

NAME

gpinyin – use Hanyu Pinyin Chinese in roff

SYNOPSIS

gpinyin [*input-file* ...]

gpinyin -h

gpinyin --help

gpinyin -v

gpinyin --version

DESCRIPTION

gpinyin is a preprocessor for **groff**(1) that facilitates use of the Hanyu Pinyin **groff**(7) files. Pinyin is a method for writing the Chinese language with the Latin alphabet. The Chinese language consists of more than four hundred syllables, each with one of five different tones. In Pinyin, a syllable is written in the Latin alphabet and a numeric tone indicator can be appended to each syllable.

Each *input-file* is a file name or the hyphen-minus character “-” to indicate that standard input should be read. As usual, the argument “--” can be used in order to force interpretation of all remaining arguments as file names, even if an *input-file* argument begins with the hyphen-minus character.

Pinyin Sections

Pinyin sections in *groff* files are enclosed by two **.pinyin** requests with different arguments. The starting request is

```
.pinyin start
```

or

```
.pinyin begin
```

and the ending request is

```
.pinyin stop
```

or

```
.pinyin end
```

.

Syllables

The spoken Chinese language is based on about 411 *syllables*; see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin_table.

In Pinyin, each syllable consists of one to six letters from the Latin alphabet; these letters comprise the fifty-two upper- and lowercase letters from the ASCII character set, plus the letter “U” with dieresis (umlaut) in both cases—in other words, the members of the set “[a-zA-ZüÜ]”.

In *groff* input, all ASCII letters are written as themselves. The “u with dieresis” can be written as “[u]” in lowercase or “[U]” in uppercase. Within **.pinyin** sections, *gpinyin* supports the form “ue” for lowercase and the forms “Ue” and “UE” for uppercase.

Tones

Each syllable has exactly one of five *tones*. The fifth tone is not explicitly written at all, but each of the first through fourth tones is indicated with a diacritic above a specific vowel within the syllable.

In a *gpinyin* source file, these tones are written by adding a numeral in the range 0 to 5 after the syllable. The tone numbers 1 to 4 are transformed into accents above vowels in the output. The tone numbers 0 and 5 are synonymous.

The following table summarizes the tones. Some output devices will not be able to render every output example.

Tone	Description	Diacritic	Example Input	Example Output
first	flat	ˉ	ma1	m
second	rising	ˊ	ma2	má
third	falling-rising	ˇ	ma3	m
fourth	falling	ˋ	ma4	mà
fifth	neutral	(none)	ma0	ma
			ma5	

The neutral tone number can be omitted from a word-final syllable, but not otherwise.

OPTIONS

-h

--help Print usage information and exit.

-v

--version

Print version information and exit.

AUTHORS

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SEE ALSO

Useful documents on the World Wide Web related to Pinyin include

“Pinyin” (Wikipedia) <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin>>,

“Pinyin table” (Wikipedia) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin_table>,

Pinyin to Unicode <<http://www.foolsworkshop.com/ptou/index.html>>,

On-line Chinese Tools <<http://www.mandarintools.com/>>,

Pinyin.info: a guide to the writing of Mandarin Chinese in romanization <<http://www.pinyin.info/index.html>>,

“Where do the tone marks go?” (Pinyin.info) <<http://www.pinyin.info/rules/where.html>>,

pinyin.txt from the CJK macro package for T_EX <http://git.savannah.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=cjk.git;a=blob_plain;f=doc/pinyin.txt;hb=HEAD>,

and

pinyin.sty from the CJK macro package for T_EX <http://git.savannah.gnu.org/gitweb/?p=cjk.git;a=blob_plain;f=texinput/pinyin.sty;hb=HEAD>.

groff(1), **grog**(1), and **groffer**(1) explain how to view *roff* documents.

groff(7) and **groff_char**(7) are comprehensive references covering the language elements of GNU *roff* and the available glyph repertoire, respectively.