

NAME

lam - laminate files

SYNOPSIS

lam [-**f** *min.max*] [-**s** *sepstring*] [-**t** *c*] *file* ...

lam [-**p** *min.max*] [-**s** *sepstring*] [-**t** *c*] *file* ...

DESCRIPTION

The **lam** utility copies the named files side by side onto the standard output. The *n*-th input lines from the input *files* are considered fragments of the single long *n*-th output line into which they are assembled. The name '-' means the standard input, and may be repeated.

-f *min.max*, **-F** *min.max*

Print line fragments according to the format string *min.max*, where *min* is the minimum field width and *max* the maximum field width. If *min* begins with a zero, zeros will be added to make up the field width, and if it begins with a '-', the fragment will be left-adjusted within the field. Using **-f** applies only to the next file while **-F** applies to all subsequent files until it appears again uncapitalized.

-p *min.max*, **-P** *min.max*

Like **-f**, but pad this file's field when end-of-file is reached and other files are still active. Using **-p** applies only to the next file while **-P** applies to all subsequent files until it appears again uncapitalized.

-s *sepstring*, **-S** *sepstring*

Print *sepstring* before printing line fragments from the next file. This option may appear after the last file. Using **-s** applies only to the next file while **-S** applies to all subsequent files until it appears again uncapitalized.

-t *c*, **-T** *c*

The input line terminator is *c* instead of a newline. The newline normally appended to each output line is omitted. Using **-t** applies only to the next file while **-T** applies to all subsequent files until it appears again uncapitalized.

To print files simultaneously for easy viewing use `pr(1)`.

EXAMPLES

The command

```
lam file1 file2 file3 file4
```

joins 4 files together along each line. To merge the lines from four different files use

```
lam file1 -S "\
" file2 file3 file4
```

Every 2 lines of a file may be joined on one line with

```
lam - - < file
```

and a form letter with substitutions keyed by '@' can be done with

```
lam -t @ letter changes
```

SEE ALSO

join(1), paste(1), pr(1), printf(3)

STANDARDS

Some of the functionality of **lam** is standardized as the paste(1) utility by IEEE Std 1003.2 ("POSIX.2").

HISTORY

The **lam** utility first appeared in 4.2BSD.

AUTHORS

John A. Kunze

BUGS

The **lam** utility does not recognize multibyte characters.