Cheatography

Grep Cheat Sheet

by njones via cheatography.com/82085/cs/19596/

File and Path Selection

-a, --text	Process all files as text. Beware of binary output interpreted as commands.
--exclude=GLOB	Skip files whose base names match glob.
--exclude-from=FILE	Same as `--exclude` but get list of globs from file
--exclude-dir=DIR	Skip directories that match. Directories will also *not* be recursed.
`-I`	Don't match binary files
--include=GLOB	Search *only* for files matching glob.
-R, -r	Recurse directories

Globs can use *, ?, and [...] as wildcards. Use \ as escape. Enclose multiples in curly braces, e.g. `--exclude={*.xml,*.xsf}` or `--exclude-dir={.git,.vs,my\ dir}`.

Other Options

--line-buffered	Use line buffering on output. Can reduce performance.
-U	Treat file(s) as binary.
-z	Treat lines as zero byte terminated instead of newline

Exit Status

0 - Selected lines are found

1 - Selected lines are *not* found

2 - Error occurred (unless a match is found and errors are ignored with the `-q` option)

Other

```
ls -rt * | xargs grep -e 'searchtext'
```

Searches through files in chronological order.

Matching Control

-e *PATTERN*	Used to specify multiple patterns or protect patterns starting with "-"
-f *FILE*	Input file for patterns, one per line
-i	Ignore case
-v	Invert match
-w	Whole word matches only
-x	Match whole line only

Matcher Selection

-E	Extended regular expressions (ERE)
-F	Fixed strings
-G	Basic regular expressions (BRE)
-P	Perl regular expression (experimental?)

Regular Expressions

.	Match any character
[...]	Match character list. Use ^ to invert match. Specify ranges with hyphen (`-`). Ranges can also be specified using a character class, e.g. `number[[:digit:]]`. Valid character classes are: [:alnum:], [:alpha:], [:cntrl:], [:digit:], [:graph:], [:lower:], [:print:], [:punct:], [:space:], [:upper:], and [:xdigit:]
?, *, +	Repetition operators indicating at most once, zero or more, or at least once, respectively.
{n}	Match exactly n times.
{n,}	Match at least n times.
{,m}	Match 0 to m times.
{n,m}	Match n to m times.
\<, \>	Match beginning or end of a word, respectively.
\b	Match both beginning and end of the word. \B matches the opposite.
\w	Match word character, aka `[[:alnum:]]`. \W matches the opposite.
\n	Backreference to previously matched group where `n` is a single digit.

The above represents extended regular expression syntax. For basic syntax, you must escape `?`, `+`, `{`, `|`, `(`, and `)`.

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Published 7th January, 2020.
Last updated 5th February, 2020.

Output Prefix

-b	Print 0-based byte offset of match within file
-H	Print the file name for each match (default)
-h	Hide filename from output
-n	Prefix output with line number
-T	Ensure first line of content is tab-aligned for readability
-Z	Output a zero byte after file names

Output Options

-c	Count number of lines
--color *[=WHEN]*	With no WHEN it will show colors when it's the final command in the pipe. WHEN is never, always, or auto.
-L	Show only names of files that do NOT match
-l	Show only names of matching files
-m	Max number of lines to read from any file
-o	Output only the matching text
-q	Quiet, no output
-s	Suppress error messages for missing or unreadable files

Context Lines

-A NUM	Print NUM lines of trailing context after match
-B NUM	Print NUM lines of lead context before match
-C NUM	Print NUM lines of context