NAME

fgrep – search a file for a character string

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/fgrep [–**bchilnsvx**] [–**e** *pattern_list*] [–**f** *file*] [*pattern*] [*file* ...]
/usr/xpg4/bin/fgrep [–**bchilnsvx**] [–**e** *pattern_list*] [–**f** *file*] [*pattern*] [*file* ...]

AVAILABILITY

/usr/bin/fgrep SUNWcsu

/usr/xpg4/bin/fgrep SUNWxcu4

DESCRIPTION

fgrep (fast **grep**) searches files for a character string and prints all lines that contain that string. **fgrep** is different from **grep**(1) and **egrep**(1) because it searches for a string, instead of searching for a pattern that matches an expression. It uses a fast and compact algorithm.

The characters **$**, ∗, **[**, ^, | , **(**, **)**, and \ are interpreted literally by **fgrep**, that is, **fgrep** does not recognize full regular expressions as does **egrep**. Since these characters have special meaning to the shell, it is safest to enclose the entire *string* in single quotes ’...’.

If no files are specified, **fgrep** 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.

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 *special string* (*string* begins with a –).
–**f** *files*	Take the list of patterns from *file*.
–**h**	Suppress printing of files when searching multiple files.
–**i**	Ignore upper/lower case distinction during comparisons.
–**l**	Print the names of files with matching lines once, separated by new-lines. 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.
–**x**	Print only lines matched entirely.

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.

/usr/bin/fgrep *pattern* Specify a pattern to be used during the search for input.

/usr/xpg4/bin/fgrep *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 **fgrep**: **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

ed(1), **egrep**(1), **grep**(1), **sed**(1), **sh**(1), **environ**(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/fgrep

/usr/xpg4/bin/fgrep is identical to **/usr/xpg4/bin/grep –F** (see **grep**(1)). Portable applications should use **/usr/xpg4/bin/grep –F**.