

**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, R, Q.

\*\*\* 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

Written by Mike Haertel and Paul Eggert.

## REPORTING BUGS

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

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permitted by law.

**SEE ALSO**

**shuf(1)**, **uniq(1)**

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