

NAME

egrep – search a file for lines containing a pattern

SYNOPSIS

egrep [**-b**] [**-c**] [**-f**] [**-n**] [**-v**] pattern [file] ...

DESCRIPTION

egrep searches the input files (standard input default) for all lines containing an instance of the regular expression *pattern*. Normally, each line matched is copied to the standard output. The *pattern* matches a line whenever the line contains a substring denoted by the *pattern*.

The flags modify the normal behavior as follows:

- b** causes each printed line to be preceded by the block number on which it was found
- c** causes only a count of matching lines to be printed
- f** causes the regular expression to come from a file named *pattern*
- n** causes each printed line to be preceded by its relative line number in the file
- v** causes all lines but those matching the *pattern* to be printed

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

A *pattern* is one of the following:

1. an ordinary character (denoting itself)
2. a circumflex '^' (denoting the beginning of a line)
3. a dollar sign '\$' (denoting the end of a line)
4. a period '.' (denoting any character but a newline)
5. '[' followed by a string of characters followed by ']' (denoting any character in the string; if the first character in this string is '^', the pattern denotes any character except newline and the characters in the string)
6. '(' followed by a pattern followed by ')' (denoting the enclosed pattern)
7. a pattern followed by '*', or by '+', or by '?' (denoting zero or more, one or more, or zero or one instances, respectively, of the preceding pattern)
8. a pattern followed by a pattern (denoting concatenation of the two patterns)
9. a pattern followed by '|' followed by another pattern (denoting the alternation of the two patterns); a newline may be used in place of '|'.

In parsing a pattern, the rules are applied in the order given.

A pattern metacharacter can be used as an ordinary character by preceding it by '\'. The metacharacters are: '^', '\$', '.', '[', ']', '*', '+', '?', '(', ')', '\\'.

Care should be taken when using the characters \$ * [^ | () and \ in the regular expression as they are also meaningful to the Shell. When *pattern* is a regular expression other than a simple string, it is generally necessary to enclose the entire *pattern* argument in quotes.

SEE ALSO

grep(I), fgrep(I), lex(I), rgrep(I), sed(I), ed(I), sh(I)

BUGS

Lines longer than 512 characters are not printed completely.