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sort(1) — Linux manual page

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SORT(1)   User Commands   *SORT*(1)

NAME   top

       sort - sort lines of text files

SYNOPSIS   top

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

DESCRIPTION   top

       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; see manual
        for which strings are supported

-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, R, Q.

*** 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   top

Written by Mike Haertel and Paul Eggert.

REPORTING BUGS   top

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

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SEE ALSO   top

shuf(1), uniq(1)

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

COLOPHON   top

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