

NAME

`grep` – search a file for a pattern

SYNOPSIS

grep [**-v**] [**-b**] [**-c**] [**-n**] [**-s**] *expression* [*file*] ...

DESCRIPTION

Grep searches the input files (standard input default) for lines matching the regular expression. Normally, each line found is copied to the standard output. If the **-v** flag is used, all lines but those matching are printed. If the **-c** flag is used, only a count of matching lines is printed. If the **-n** flag is used, each line is preceded by its relative line number in the file. If the **-b** flag is used, each line is preceded by the block number on which it was found. This is sometimes useful in locating disk block numbers by context.

The **-s** flag suppresses the error messages that *grep* would otherwise give for non-existent (or unreadable) files.

In all cases the file name is shown if there is more than one input file.

For a complete description of the regular expression, see *ed*(I). Care should be taken when using the characters `$ * [^ | ()` and `\` in the *expression*, as they are also meaningful to the Shell. It is generally necessary to enclose the entire *expression* argument in quotes.

SEE ALSO

ed(I), *egrep*(I), *fgrep*(I), *rgrep*(I), *sed*(I), *sh*(I)

BUGS

Lines are limited to 256 characters; longer lines are truncated.

Unfortunately, *grep* does not recognize all of the regular expression operators that *ed*(I) does.