

**NAME**

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

**SYNOPSIS**

```
/usr/bin/egrep [-bchilnsv] -e pattern_list [file...]
```

```
/usr/bin/egrep [-bchilnsv] -f file [file...]
```

```
/usr/bin/egrep [-bchilnsv] pattern [file...]
```

```
/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep [-bchilnqsvx] -e pattern_list [-f file]
[file...]
```

```
/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep [-bchilnqsvx] [-e pattern_list] -f file
[file...]
```

```
/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep [-bchilnqsvx] pattern [file...]
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **egrep** (*expression grep*) utility 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**

The **/usr/bin/egrep** utility accepts full regular expressions as described on the **regex(5)** manual page, except for `\(` and `\)`, `\(` and `\)`, `\{` and `\}`, `<` and `>`, and `\n`, 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 can 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 (`'a`a'`).

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

**/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep**

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

**OPTIONS**

The following options are supported for both **/usr/bin/egrep** and **/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep**:

- 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.

**/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep**

The following options are supported for **/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep** only:

- q** Quiet. Does not write anything to the standard output, regardless of matching lines. Exits with zero status if an input line is selected.
- 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 is used.

**/usr/bin/egrep**

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

**/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep**

*pattern* Specify one or more patterns to be used during the search for input. This operand is treated as if it were specified as **-epattern\_list**.

**USAGE**

See **largefile(5)** for the description of the behavior of **egrep** when encountering files greater than or equal to 2 Gbyte (  $2^{31}$  bytes).

**ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES**

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).

**ATTRIBUTES**

See **attributes(5)** for descriptions of the following attributes:

**/usr/bin/egrep**

tab() box; cw(2.75i) |cw(2.75i) lw(2.75i) |lw(2.75i) ATTRIBUTE TYPEATTRIBUTE VALUE \_  
AvailabilitySUNWcsu \_ CSINot Enabled

**/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep**

tab() box; cw(2.75i) |cw(2.75i) lw(2.75i) |lw(2.75i) ATTRIBUTE TYPEATTRIBUTE VALUE \_  
AvailabilitySUNWxcu4 \_ CSIEnabled

**SEE ALSO**

**fgrep(1)**, **grep(1)**, **sed(1)**, **sh(1)**, **attributes(5)**, **environ(5)**, **largefile(5)**, **regex(5)**, **regexp(5)**, **XPG4(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 only by the size of the available virtual memory.

**/usr/xpg4/bin/egrep**

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