

**NAME**

pktype – verify and translate a packed font (pk) bitmap file to plain text

**SYNOPSIS**

**pktype** *pk\_file*[pk]

**DESCRIPTION**

The **pktype** program translates a packed font file (*pk*) output by, for example, **gftopk**(1), to a file that humans can read. It also serves as a *pk* file-validating program (i.e., if **pktype** can read it, it's correct) and as an example of a *pk*-reading program for other software that wants to read *pk* files.

The input *pk\_file* on the command line may omit the suffix "pk". The plain text translation is always written to standard output.

The output file gives a compact encoding of the packed encoding, using conventions described in the source code. Run lengths of black pixels alternate with parenthesized run lengths of white pixels, and brackets are used to indicate when a row should be repeated.

**OPTIONS**

See **tex**(1) for details of command-line parsing.

The standard **-help** and **-version** options are supported.

**ENVIRONMENT**

The program looks for *pk\_file* using the environment variables PKFONTS, TEXPKS, GLYPHFONTS, and TEXTFONTS, in that order. If none are set, it uses the system default. See the Kpathsea manual at <https://tug.org/kpathsea> for the details of the searching.

**SEE ALSO**

**dvitype**(1), **gftopk**(1), **gftype**(1).

Donald E. Knuth et al., *Metafontware*.

**AUTHORS**

Tomas Rokicki wrote the program. Donald E. Knuth originally ported it to Unix. Pierre MacKay originally adapted it for compilation with Web2c.

Public discussion list and bug reports: <https://lists.tug.org/tex-k>