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