## NAME

soelim − interpret .so requests in groff input

## SYNOPSIS

**soelim** [**−Crtv**] [**−I** *dir*] [*file* . . .]

## DESCRIPTION

**soelim** reads *files* and replaces lines of the form

> **.so** *file*

by the contents of *file*. It is useful if files included with **.so** need to be preprocessed. Normally, **soelim** should be invoked with the **−s** option of **groff**.

To embed '\' in the file name, write '\\' or '\e'. To embed a space, write '\ '. Any other escape sequence in *file* makes **soelim** ignore the whole line.

Note that there must be no whitespace between the leading dot and the two characters 's' and 'o'. Otherwise, only **groff** interprets the **.so** request (and **soelim** ignores it).
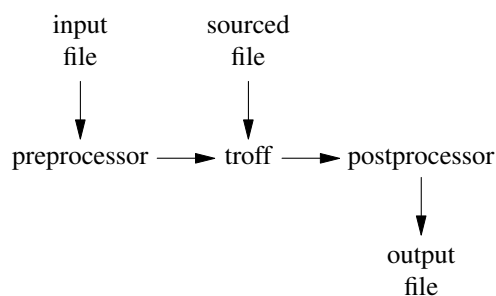
## OPTIONS

Whitespace is permitted between a command-line option and its argument.

**−C**  Recognize **.so** even when followed by a character other than space or newline.

**−I***dir* This option may be used to add a directory to the search path for files (both those on the command line and those named in **.so** requests). The search path is initialized with the current directory. This option may be specified more than once; the directories are then searched in the order specified (but before the current directory). If you want to make the current directory be read before other directories, add **−I.** at the appropriate place.

   No directory search is performed for files with an absolute file name.

**−r**  Do not add **.lf** requests (for general use, with non-groff files).

**−t**  Don't emit **.lf** requests but TeX comment lines (starting with '%') giving the current file and line number.
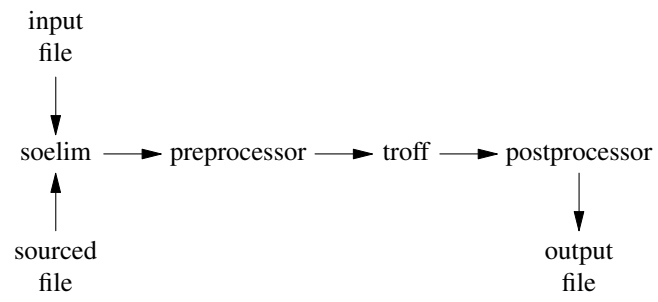
**−v**  Print the version number.

## USAGE

The normal processing sequence of groff is this:

```
       input              sourced
       file                file

         |                   |
         |                   |
         v                   v

   preprocessor  ------>  troff  ------>  postprocessor

                                              |
                                              |
                                              v

                                           output
                                            file
```

That is, files sourced with **.so** are normally read *only* by **troff** (the actual formatter). **soelim** is *not* required for **troff** to source files.

If a file to be sourced should also be preprocessed, it must already be read *before* the input file passes through the preprocessor. This is handled by **soelim**:

```
              input
              file
                │
                ▼
          soelim ──────▶ preprocessor ──────▶ troff ──────▶ postprocessor
                ▲                                                  │
                │                                                  ▼
          sourced                                              output
          file                                                 file
```

**SEE ALSO**
    **groff**(1)