

**NAME**

expr - evaluate expressions

**SYNOPSIS**

expr *EXPRESSION*

expr *OPTION*

**DESCRIPTION**

**--help** display this help and exit

**--version**

output version information and exit

Print the value of *EXPRESSION* to standard output. A blank line below separates increasing precedence groups. *EXPRESSION* may be:

ARG1 | ARG2

ARG1 if it is neither null nor 0, otherwise ARG2

ARG1 & ARG2

ARG1 if neither argument is null or 0, otherwise 0

ARG1 < ARG2

ARG1 is less than ARG2

ARG1 <= ARG2

ARG1 is less than or equal to ARG2

ARG1 = ARG2

ARG1 is equal to ARG2

ARG1 != ARG2

ARG1 is unequal to ARG2

ARG1 >= ARG2

ARG1 is greater than or equal to ARG2

ARG1 > ARG2

ARG1 is greater than ARG2

ARG1 + ARG2

arithmetic sum of ARG1 and ARG2

ARG1 - ARG2

arithmetic difference of ARG1 and ARG2

ARG1 \* ARG2

arithmetic product of ARG1 and ARG2

ARG1 / ARG2

arithmetic quotient of ARG1 divided by ARG2

ARG1 % ARG2

arithmetic remainder of ARG1 divided by ARG2

STRING : REGEXP

anchored pattern match of REGEXP in STRING

match STRING REGEXP

same as STRING : REGEXP

substr STRING POS LENGTH

substring of STRING, POS counted from 1

index STRING CHARS

index in STRING where any CHARS is found, or 0

length STRING  
    length of STRING

+ TOKEN  
    interpret TOKEN as a string, even if it is a  
    keyword like 'match' or an operator like '/'

( EXPRESSION )  
    value of EXPRESSION

Beware that many operators need to be escaped or quoted for shells. Comparisons are arithmetic if both ARGs are numbers, else lexicographical. Pattern matches return the string matched between ( and ) or null; if ( and ) are not used, they return the number of characters matched or 0.

Exit status is 0 if EXPRESSION is neither null nor 0, 1 if EXPRESSION is null or 0, 2 if EXPRESSION is syntactically invalid, and 3 if an error occurred.

## AUTHOR

Written by Mike Parker, James Youngman, and Paul Eggert.

## REPORTING BUGS

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

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## SEE ALSO

Full documentation at: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/expr>>  
or available locally via: info (coreutils) expr invocation