# The Silver Searcher Fast code search

## 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

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

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

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

## OUTPUT

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

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

## OUTPUT (cont.)

**ag -c** *<pattern>*
Count matches per file

**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

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

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

## CONTEXT

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

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

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

## FILES AND TYPES

**ag --***<type>* *<pattern>*
Only files of a type, e.g. --python

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

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

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

**ag --hidden** *<pattern>*
Include hidden files

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

## REGEX

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