

NAME

sort - sort lines of text files

SYNOPSIS

sort [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

sort [*OPTION*]... *--files0-from*=*F*

DESCRIPTION

Write sorted concatenation of all FILE(s) to standard output.

With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too. Ordering options:

-b, --ignore-leading-blanks

ignore leading blanks

-d, --dictionary-order

consider only blanks and alphanumeric characters

-f, --ignore-case

fold lower case to upper case characters

-g, --general-numeric-sort

compare according to general numerical value

-i, --ignore-nonprinting

consider only printable characters

-M, --month-sort

compare (unknown) < 'JAN' < ... < 'DEC'

-h, --human-numeric-sort

compare human readable numbers (e.g., 2K 1G)

-n, --numeric-sort

compare according to string numerical value

-R, --random-sort

shuffle, but group identical keys. See [shuf\(1\)](#)

--random-source=FILE

get random bytes from FILE

-r, --reverse

reverse the result of comparisons

--sort=WORD

sort according to WORD: general-numeric **-g**, human-numeric **-h**, month **-M**, numeric **-n**, random **-R**, version **-V**

-V, --version-sort

natural sort of (version) numbers within text

Other options:

--batch-size=NMERGE

merge at most NMERGE inputs at once; for more use temp files

-c, --check, --check=diagnose-first

check for sorted input; do not sort

-C, --check=quiet, --check=silent

like **-c**, but do not report first bad line

--compress-program=PROG

compress temporaries with PROG; decompress them with PROG **-d**

- debug**
annotate the part of the line used to sort, and warn about questionable usage to stderr
- files0-from=*F***
read input from the files specified by NUL-terminated names in file *F*; If *F* is - then read names from standard input
- k, --key=*KEYDEF***
sort via a key; *KEYDEF* gives location and type
- m, --merge**
merge already sorted files; do not sort
- o, --output=*FILE***
write result to *FILE* instead of standard output
- s, --stable**
stabilize sort by disabling last-resort comparison
- S, --buffer-size=*SIZE***
use *SIZE* for main memory buffer
- t, --field-separator=*SEP***
use *SEP* instead of non-blank to blank transition
- T, --temporary-directory=*DIR***
use *DIR* for temporaries, not *\$TMPDIR* or */tmp*; multiple options specify multiple directories
- parallel=*N***
change the number of sorts run concurrently to *N*
- u, --unique**
with **-c**, check for strict ordering; without **-c**, output only the first of an equal run
- z, --zero-terminated**
line delimiter is NUL, not newline
- help** display this help and exit
- version**
output version information and exit

KEYDEF is *F*.[*C*][*OPTS*],[*F*.[*C*][*OPTS*]] for start and stop position, where *F* is a field number and *C* a character position in the field; both are origin 1, and the stop position defaults to the line's end. If neither **-t** nor **-b** is in effect, characters in a field are counted from the beginning of the preceding whitespace. *OPTS* is one or more single-letter ordering options [*bdfgiMhnRrV*], which override global ordering options for that key. If no key is given, use the entire line as the key. Use **--debug** to diagnose incorrect key usage.

SIZE may be followed by the following multiplicative suffixes: % 1% of memory, b 1, K 1024 (default), and so on for M, G, T, P, E, Z, Y.

*** WARNING *** The locale specified by the environment affects sort order. Set *LC_ALL=C* to get the traditional sort order that uses native byte values.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report sort translation bugs to <<http://translationproject.org/team/>>

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SEE ALSO

[shuf\(1\)](#), [uniq\(1\)](#)

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