Searching text files - grep

`grep -F` *options string file*$_1$ *file*$_2$ ...
`grep` *options regexp file*$_1$ *file*$_2$ ...
`grep -E` *options eregexp file*$_1$ *file*$_2$ ...
`egrep` *options eregexp file*$_1$ *file*$_2$ ...

Interesting options: `-i` — ignore case, `-n` — print line numbers, `-v` — search for lines **without** matches, `-h` — do not print file name (when searching multiple files). **Important**: there are two versions of `grep` on `babbage`.

Regular expressions in vim and less

Search: /*<regexp>* ↵
Search backward: ?*<regexp>* ↵
Substitute (`vim` only): :*<range>*s/*<regexp>*/*<string>*/*<options>* ↵

Regular expressions

*M*atches	vi	vim	grep	egrep	sed	awk
any character	.	.	.	.	.	.
zero or more preceding	*	*	*	*	*	*
beginning of line	^	^	^	^	^	^
end of line	$	$	$	$	$	$
match one from a set	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
escape following character	\	\	\	\	\	\
store pattern	\(\)	\(\)	\(\)		\(\)	
match a range of instances		\{ \}	\{ \}	{ }	\{ \}	{ }
one or more preceding		\+		+		+
zero or one preceding		\=		?		?
group expression to match				( )		( )
choices to match		|		|		|
match word beginning	\<	\<				
match word end	\>	\>				
text matched by *n*-th \(\)	*n*	*n*	*n*		*n*	
the whole matched text	&	&			&	
previous replacement patt	~	~				
uppercase next character	\u	\u				
uppercase next characters	\U \E	\U \E				

Measuring file size - wc

`wc` *options file*$_1$ *file*$_2$ ... prints file sizes (and total). `wc` is capable of printing character, word and line counts. See documentation for full description.

Sorting files - sort

Can sort lines in a file alphabetically or based on numerical values. It's possible to tell `sort` to select parts of a line as a "key" for sorting. `sort` can also eliminate duplicate lines (or lines with duplicate "keys"). See documentation for full description.

Batched text file processing - sed

`sed` is good for writing scripts that do simple file editing operations automatically. `sed` can do substitutions (including the ones with regular expressions), add and delete lines in particular places in the file, *etc.* See documentation for full description.