The Silver Searcher Fast code search

START HERE

`ag <pattern>`
Search recursively

`ag -l <pattern>`
List matching files

`ag -i <pattern>`
Ignore case

`ag -u <pattern>`
Search everything

`ag -Q <text>`
Literal, not regex

`ag -G <regex> <pattern>`
Only matching file names

`ag --<type> <pattern>`
Only one file type

`ag -C <n> <pattern>`
Show context

CONCEPTS

ag skips files matched by .gitignore, .hgignore, .ignore and ~/.agignore, plus hidden and binary files. If a match is missing, try ag -u before blaming the pattern.

Walk tree from . or <path>
↓ `skip ignored`
Filter types, -G, hidden
↓ `skip binary`
Match PCRE per file
↓ `format`
Print path:line:text
What happens to each file

Smart case is on by default: an all-lowercase pattern ignores case, any capital makes it exact. Force it with -s or -i.

SEARCHING

`ag <pattern> [<path>...]`
Search paths recursively (default .)

`ag -i <pattern>`
Case-insensitive

`ag -s <pattern>`
Case-sensitive

`ag -Q <text>`
Literal string, no regex
-F is an alias for -Q, kept for grep users.

`ag -w <word>`
Match whole words only

SEARCHING (cont.)

`ag -v <pattern>`
Show non-matching lines

`ag -o <pattern>`
Print only the matched part

`ag -m <n> <pattern>`
Stop each file after n matches

`ag --multiline <pattern>`
Let a regex span lines
Multiline matching is already on by default; --nomultiline turns it off.

`ag -z <pattern>`
Search inside gz and xz files

`ag --search-binary <pattern>`
Include binary files

`ag -f <pattern>`
Follow symlinks

OUTPUT

`ag -l <pattern>`
List only names of matching files

`ag -L <pattern>`
List files without a match

`ag -c <pattern>`
Count matches per file
Counts matches, not matching lines.

`ag --column <pattern>`
Show column numbers

`ag --vimgrep <pattern>`
file:line:col:text for Vim quickfix

`ag --nogroup <pattern>`
Put the file name on every line

OUTPUT (cont.)

`ag --nocolor <pattern>`
Plain output without colors

`ag -H <pattern>`
File name heading above matches

`ag --noheading <pattern>`
No headings, one line per match

`ag -W <n> <pattern>`
Truncate long lines after n chars

`ag --print-long-lines <pattern>`
Show lines over 2k chars

`ag --pager '<cmd>' <pattern>`
Pipe results through a pager

`ag --passthrough <pattern>`
Print every line of a piped stream

`ag -0 -l <pattern>`
NUL-separate file names
Pair with xargs -0 for names with spaces.

`ag --stats <pattern>`
Print files scanned and time taken

CONTEXT

`ag -C [<n>] <pattern>`
Lines around each match (default 2)

`ag -A [<n>] <pattern>`
Lines after each match (default 2)

CONTEXT (cont.)

`ag -B [<n>] <pattern>`
Lines before each match (default 2)

`ag --nobreak <pattern>`
No blank line between files

FILES AND TYPES

`ag --<type> <pattern>`
Only files of a type, e.g. --python
Use --list-file-types for the supported names.

`ag --list-file-types`
Show all file type flags

`ag -G <regex> <pattern>`
Search only files whose name matches

`ag -g <regex>`
List files whose name matches

`ag -l ''`
List all files ag would search
An empty query with -l lists every searchable file.

`ag --ignore <pattern> <pattern>`
Skip files or dirs matching a glob

`ag --hidden <pattern>`
Include hidden files
Ignore files are still obeyed.

`ag -u <pattern>`
Ignore all ignore rules, include hidden and binary

FILES AND TYPES (cont.)

`ag -U <pattern>`
Skip VCS ignores but obey .ignore

`ag -t <pattern>`
All text files, ignore-file aware

`ag -a <pattern>`
All files, ignore rules off, hidden excluded

`ag -p <file> <pattern>`
Use a specific ignore file

`ag -n <pattern>`
Do not recurse into directories

`ag --depth <n> <pattern>`
Limit recursion depth (default 25)

`ag --one-device <pattern>`
Stay on one filesystem

`ag --workers <n> <pattern>`
Set number of search threads

REGEX

`ag '<a>|<b>'`
Either pattern

`ag '^<text>'`
Anchor to line start

`ag '<text>$'`
Anchor to line end

`ag '\bword\b'`
Word boundaries

`ag '\d+'`
One or more digits

`ag '(?i)<text>'`
Inline case-insensitive

REGEX (cont.)

`ag '<a>(?=<b>)'`
Lookahead

`ag '\s+$'`
Trailing whitespace

IGNORE FILES

Where patterns come from

Source	Effect
`.gitignore`	Skipped by default
`.hgignore`	Skipped by default
`.ignore`	ag-only rules, any directory
`~/.agignore`	Global ag-only rules

Project .ignore

```
# one pattern per line
node_modules
*.min.js
build/
dist/
```

RECIPES

Replace across files

```
ag -l --null 'oldName' | xargs
-0 sed -i 's/oldName/newName/g'
```

Find a definition

```
ag --python '^\s*def parse_'
src/
ag -C 3 'TODO|FIXME' --ignore
'*.md'
```

Pick results with fzf

```
ag --nobreak --noheading . |
fzf
ag -g '\.test\.js$'
```

Vim integration

```
# in .vimrc
let g:ackprg = 'ag --vimgrep'
```