

**NAME**

sort – sort lines of text files

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**DESCRIPTION**

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

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’
- n, –numeric-sort  
compare according to string numerical value
- r, –reverse  
reverse the result of comparisons

Other options:

- c, –check  
check whether input is sorted; do not sort
- k, –key=*POS1*[,*POS2*]  
start a key at *POS1*, end it at *POS2* (origin 1)
- 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
- u, –unique  
with –c, check for strict ordering; without –c, output only the first of an equal run
- z, –zero-terminated  
end lines with 0 byte, not newline

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

**--version**  
output version information and exit

POS is F[C][OPTS], where F is the field number and C the character position in the field. OPTS is one or more single-letter ordering options, which override global ordering options for that key. If no key is given, use the entire line as the key.

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.

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

\*\*\* 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

Report bugs to `<bug-coreutils@gnu.org>`.

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## SEE ALSO

The full documentation for `sort` is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the `info` and `sort` programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info sort**

should give you access to the complete manual.