part of the line used to sort, and warn about questionable usage to stderr
- files0--from=F**
read input from the files specified by NUL-terminated names in file F; If F is - then read names from standard input
- k, --key=KEYDEF**
sort via a key; KEYDEF gives location and type
- m, --merge**
merge already sorted files; do not sort
- o, --output=FILE**
write result to FILE instead of standard output
- s, --stable**
stabilize sort by disabling last-resort comparison
- S, --buffer-size=SIZE**
use SIZE for main memory buffer
- t, --field-separator=SEP**
use SEP instead of non-blank to blank transition
- T, --temporary-directory=DIR**
use DIR for temporaries, not \$TMPDIR or /tmp; multiple options specify multiple directories
- parallel=N**
change the number of sorts run concurrently to N
- u, --unique**
with -c, check for strict ordering; without -c, output only the first of an equal run
- z, --zero-terminated**
line delimiter is NUL, not newline
- help** display this help and exit
- version**
output version information and exit

KEYDEF is F[C][OPTS][F[C][OPTS]] for start and stop position, where F is a field number and C a character position in the field; both are origin 1, and the stop position defaults to the line's end. If neither -t nor -b is in effect, characters in a field are counted from the beginning of the preceding whitespace. OPTS is one or more single-letter ordering options [bdfgiMhnRrV], which override global ordering options for that key. If no key is given, use the entire line as the key. Use **--debug** to diagnose incorrect key usage.

SIZE may be followed by the following multiplicative suffixes: % 1% of memory, b 1, K 1024 (default), and so on for M, G, T, P, E, Z, Y.

*** WARNING *** The locale specified by the environment affects sort order. Set LC_ALL=C to get the traditional sort order that uses native byte values.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>
Report sort translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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permitted by law.

SEE ALSO

shuf(1), uniq(1)

Full documentation at: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/sort>>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) sort invocation'