NAME

egrep – search a file for a pattern using full regular expressions

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/egrep [–**bchilnsv**] [–**e** *pattern_list*] [–**f** *file*] [*strings*] [*file*...]
/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep [–**bchilnsvx**] [–**e** *pattern_list*] [–**f** *file*] [*strings*] [*file*...]

AVAILABILITY

/usr/bin/egrep SUNWcsu

/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep SUNWxcu4

DESCRIPTION

egrep (*expression grep*) searches files for a pattern of characters and prints all lines that contain that pattern. **egrep** uses full regular expressions (expressions that have string values that use the full set of alphanumeric and special characters) to match the patterns. It uses a fast deterministic algorithm that sometimes needs exponential space.

If no files are specified, **egrep** assumes standard input. Normally, each line found is copied to the standard output. The file name is printed before each line found if there is more than one input file.

/usr/bin/egrep

/usr/bin/egrep accepts full regular expressions as described on the **regexp**(5) manual page, except for **\(** and **\)**, and with the addition of:

1. A full regular expression followed by **+** that matches one or more occurrences of the full regular expression.
2. A full regular expression followed by **?** that matches 0 or 1 occurrences of the full regular expression.
3. Full regular expressions separated by | or by a NEWLINE that match strings that are matched by any of the expressions.
4. A full regular expression that may be enclosed in parentheses **( )** for grouping.

Be careful using the characters **$**, *, **[**, ^, | , **(**, **)**, and \ in *full regular expression*, because they are also meaningful to the shell. It is safest to enclose the entire *full regular expression* in single quotes '...'.

The order of precedence of operators is **[ ]**, then * **? +**, then concatenation, then | and NEWLINE.

/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep

/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep uses the regular expressions described in the **EXTENDED REGULAR EXPRESSIONS** section of the **regex**(5) manual page.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

–**b**	Precede each line by the block number on which it was found. This can be useful in locating block numbers by context (first block is 0).
–**c**	Print only a count of the lines that contain the pattern.
–**e** *pattern_list*	Search for a *pattern_list* (*full regular expression* that begins with a –).
–**f** *file*	Take the list of *full regular expressions* from *file*.

−h Suppress printing of filenames when searching multiple files.

−i Ignore upper/lower case distinction during comparisons.

−l Print the names of files with matching lines once, separated by NEWLINEs. Does not repeat the names of files when the pattern is found more than once.

−n Precede each line by its line number in the file (first line is 1).

−s Work silently, that is, display nothing except error messages. This is useful for checking the error status.

−v Print all lines except those that contain the pattern.

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−x Consider only input lines that use all characters in the line to match an entire fixed string or regular expression to be matching lines.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

file A path name of a file to be searched for the patterns. If no *file* operands are specified, the standard input will be used.

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pattern Specify a pattern to be used during the search for input.

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pattern Specify one or more patterns to be used during the search for input. This operand is treated as if it were specified as **−e** *pattern_list*.

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **egrep**: **LC_COLLATE**, **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 if any matches are found

1 if no matches are found

2 for syntax errors or inaccessible files (even if matches were found).

SEE ALSO

fgrep(1), **grep**(1), **sed**(1), **sh**(1), **environ**(5), **regex**(5), **regexp**(5)

NOTES

Ideally there should be only one **grep** command, but there is not a single algorithm that spans a wide enough range of space-time tradeoffs. Lines are limited to **BUFSIZ** characters; longer lines are truncated. **BUFSIZ** is defined in **<stdio.h>.**

/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep

/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep is identical to **/usr/xpg4/bin/grep −E** (see **grep**(1)). Portable applications should use **/usr/xpg4/bin/grep −E**.