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

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

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

OUTPUT (cont.)

`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

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

`ag -0 -l <pattern>`
NUL-separate file names

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 --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

`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