

**NAME**

**fold** - fold long lines for finite width output device

**SYNOPSIS**

**fold** [-bs] [-w *width*] [*file* ...]

**DESCRIPTION**

The **fold** utility is a filter which folds the contents of the specified files, or the standard input if no files are specified, breaking the lines to have a maximum of 80 columns.

The options are as follows:

- b**     Count *width* in bytes rather than column positions.
- s**     Fold line after the last blank character within the first *width* column positions (or bytes).
- w *width***  
Specify a line width to use instead of the default 80 columns. The *width* value should be a multiple of 8 if tabs are present, or the tabs should be expanded using `expand(1)` before using **fold**.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The LANG, LC\_ALL and LC\_CTYPE environment variables affect the execution of **fold** as described in `environ(7)`.

**EXAMPLES**

Fold text in standard input with a width of 20 columns:

```
$ echo "I am smart enough to know that I am dumb" | fold -w 15
I am smart enou
gh to know that
I am dumb
```

Same as above but breaking lines after the last blank character:

```
$ echo "I am smart enough to know that I am dumb" | fold -s -w 15
I am smart
enough to know
that I am dumb
```

**SEE ALSO**

expand(1), fmt(1)

**STANDARDS**

The **fold** utility conforms to IEEE Std 1003.1-2001 ("POSIX.1").

**HISTORY**

The **fold** utility first appeared in 1BSD. It was rewritten for 4.3BSD-Reno to improve speed and modernize style. The **-b** and **-s** options were added to NetBSD 1.0 for IEEE Std 1003.2 ("POSIX.2") compliance.

**AUTHORS**

Bill Joy wrote the original version of **fold** on June 28, 1977. Kevin Ruddy rewrote the command in 1990, and J. T. Conklin added the missing options in 1993.

**BUGS**

If underlining (see `ul(1)`) is present it may be messed up by folding.