

Web2c

for version 7.5.6
December 2007

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This file documents the installation and use of the programs in Web2c, an implementation of Donald Knuth's TeX system.

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1 Introduction

This manual corresponds to version 7.5.6 of Web2c, released in December 2007.

Web2c is the name of a \TeX implementation, originally for Unix, but now also running under DOS, Amiga, and other operating systems. By *\TeX implementation*, we mean all of the standard programs developed by the Stanford \TeX project directed by Donald E. Knuth: Metafont, DVItyp, GFtoDVI, Bib \TeX , Tangle, etc., as well as \TeX itself. Other programs are also included: DVICopy, written by Peter Breitenlohner, MetaPost and its utilities (derived from Metafont), by John Hobby, etc.

General strategy: Web2c works, as its name implies, by translating the WEB source in which \TeX is written into C source code. Its output is not self-contained, however; it makes extensive use of many macros and functions in a library (the ‘`web2c/lib`’ directory in the sources). Therefore, it will not work without change on an arbitrary WEB program.

Availability: All of Web2c is freely available—“free” both in the sense of no cost (free ice cream) and of having the source code to modify and/or redistribute (free speech). See [Section “unixtex.ftp” in *Kpathsea*](#), for the practical details of how to obtain Web2c.

Different parts of the Web2c distribution have different licensing terms, however, reflecting the different circumstances of their creation; consult each source file for exact details. The main practical implication for redistributors of Web2c is that the executables are covered by the GNU General Public License, and therefore anyone who gets a binary distribution must also get the sources, as explained by the terms of the GPL (see [Section “Copying” in *Kpathsea*](#)). The GPL covers the Web2c executables, including `tex`, because the Free Software Foundation sponsored the initial development of the Kpathsea library that Web2c uses. The basic source files from Stanford, however, have their own copyright terms or are in the public domain, and are not covered by the GPL.

History: Tomas Rokicki originated the \TeX -to-C system in 1987, working from the first change files for \TeX under Unix, which were done primarily by Howard Trickey and Pavel Curtis. Tim Morgan then took over development and maintenance for a number of years; the name changed to Web-to-C somewhere in there. In 1990, Karl Berry became the maintainer. He made many changes to the original sources, and started using the shorter name Web2c. In 1997, Olaf Weber took over. Dozens of other people have contributed; their names are listed in the ‘`ChangeLog`’ files.

Other acknowledgements: The University of Massachusetts at Boston (particularly Rick Martin and Bob Morris) has provided computers and ftp access to me for many years. Richard Stallman at the Free Software Foundation employed me while I wrote the original path searching library (for the GNU font utilities). (rms also gave us Emacs, GDB, and GCC, without which I cannot imagine developing Web2c.) And, of course, \TeX would not exist in the first place without Donald E. Knuth.

Further reading: See [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56.

2 Installation

(A copy of this chapter is in the distribution file ‘web2c/INSTALL’.)

Installing Web2c is mostly the same as installing any other Kpathsea-using program. Therefore, for the basic steps involved, see [Section “Installation” in *Kpathsea*](#). (A copy is in the file ‘kpathsea/INSTALL’.)

One peculiarity to Web2c is that the source distribution comes in two files: ‘web.tar.gz’ and ‘web2c.tar.gz’. You must retrieve and unpack them both. (We have two because the former archive contains the very large and seldom-changing original WEB source files.) See [Section “unixtex.ftp” in *Kpathsea*](#).

Another peculiarity is the MetaPost program. Although it has been installed previously as `mp`, as of Web2c 7.0 the installed name is now `mpost`, to avoid conflict with the `mp` program that does prettyprinting. This approach was recommended by the MetaPost author, John Hobby. If you as the \TeX administrator wish to make it available under its shorter name as well, you will have to set up a link or some such yourself. And of course individual users can do the same.

For solutions to common installation problems and information on how to report a bug, see the file ‘kpathsea/BUGS’ (see [Section “Bugs” in *Kpathsea*](#)). See also the Web2c home page, <http://www.tug.org/web2c>.

Points worth repeating:

- Before starting the standard compilation and installation you must install the basic fonts, macros, and other library files. See [Section “Installation” in *Kpathsea*](#).
- If you do not wish to use the standard file locations, see [Section “Changing search paths” in *Kpathsea*](#).
- Some Web2c features are enabled or disabled at `configure` time, as described in the first section below.

2.1 configure options

This section gives pointers to descriptions of the ‘--with’ and ‘--enable’ `configure` arguments that Web2c accepts. Some are specific to Web2c, others are generic to all Kpathsea-using programs.

For a list of all the options `configure` accepts, run ‘`configure --help`’. The generic options are listed first, and the package-specific options come last.

For a description of the generic options (which mainly allow you to specify installation directories) and basic `configure` usage, see [Section “Running configure scripts” in *Autoconf*](#), a copy is in the file ‘kpathsea/CONFIGURE’.

‘--disable-dump-share’

Do not make `fmt/base/mem` files sharable across different endian architectures.
See [Section 3.5.2.3 \[Hardware and memory dumps\]](#), page 11.

```
'--without-maketexmf-default'
'--without-maketexpk-default'
'--without-maketextfm-default'
'--with-maketextex-default'
```

Enable or disable the dynamic generation programs. See [Section “mktex configuration” in *Kpathsea*](#). The defaults are the inverse of the options, i.e., everything is enabled except `mktextex`.

```
'--enable-shared'
```

Build Kpathsea as a shared library. See [Section “Shared library” in *Kpathsea*](#).

```
'--with-editor=cmd'
```

Change the default editor invoked by the ‘e’ interactive command. See [Section 3.5.3 \[Editor invocation\]](#), page 12.

```
'--with-epsfwin'
'--with-hp2627win'
'--with-mftalkwin'
'--with-nextwin'
'--with-regiswin'
'--with-suntoolswin'
'--with-tektronixwin'
'--with-unitermwin'
'--with-x'
'--with-x-toolkit=KIT'
'--with-x11win'
'--with-x11'
```

Define Metafont graphics support; by default, no graphics support is enabled. See [Section 5.4 \[Online Metafont graphics\]](#), page 26.

```
'--x-includes=dir'
```

```
'--x-libraries=dir'
```

Define the locations of the X11 include files and libraries; by default, `configure` does its best to guess). See [Section “Optional Features” in *Autoconf*](#). A copy is in ‘`kpathsea/CONFIGURE`’.

2.2 Compile-time options

In addition to the `configure` options listed in the previous section, there are a few things that can be affected at compile-time with C definitions, rather than with `configure`. Using any of these is unusual.

To specify extra compiler flags (‘`-Dname`’ in this case), the simplest thing to do is:

```
make XCFLAGS="ccoptions"
```

You can also set the `CFLAGS` environment variable before running `configure`. See [Section “configure environment” in *Kpathsea*](#).

Anyway, here are the possibilities:

`‘-DFIXPT’`

`‘-DNO_MF_ASM’`

Use the original WEB fixed-point routines for Metafont and MetaPost arithmetic calculations regarding fractions. By default, assembly-language routines are used on x86 hardware with GNU C (unless `‘NO_MF_ASM’` is defined), and floating-point routines are used otherwise.

`‘-DIPC_DEBUG’`

Report on various interprocess communication activities. See [Section 4.5 \[IPC and T_EX\]](#), page 21.

2.3 Additional targets

Web2c has several Make targets besides the standard ones. You can invoke these either in the top level directory of the source distribution (the one containing `‘kpathsea/’` and `‘web2c/’`), or in the `‘web2c/’` directory.

`‘c-sources’`

Make only the C files, translated from the Web sources, presumably because you want to take them to a non-Unix machine.

`‘formats’`

`‘install-formats’`

Make or install all the memory dumps (see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). By default, the standard plain formats plus `‘latex.fmt’` are made. You can add other formats by redefining the `fmts`, `bases`, and `mems` variables. See the top of `‘web2c/Makefile’` for the possibilities.

`‘fmts’`

`‘install-fmts’`

Make or install the T_EX `‘.fmt’` files. See [Section 4.2 \[Initial T_EX\]](#), page 17.

`‘bases’`

`‘install-bases’`

Make or install the Metafont `‘.base’` files. See [Section 5.2 \[Initial Metafont\]](#), page 24.

`‘mems’`

`‘install-mems’`

Make or install the MetaPost `‘.mem’` files. See [Section 6.2 \[Initial MetaPost\]](#), page 32.

`‘triptrap’`

`‘trip’`

`‘trap’`

`‘mptrap’`

To run the torture tests for T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost (respectively). See the next section.

2.4 Trip, trap, and mptrap: Torture tests

To validate your T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost executables, run `‘make triptrap’`. This runs the trip, trap, and mptrap “torture tests”. See the files `‘triptrap/tripman.tex’`,

`'triptrap/trapman.tex'`, and `'triptrap/mptrap.readme'` for detailed information and background on the tests.

The differences between your executables' behavior and the standard values will show up on your terminal. The usual differences (these are all acceptable) are:

- string usage and table sizes;
- glue set ratios;
- `'down4'`, `'right4'`, and `'y4'` commands in DVItypex output;
- dates and times.

Any other differences are trouble. The most common culprit in the past has been compiler bugs, especially when optimizing. See [Section "T_EX or Metafont failing" in *Kpathsea*](#).

The files `'trip.diffs'`, `'mftrap.diffs'`, and `'mptrap.diffs'` in the `'triptrap'` directory show the standard diffs against the original output. If you diff your diffs against these files, you should come up clean. For example

```
make trip >&mytrip.diffs
diff triptrap/trip.diffs mytrip.diffs
```

To run the tests separately, use the targets `trip`, `trap`, and `mptrap`.

To run simple tests for all the programs as well as the torture tests, run `'make check'`. You can compare the output to the distributed file `'tests/check.log'` if you like.

2.5 Runtime options

Besides the configure- and compile-time options described in the previous sections, you can control a number of parameters (in particular, array sizes) in the `'texmf.cnf'` runtime file read by *Kpathsea* (see [Section "Config files" in *Kpathsea*](#)).

Rather than exhaustively listing them here, please see the last section of the distributed `'kpathsea/texmf.cnf'`. Some of the more interesting values:

`'main_memory'`

Total words of memory available, for T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost. Must remake the format file after changing.

`'extra_mem_bot'`

Extra space for "large" T_EX data structures: boxes, glue, breakpoints, et al. If you use PiCT_EX, you may well want to set this.

`'font_mem_size'`

Words of font info available for T_EX; this is approximately the total size of all TFM files read.

`'hash_extra'`

Additional space for the hash table of control sequence names. Approximately 10,000 control sequences can be stored in the main hash table; if you have a large book with numerous cross-references, this might not be enough, and thus you will want to set `hash_extra`.

Of course, ideally all arrays would be dynamically expanded as necessary, so the only limiting factor would be the amount of swap space available. Unfortunately, implementing

this is extremely difficult, as the fixed size of arrays is assumed in many places throughout the source code. These runtime limits are a practical compromise between the compile-time limits in previous versions, and truly dynamic arrays. (On the other hand, the Web2c BibTeX implementation does do dynamic reallocation of some arrays.)

3 Commonalities

Many aspects of the T_EX system are the same among more than one program, so we describe all those pieces together, here.

3.1 Option conventions

To provide a clean and consistent behavior, we chose to have all these programs use the GNU function `getopt_long_only` to parse command lines. However, we do use in a restricted mode, where all the options have to come before the rest of the arguments.

As a result, you can:

- use ‘-’ or ‘--’ to start an option name;
- use any unambiguous abbreviation for an option name;
- separate option names and values with either ‘=’ or one or more spaces;
- use filenames that would otherwise look like options by putting them after an option ‘--’.

By convention, non-option arguments, if specified, generally define the name of an input file, as documented for each program.

If a particular option with a value is given more than once, it is the last value that counts.

For example, the following command line specifies the options ‘foo’, ‘bar’, and ‘verbose’; gives the value ‘baz’ to the ‘abc’ option, and the value ‘xyz’ to the ‘quux’ option; and specifies the filename ‘-myfile-’.

```
-foo --bar -verb -abc=baz -quux karl --quux xyz -- -myfile-
```

3.2 Common options

All of these programs accept the standard GNU ‘--help’ and ‘--version’ options, and several programs accept ‘--verbose’. Rather than writing identical descriptions for every program, they are described here.

‘--help’ Print a usage message listing basic usage and all available options to standard output, then exit successfully.

‘--verbose’
 Print progress reports to standard output.

‘--version’
 Print the version number to standard output, then exit successfully.

T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost have a number of additional options in common:

‘-file-line-error’

‘-no-file-line-error’

Change (or do not change) the way error messages are printed. The alternate style looks like error messages from many compilers and is easier to parse for some editors that invoke T_EX. This option used to be called ‘-file-line-error-style’.

`'-fmt=dumpname'`

`'-base=dumpname'`

`'-mem=dumpname'`

Use *dumpname* instead of the program name or a `'%&'` line to determine the name of the memory dump file read (`'fmt'` for T_EX, `'base'` for Metafont, `'mem'` for MetaPost). See [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10. Also sets the program name to *dumpname* if no `'-progrname'` option was given.

`'-halt-on-error'`

Stop processing and exit when an error occurs, as opposed to the normal process of trying to recover and continue.

`'-ini'` Enable the “initial” form of the program (see [Section 3.5.1 \[Initial and virgin\]](#), page 10). This is implicitly set if the program name is `initex` resp. `inimf` resp. `inimpost`, although these variants are no longer typically installed.

`'-interaction=string'`

Set the interaction mode from the command line. The *string* must be one of `'batchmode'`, `'nonstopmode'`, `'scrollmode'`, or `'errorstopmode'`.

`'-jobname=string'`

Set the job name to *string*, instead of deriving it from the name of the input file.

`'-kpathsea-debug=number'`

Set path searching debugging flags according to the bits of *number* (see [Section “Debugging” in Kpathsea](#)). You can also specify this in `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` environment variable (for all Web2c programs). (The command line value overrides.) The most useful value is `'-1'`, to get all available output.

`'-output-directory=dirname'`

Specify the directory *dirname* to which output files are written. Also look for input files in *dirname* first, before looking along the normal search path. This is useful when you are in some read-only distribution directory, perhaps on a CD-ROM, and want to T_EX some documentation, for example. Note that for input files the “search” in *dirname* does not use the full generality of the search mechanism. This means that some files are not found there even though you might expect them to be.

`'-parse-first-line'`

`'-no-parse-first-line'`

Check or disable checking whether the first line of the main input file starts with `'%&'`, and parse it if it does. This line can be used specify the format and/or a TCX file.

`'-progrname=string'`

Set program (and memory dump) name to *string*. This may affect the search paths and other values used (see [Section “Config files” in Kpathsea](#)). Using this option is equivalent to making a link named *string* to the binary and then invoking the binary under that name. See [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10.

‘-recorder’

Enable the filename recorder. This makes the program save a list of the opened files into a file with (by default) extension ‘.fls’. For Omega, this option is always on, and the file has extension ‘.ofl’.

‘-translate-file=tcxfile’

Use *tcxfile* to define which characters are printable and translations between the internal and external character sets. Moreover, *tcxfile* can be explicitly declared in the first line of the main input file ‘%& -translate-file=tcxfile’. This is the recommended method for portability reasons. See [Section 4.4.2 \[TCX files\]](#), page 19.

‘-8bit’

This option specifies that by default all characters should be considered printable. If ‘-translate-file’ was given as well, then the TCX file may mark characters as non-printable.

‘-oem’

This option is specific to Windows. When specified, T_EX engines will use the OEM code page rather than the ANSI one to display their messages.

3.3 Path searching

All of the Web2c programs, including T_EX, which do path searching use the Kpathsea routines to do so. The precise names of the environment and configuration file variables which get searched for particular file formatted are therefore documented in the Kpathsea manual (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)). Reading ‘texmf.cnf’ (see [Section “Config files” in Kpathsea](#)), invoking `mktex...` scripts (see [Section “mktex scripts” in Kpathsea](#)), and so on are all handled by Kpathsea.

The programs which read fonts make use of another Kpathsea feature: ‘texfonts.map’, which allows arbitrary aliases for the actual names of font files; for example, ‘Times-Roman’ for ‘ptmr8r.tfm’. The distributed (and installed by default) ‘texfonts.map’ includes aliases for many widely available PostScript fonts by their PostScript names.

3.4 Output file location

All the programs generally follow the usual convention for output files. Namely, they are placed in the directory current when the program is run, regardless of any input file location; or, in a few cases, output is to standard output.

For example, if you run ‘`tex /tmp/foo`’, for example, the output will be in ‘`./foo.dvi`’ and ‘`./foo.log`’, not ‘`/tmp/foo.dvi`’ and ‘`/tmp/foo.log`’.

You can use the ‘-output-directory’ option to cause all output files that would normally be written in the current directory to be written in the specified directory instead. See [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7.

If the current directory is not writable, and ‘-output-directory’ is not specified, the main programs (T_EX, Metafont, MetaPost, and BibT_EX) make an exception: if the config file value `TEXMFOUTPUT` is set (it is not by default), output files are written to the directory specified.

3.5 Three programs: Metafont, MetaPost, and T_EX

T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost have a number of features in common. Besides the ones here, the common command-line options are described in the previous section. The configuration file options that let you control some array sizes and other features are described in [Section 2.5 \[Runtime options\]](#), page 5.

3.5.1 Initial and virgin

The T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost programs each have two main variants, called *initial* and *virgin*. As of Web2c 7, one executable suffices for both variants, and in fact, the `ini...` executables are no longer created.

The initial form is enabled if:

1. the ‘`-ini`’ option was specified; or
2. the program name is ‘`initex`’ resp. ‘`inimf`’ resp. ‘`inimpost`’ (these variants are no longer typically installed); or
3. the first line of the main input file is ‘`%&ini`’;

otherwise, the virgin form is used.

The *virgin* form is the one generally invoked for production use. The first thing it does is read a memory dump (see [Section 3.5.2.2 \[Determining the memory dump to use\]](#), page 11), and then proceeds on with the main job.

The *initial* form is generally used only to create memory dumps (see the next section). It starts up more slowly than the virgin form, because it must do lengthy initializations that are encapsulated in the memory dump file.

3.5.2 Memory dumps

In typical use, T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost require a large number of macros to be predefined; therefore, they support *memory dump* files, which can be read much more efficiently than ordinary source code.

3.5.2.1 Creating memory dumps

The programs all create memory dumps in slightly idiosyncratic (though substantially similar) way, so we describe the details in separate sections (references below). The basic idea is to run the initial version of the program (see [Section 3.5.1 \[Initial and virgin\]](#), page 10), read the source file to define the macros, and then execute the `\dump` primitive.

Also, each program uses a different filename extension for its memory dumps, since although they are completely analogous they are not interchangeable (T_EX cannot read a Metafont memory dump, for example).

Here is a list of filename extensions with references to examples of creating memory dumps:

T_EX (‘`.fmt`’) See [Section 4.2 \[Initial T_EX\]](#), page 17.

Metafont (‘`.base`’) See [Section 5.2 \[Initial Metafont\]](#), page 24.

MetaPost (‘`.mem`’) See [Section 6.2 \[Initial MetaPost\]](#), page 32.

When making memory dumps, the programs read environment variables and configuration files for path searching and other values as usual. If you are making a new installation and have environment variables pointing to an old one, for example, you will probably run into difficulties.

3.5.2.2 Determining the memory dump to use

The virgin form (see [Section 3.5.1 \[Initial and virgin\]](#), page 10) of each program always reads a memory dump before processing normal source input. All three programs determine the memory dump to use in the same way:

1. If the first non-option command-line argument begins with ‘&’, the program uses the remainder of that argument as the memory dump name. For example, running ‘`tex \&super`’ reads ‘`super.fmt`’. (The backslash protects the ‘&’ against interpretation by the shell.)
2. If the ‘`-fmt`’ resp. ‘`-base`’ resp. ‘`-mem`’ option is specified, its value is used.
3. If the ‘`-progrname`’ option is specified, its value is used.
4. If the first line of the main input file (which must be specified on the command line, not in response to ‘`**`’) is `%&dump`, and *dump* is an existing memory dump of the appropriate type, *dump* is used.

The first line of the main input file can also specify which character translation file is to be used: `%&-translate-file=tcxfile` (see [Section 4.4.2 \[TCX files\]](#), page 19).

These two roles can be combined: `%&dump -translate-file=tcxfile`. If this is done, the name of the dump must be given first.

5. Otherwise, the program uses the program invocation name, most commonly ‘`tex`’ resp. ‘`mf`’ resp. ‘`mpost`’. For example, if ‘`latex`’ is a link to ‘`tex`’, and the user runs ‘`latex foo`’, ‘`latex.fmt`’ will be used.

3.5.2.3 Hardware and memory dumps

By default, memory dump files are generally sharable between architectures of different types; specifically, on machines of different endianness (see [Section “Byte order” in GNU C Library](#)). (This is a feature of the Web2c implementation, and is not true of all T_EX implementations.) If you specify ‘`--disable-dump-share`’ to `configure`, however, memory dumps will be endian-dependent.

The reason to do this is speed. To achieve endian-independence, the reading of memory dumps on LittleEndian architectures, such as PC’s and DEC architectures, is somewhat slowed (all the multibyte values have to be swapped). Usually, this is not noticeable, and the advantage of being able to share memory dumps across all platforms at a site far outweighs the speed loss. But if you’re installing Web2c for use on LittleEndian machines only, perhaps on a PC being used only by you, you may wish to get maximum speed.

T_EXnically, even without ‘`--disable-dump-share`’, sharing of ‘`.fmt`’ files cannot be guaranteed to work. Floating-point values are always written in native format, and hence will generally not be readable across platforms. Fortunately, T_EX uses floating point only to represent glue ratios, and all common formats (plain, L^AT_EX, A^MS^T_EX, . . .) do not do any glue setting at ‘`.fmt`’-creation time. Metafont and MetaPost do not use floating point in any dumped value at all.

Incidentally, different memory dump files will never compare equal byte-for-byte, because the program always dumps the current date and time. So don't be alarmed by just a few bytes difference.

If you don't know what endianness your machine is, and you're curious, here is a little C program to tell you. (The `configure` script contains a similar program.) This is from the book *C: A Reference Manual*, by Samuel P. Harbison and Guy L. Steele Jr. (see [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56).

```
main ()
{
    /* Are we little or big endian?  From Harbison&Steele.  */
    union
    {
        long l;
        char c[sizeof (long)];
    } u;
    u.l = 1;
    if (u.c[0] == 1)
        printf ("LittleEndian\n");
    else if (u.c[sizeof (long) - 1] == 1)
        printf ("BigEndian\n");
    else
        printf ("unknownEndian");

    exit (u.c[sizeof (long) - 1] == 1);
}
```

3.5.3 Editor invocation

TeX, Metafont, and MetaPost all (by default) stop and ask for user intervention at an error. If the user responds with `e` or `E`, the program invokes an editor.

Specifying `--with-editor=cmd` to `configure` sets the default editor command string to `cmd`. The environment variables/configuration values `TEXEDIT`, `MFEDIT`, and `MPEDIT` (respectively) override this. If `--with-editor` is not specified, the default is `vi +%d %s`.

In this string, `%d` is replaced by the line number of the error, and `%s` is replaced by the name of the current input file.

3.5.4 `\input` filenames

TeX, Metafont, and MetaPost source programs can all read other source files with the `\input` (TeX) and `input` (MF and MP) primitives:

```
\input name % in TeX
```

The file *name* can always be terminated with whitespace; for Metafont and MetaPost, the statement terminator `;` also works. (L^ATeX and other macro packages provide other interfaces to `\input` that allow different notation; here we are concerned only with the primitive operation.)

As of Web2c version 7.5.3, double-quote characters can be used to include spaces or other special cases. In typical use, the `"` characters surround the entire filename:


```
\input "filename with spaces"
```

Technically, the quote characters can be used inside the name, and can enclose any characters, as in:

```
\input filename" "with" "spaces"
```

One more point. In L^AT_EX, the quotes are needed inside the braces, thus

```
\input{a b}      % fails
\input{"a b"}    % ok
```

This quoting mechanism comes into play *after* T_EX has tokenized and expanded the input. So, multiple spaces and tabs may be seen as a single space, active characters such as ‘~’ are expanded first, and so on. (See below.)

On the other hand, various C library routines and Unix itself use the null byte (character code zero, ASCII NUL) to terminate strings. So filenames in Web2c cannot contain nulls, even though T_EX itself does not treat NUL specially. In addition, some older Unix variants do not allow eight-bit characters (codes 128–255) in filenames.

For maximal portability of your document across systems, use only the characters ‘a’–‘z’, ‘0’–‘9’, and ‘.’, and restrict your filenames to at most eight characters (not including the extension), and at most a three-character extension. Do not use anything but simple filenames, since directory separators vary among systems; instead, add the necessary directories to the appropriate search path.

Finally, the present Web2c implementation does ‘~’ and ‘\$’ expansion on *name*, unlike Knuth’s original implementation and older versions of Web2c. Thus:

```
\input ~jsmith/$foo.bar
```

will dereference the environment variable or Kpathsea config file value ‘foo’ and read that file extended with ‘.bar’ in user ‘jsmith’’s home directory. You can also use braces, as in ‘\${foo}bar’, if you want to follow the variable name with a letter, numeral, or ‘_’.

(So another way to get a program to read a filename containing whitespace is to define an environment variable and dereference it.)

In all the common T_EX formats (plain T_EX, L^AT_EX, AMST_EX), the characters ‘~’ and ‘\$’ have special category codes, so to actually use these in a document you have to change their catcodes or use \string. (The result is unportable anyway, see the suggestions above.) The place where they are most likely to be useful is when typing interactively.

4 T_EX: Typesetting

T_EX is a typesetting system: it was especially designed to handle complex mathematics, as well as most ordinary text typesetting.

T_EX is a batch language, like C or Pascal, and not an interactive “word processor”: you compile a T_EX input file into a corresponding device-independent (DVI) file (and then translate the DVI file to the commands for a particular output device). This approach has both considerable disadvantages and considerable advantages. For a complete description of the T_EX language, see *The T_EXbook* (see [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56). Many other books on T_EX, introductory and otherwise, are available.

4.1 tex invocation

T_EX (usually invoked as `tex`) formats the given text and commands, and outputs a corresponding device-independent representation of the typeset document. This section merely describes the options available in the Web2c implementation. For a complete description of the T_EX typesetting language, see *The T_EXbook* (see [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56).

T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost process the command line (described here) and determine their memory dump (fnt) file in the same way (see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). Synopses:

```
tex [option]... [texname[.tex]] [tex-commands]
tex [option]... \first-line
tex [option]... &fmt args
```

T_EX searches the usual places for the main input file *texname* (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)), extending *texname* with `.tex` if necessary. To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` to `-1` before running the program.

After *texname* is read, T_EX processes any remaining *tex-commands* on the command line as regular T_EX input. Also, if the first non-option argument begins with a T_EX escape character (usually `\`), T_EX processes all non-option command-line arguments as a line of regular T_EX input.

If no arguments or options are specified, T_EX prompts for an input file name with `**`.

T_EX writes the main DVI output to the file `basetexname.dvi`, where *basetexname* is the basename of *texname*, or `texput` if no input file was specified. A DVI file is a device-independent binary representation of your T_EX document. The idea is that after running T_EX, you translate the DVI file using a separate program to the commands for a particular output device, such as a PostScript printer (see [Section “Introduction” in Dvips](#)) or an X Window System display (see `xdvi(1)`).

T_EX also reads TFM files for any fonts you load in your document with the `\font` primitive. By default, it runs an external program named `mktexfm` to create any nonexistent TFM files. You can disable this at configure-time or runtime (see [Section “mktex configuration” in Kpathsea](#)). This is enabled mostly for the sake of the EC fonts, which can be generated at any size.

T_EX can write output files, via the `\openout` primitive; this opens a security hole vulnerable to Trojan horse attack: an unwitting user could run a T_EX program that overwrites,

say, ‘~/rhosts’. (MetaPost has a `write` primitive with similar implications). To alleviate this, there is a configuration variable `openout_any`, which selects one of three levels of security. When it is set to ‘a’ (for “any”), no restrictions are imposed. When it is set to ‘r’ (for “restricted”), filenames beginning with ‘.’ are disallowed (except ‘.tex’ because L^AT_EX needs it). When it is set to ‘p’ (for “paranoid”) additional restrictions are imposed: an absolute filename must refer to a file in (a subdirectory) of `TEXMFOUTPUT`, and any attempt to go up a directory level is forbidden (that is, paths may not contain a ‘..’ component). The paranoid setting is the default. (For backwards compatibility, ‘y’ and ‘1’ are synonyms of ‘a’, while ‘n’ and ‘0’ are synonyms for ‘r’.)

In any case, all `\openout` filenames are recorded in the log file, except those opened on the first line of input, which is processed when the log file has not yet been opened. (If you as a T_EX administrator wish to implement more stringent rules on `\openout`, modifying the function `openoutnameok` in ‘web2c/lib/texmfmp.c’ is intended to suffice.)

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see Section 3.2 [Common options], page 7):

```

'-enc'
'-[no]-file-line-error'
'-fmt=fmtname'
'-halt-on-error'
'-ini'
'-interaction=string'
'-ipc'
'-ipc-start'
'-jobname=string'
'-kpathsea-debug=number'
'-[no]parse-first-line'
'-output-directory'
'-progname=string'
'-recorder'
'-translate-file=tcxfile'
'-8bit'
'-enc'
'-ipc'
'-ipc-start'

```

These options are common to T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost. See Section 3.2 [Common options], page 7.

Enable encT_EX extensions, such as `\mubyte`. This can be used to support Unicode UTF-8 input encoding. See <http://www.olsak.net/enc tex.html>.

With either option, T_EX writes its DVI output to a socket as well as to the usual ‘.dvi’ file. With ‘-ipc-start’, T_EX also opens a server program at the other end to read the output. See Section 4.5 [IPC and T_EX], page 21.

These options are available only if the ‘--enable-ipc’ option was specified to `configure` during installation of Web2c.

```

'-mktex=filetype'
'-no-mktex=filetype'

```

Turn on or off the ‘mktex’ script associated with *filetype*. The only values that make sense for *filetype* are ‘tex’ and ‘tfm’.

`‘-mltex’` If we are INITEX (see [Section 3.5.1 \[Initial and virgin\]](#), page 10), enable MLT_EX extensions such as `\charsubdef`. Implicitly set if the program name is `mltex`. See [Section 4.4.1 \[MLT_EX\]](#), page 18.

`‘-output-comment=string’`

Use *string* as the DVI file comment. Ordinarily, this comment records the date and time of the T_EX run, but if you are doing regression testing, you may not want the DVI file to have this spurious difference. This is also taken from the environment variable and config file value `‘output_comment’`.

`‘-shell-escape’`

`‘-no-shell-escape’`

Enable (or disable) the `‘\write18{shell-command}’` feature. This is also enabled if the environment variable or config file value `‘shell_escape’` is set to `‘t’` (but the `‘-no-shell-escape’` command line option overrides this). (For backwards compatibility, `‘y’` and `‘1’` are accepted as synonyms of `‘t’`). It is disabled by default to avoid security problems. When enabled, the *shell-command* string (which first undergoes the usual T_EX expansions, just as in `‘\special’`) is passed to the command shell (via the C library function `‘system’`). The output of *shell-command* is not diverted anywhere, so it will not appear in the log file. The system call either happens at `‘\output’` time or right away, according to the absence or presence of the `‘\immediate’` prefix, as usual for `\write`. (If you as a T_EX administrator wish to implement more stringent rules on what can be executed, you will need to modify `‘tex.ch’`.)

`‘-src-specials’`

`‘-src-specials=string’`

This option makes T_EX output specific source information using `‘\special’` commands in the DVI file. These `‘\special’` track the current file name and line number.

Using the first form of this option, the `‘\special’` commands are inserted automatically.

In the second form of the option, *string* is a comma separated list of the following values: `‘cr’`, `‘display’`, `‘hbox’`, `‘math’`, `‘par’`, `‘parend’`, `‘vbox’`. You can use this list to specify where you want T_EX to output such commands. For example, `‘-src-specials=cr,math’` will output source information every line and every math formula.

These commands can be used with the appropriate DVI viewer and text editor to switch from the current position in the editor to the same position in the viewer and back from the viewer to the editor.

This option works by inserting `‘\special’` commands into the token stream, and thus in principle these additional tokens can be recovered or seen by the tricky-enough macros. If you run across a case, let us know, because this counts as a bug. However, such bugs are very hard to fix, requiring significant changes to T_EX, so please don’t count on it.

Redefining `‘\special’` will not affect the functioning of this option. The commands inserted into the token stream are hard-coded to always use the `‘\special’` primitive.

T_EX does not pass the trip test when this option is enabled.

4.2 Initial T_EX

The *initial* form of T_EX is invoked by ‘`tex -ini`’. It does lengthy initializations avoided by the “virgin” (`vir`) form, so as to be capable of dumping ‘.fmt’ files (see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). For a detailed comparison of virgin and initial forms, see [Section 3.5.1 \[Initial and virgin\]](#), page 10. In past releases, a separate program `initex` was installed to invoke the initial form, but this is no longer the case.

For a list of options and other information, see [Section 4.1 \[tex invocation\]](#), page 14.

Unlike Metafont and MetaPost, many format files are commonly used with T_EX. The standard one implementing the features described in the *T_EXbook* is ‘`plain.fmt`’, also known as ‘`tex.fmt`’ (again, see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). It is created by default during installation, but you can also do so by hand if necessary (e.g., if an update to ‘`plain.tex`’ is issued):

```
tex -ini '\input plain \dump'
```

(The quotes prevent interpretation of the backslashes from the shell.) Then install the resulting ‘`plain.fmt`’ in ‘`$(fmdir)`’ (‘`/usr/local/share/texmf/web2c`’ by default), and link ‘`tex.fmt`’ to it.

The necessary invocation for generating a format file differs for each format, so instructions that come with the format should explain. The top-level ‘`web2c`’ Makefile has targets for making most common formats: `plain latex amstex texinfo eplain`. See [Section 4.3 \[Formats\]](#), page 17, for more details on T_EX formats.

4.3 Formats

T_EX *formats* are large collections of macros, often dumped into a ‘.fmt’ file (see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10) by `tex -ini` (see [Section 4.2 \[Initial TeX\]](#), page 17). A number of formats are in reasonably widespread use, and the Web2c Makefile has targets to make the versions current at the time of release. You can change which formats are automatically built by setting the `fmts` Make variable; by default, only the ‘`plain`’ and ‘`latex`’ formats are made.

You can get the latest versions of most of these formats from the CTAN archives in subdirectories of ‘`CTAN:/macros`’ (for CTAN info, see [Section “unixtex.ftp” in Kpathsea](#)). The archive [ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/lib.tar.gz](http://ftp.tug.org/tex/lib.tar.gz) (also available from CTAN) contains most of these formats (although perhaps not the absolute latest version), among other things.

latex The most widely used format. The current release is named ‘L^AT_EX 2e’; new versions are released approximately every six months, with patches issued as needed. The old release was called ‘L^AT_EX 2.09’, and is no longer maintained or supported. L^AT_EX attempts to provide generic markup instructions, such as “emphasize”, instead of specific typesetting instructions, such as “use the 10 pt Computer Modern italic font”. The L^AT_EX home page: <http://www.latex-project.org>.

context ConT_EXt is an independent macro package which has a basic document structuring approach similar to L^AT_EX. It also supports creating interactive PDF files

and has integrated MetaPost support, among many other interesting features. The ConT_EXt home page: <http://www.pragma-ade.com>.

- amstex** The official typesetting system of the American Mathematical Society. Like L^AT_EX, it encourages generic markup commands. The AMS also provides many L^AT_EX package for authors who prefer L^AT_EX. Taken together, they are used to produce nearly all AMS publications, e.g., *Mathematical Reviews*. The AMST_EX home page: <http://www.ams.org/tex>.
- texinfo** The documentation system developed and maintained by the Free Software Foundation for their software manuals. It can be automatically converted into plain text, a machine-readable on-line format called ‘info’, HTML, etc. The Texinfo home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo>.
- eplain** The “expanded plain” format provides various common features (e.g., symbolic cross-referencing, tables of contents, indexing, citations using BibT_EX), for those authors who prefer to handle their own high-level formatting. The Eplain home page: <http://www.tug.org/eplain>.
- slitex** An obsolete L^AT_EX 2.09 format for making slides. It is replaced by the ‘slides’ document class, along with the ‘beamer’, ‘texpower’, and other packages.

4.4 Languages and hyphenation

T_EX supports most natural languages. See also [Section 4.6 \[T_EX extensions\]](#), page 22.

4.4.1 MLT_EX: Multi-lingual T_EX

Multi-lingual T_EX (**mltex**) is an extension of T_EX originally written by Michael Ferguson and now updated and maintained by Bernd Raichle. It allows the use of non-existing glyphs in a font by declaring glyph substitutions. These are restricted to substitutions of an accented character glyph, which need not be defined in the current font, by its appropriate `\accent` construction using a base and accent character glyph, which do have to exist in the current font. This substitution is automatically done behind the scenes, if necessary, and thus MLT_EX additionally supports hyphenation of words containing an accented character glyph for fonts missing this glyph (e.g., Computer Modern). Standard T_EX suppresses hyphenation in this case.

MLT_EX works at ‘.fmt’-creation time: the basic idea is to specify the ‘-mltex’ option to T_EX when you `\dump` a format. Then, when you subsequently invoke T_EX and read that .fmt file, the MLT_EX features described below will be enabled.

Generally, you use special macro files to create an MLT_EX .fmt file.

The sections below describe the two new primitives that MLT_EX defines. Aside from these, MLT_EX is completely compatible with standard T_EX.

4.4.1.1 `\charsubdef`: Character substitutions

The most important primitive MLT_EX adds is `\charsubdef`, used in a way reminiscent of `\chardef`:

```
\charsubdef composite [=] accent base
```

Each of *composite*, *accent*, and *base* are font glyph numbers, expressed in the usual T_EX syntax: ‘\e symbolically, ’145 for octal, "65 for hex, 101 for decimal.

MLT_EX's `\charsubdef` declares how to construct an accented character glyph (not necessarily existing in the current font) using two character glyphs (that do exist). Thus it defines whether a character glyph code, either typed as a single character or using the `\char` primitive, will be mapped to a font glyph or to an `\accent` glyph construction.

For example, if you assume glyph code 138 (decimal) for an e-circumflex (ê) and you are using the Computer Modern fonts, which have the circumflex accent in position 18 and lowercase 'e' in the usual ASCII position 101 decimal, you would use `\charsubdef` as follows:

```
\charsubdef 138 = 18 101
```

For the plain T_EX format to make use of this substitution, you have to redefine the circumflex accent macro `\^` in such a way that if its argument is character 'e' the expansion `\char138` is used instead of `\accent18 e`. Similar `\charsubdef` declaration and macro redefinitions have to be done for all other accented characters.

To disable a previous `\charsubdef c`, redefine `c` as a pair of zeros. For example:

```
\charsubdef '321 = 0 0 % disable N tilde
```

(Octal '321 is the ISO Latin-1 value for the Spanish N tilde.)

`\charsubdef` commands should only be given once. Although in principle you can use `\charsubdef` at any time, the result is unspecified. If `\charsubdef` declarations are changed, usually either incorrect character dimensions will be used or MLT_EX will output missing character warnings. (The substitution of a `\charsubdef` is used by T_EX when appending the character node to the current horizontal list, to compute the width of a horizontal box when the box gets packed, and when building the `\accent` construction at `\shipout`-time. In summary, the substitution is accessed often, so changing it is not desirable, nor generally useful.)

4.4.1.2 `\tracingcharsubdef`: Substitution diagnostics

To help diagnose problems with '`\charsubdef`', MLT_EX provides a new primitive parameter, `\tracingcharsubdef`. If positive, every use of `\charsubdef` will be reported. This can help track down when a character is redefined.

In addition, if the T_EX parameter `\tracinglostchars` is 100 or more, the character substitutions actually performed at `\shipout`-time will be recorded.

4.4.2 TCX files: Character translations

TCX (T_EX character translation) files help T_EX support direct input of 8-bit international characters if fonts containing those characters are being used. Specifically, they map an input (keyboard) character code to the internal T_EX character code (a superset of ASCII).

Of the various proposals for handling more than one input encoding, TCX files were chosen because they follow Knuth's original ideas for the use of the '`xchr`' and '`xord`' tables. He ventured that these would be changed in the WEB source in order to adjust the actual version to a given environment. It turns out, however, that recompiling the WEB sources is not as simple a task as Knuth may have imagined; therefore, TCX files, providing the possibility of changing of the conversion tables on on-the-fly, have been implemented instead.

This approach limits the portability of T_EX documents, as some implementations do not support it (or use a different method for input-internal reencoding). It may also be

problematic to determine the encoding to use for a T_EX document of unknown provenance; in the worst case, failure to do so correctly may result in subtle errors in the typeset output. But we feel the benefits outweigh these disadvantages.

This is entirely independent of the M_LT_EX extension (see [Section 4.4.1 \[M_LT_EX\]](#), [page 18](#)): whereas a TCX file defines how an input keyboard character is mapped to T_EX's internal code, M_LT_EX defines substitutions for a non-existing character glyph in a font with a `\accent` construction made out of two separate character glyphs. TCX files involve no new primitives; it is not possible to specify that an input (keyboard) character maps to more than one character.

Information on specifying TCX files:

- The best way to specify a TCX file is to list it explicitly in the first line of the main document:

```

%& -translate-file=tcxfile

```
- You can also specify a TCX file to be used on a particular T_EX run with the command-line option `'-translate-file=tcxfile'`.
- TCX files are searched for along the WEB2C path.
- Initial T_EX (see [Section 4.2 \[Initial T_EX\]](#), [page 17](#)) ignores TCX files.

The Web2c distribution comes with a number of TCX files. Two important ones are `'il1-t1.tcx'` and `'il2-t1.tcx'`, which support ISO Latin 1 and ISO Latin 2, respectively, with Cork-encoded fonts (a.k.a. the L^AT_EX T1 encoding). TCX files for Czech, Polish, and Slovak are also provided.

One other notable TCX file is `'empty.tcx'`, which is, well, empty. Its purpose is to reset Web2C's behavior to the default (only visible ASCII being printable, as described below) when a format was dumped with another TCX being active—which is in fact the case for everything but plain T_EX in the TeX Live and other distributions. Thus:

```

latex somefile8.tex
⇒ terminal etc. output with 8-bit chars
latex --translate-file=empty.tcx somefile8.tex
⇒ terminal etc. output with ^^ notation

```

Syntax of TCX files:

1. Line-oriented. Blank lines are ignored.
2. Whitespace is ignored except as a separator.
3. Comments start with `'%'` and continue to the end of the line.
4. Otherwise, a line consists of one or two character codes, optionally followed by 0 or 1. The last number indicates whether *dest* is considered printable.

```

src [dest [prnt]]

```

5. Each character code may be specified in octal with a leading `'0'`, hexadecimal with a leading `'0x'`, or decimal otherwise. Values must be between 0 and 255, inclusive (decimal).
6. If the *dest* code is not specified, it is taken to be the same as *src*.
7. If the same *src* code is specified more than once, it is the last definition that counts.

Finally, here’s what happens: when T_EX sees an input character with code *src*, it 1) changes *src* to *dest*; and 2) makes the *dest* code “printable”, i.e., printed as-is in diagnostics and the log file rather than in ‘^^’ notation.

By default, no characters are translated, and character codes between 32 and 126 inclusive (decimal) are printable.

Specifying translations for the printable ASCII characters (codes 32–127) will yield unpredictable results. Additionally you shouldn’t make the following characters printable: ^^I (TAB), ^^J (line feed), ^^M (carriage return), and ^^? (delete), since T_EX uses them in various ways.

Thus, the idea is to specify the input (keyboard) character code for *src*, and the output (font) character code for *dest*.

By default, only the printable ASCII characters are considered printable by T_EX. If you specify the ‘-8bit’ option, all characters are considered printable by default. If you specify both the ‘-8bit’ option and a TCX file, then the TCX can set specific characters to be non-printable.

Both the specified TCX encoding and whether characters are printable are saved in the dump files (like ‘tex.fmt’). So by giving these options in combination with ‘-ini’, you control the defaults seen by anyone who uses the resulting dump file.

When loading a dump, if the ‘-8bit’ option was given, then all characters become printable by default.

When loading a dump, if a TCX file was specified, then the TCX data from the dump is ignored and the data from the file used instead.

4.4.3 Patgen: Creating hyphenation patterns

Patgen creates hyphenation patterns from dictionary files for use with T_EX. Synopsis:

```
patgen dictionary patterns output translate
```

Each argument is a filename. No path searching is done. The output is written to the file *output*.

In addition, Patgen prompts interactively for other values.

For more information, see *Word hy-phen-a-tion by com-puter* by Frank Liang (see [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56), and also the ‘patgen.web’ source file.

The only options are ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7).

4.5 IPC and T_EX

(Sorry, but I’m not going to write this unless someone actually uses this feature. Let me know.)

This functionality is available only if the ‘--enable-ipc’ option was specified to **configure** during installation of Web2c (see [Chapter 2 \[Installation\]](#), page 2).

If you define IPC_DEBUG before compilation (e.g., with ‘make XCFLAGS=-DIPC_DEBUG’), T_EX will print messages to standard error about its socket operations. This may be helpful if you are, well, debugging.

4.6 T_EX extensions

The base T_EX program has been extended in many ways. Here's a partial list. Please send information on extensions not listed here to the address in [Section “Reporting bugs” in *Kpathsea*](#).

e-T_EX Adds many new primitives, including right-to-left typesetting. Available from <http://www.vms.rhnc.ac.uk/e-TeX/> and ‘*CTAN:/systems/e-tex*’.

Omega Adds Unicode support, right-to-left typesetting, and more. Available from <http://www.ens.fr/omega> and ‘*CTAN:/systems/omega*’.

pdfT_EX A variant of T_EX that produces PDF instead of DVI files. It also includes primitives for hypertext and micro-typography. Available from ‘*CTAN:/systems/pdftex*’.

‘TeX--XeT’ Adds primitives and DVI opcodes for right-to-left typesetting (as used in Arabic, for example). An old version for T_EX 3.1415 is available from ‘*CTAN:/systems/knuth/tex--xet*’. A newer version is included in e-T_EX.

File-handling T_EX Adds primitives for creating multiple DVI files in a single run; and appending to output files as well as overwriting. Web2c implementation available in the distribution file ‘*web2c/contrib/file-handling-tex*’.

5 Metafont: Creating typeface families

Metafont is a system for producing shapes; it was designed for producing complete typeface families, but it can also produce geometric designs, dingbats, etc. And it has considerable mathematical and equation-solving capabilities which can be useful entirely on their own.

Metafont is a batch language, like C or Pascal: you compile a Metafont program into a corresponding font, rather than interactively drawing lines or curves. This approach has both considerable disadvantages (people unfamiliar with conventional programming languages will be unlikely to find it usable) and considerable advantages (you can make your design intentions specific and parameterizable). For a complete description of the Metafont language, see *The METAFONTbook* (see [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56).

5.1 mf invocation

Metafont (usually invoked as `mf`) reads character definitions specified in the Metafont programming language, and outputs the corresponding font. This section merely describes the options available in the Web2c implementation. For a complete description of the Metafont language, see *The Metafontbook* (see [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56).

Metafont processes its command line and determines its memory dump (base) file in a way exactly analogous to MetaPost and T_EX (see [Section 4.1 \[tex invocation\]](#), page 14, and see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). Synopses:

```
mf [option]... [mfname[.mf]] [mf-commands]
mf [option]... \first-line
mf [option]... &base args
```

Most commonly, a Metafont invocation looks like this:

```
mf '\mode:=mode; mag:=magnification; input mfname'
```

(The single quotes avoid unwanted interpretation by the shell.)

Metafont searches the usual places for the main input file *mfname* (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)), extending *mfname* with `.mf` if necessary. To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` to `-1` before running the program. By default, Metafont runs an external program named `mktexmf` to create any nonexistent Metafont source files you input. You can disable this at configure-time or runtime (see [Section “mktex configuration” in Kpathsea](#)). This is mostly for the sake of the EC fonts, which can be generated at any size.

Metafont writes the main GF output to the file `'basemfname.nnngf'`, where *nnn* is the font resolution in pixels per inch, and *basemfname* is the basename of *mfname*, or `mfput` if no input file was specified. A GF file contains bitmaps of the actual character shapes. Usually GF files are converted immediately to PK files with GFtoPK (see [Section 10.2 \[gftopk invocation\]](#), page 47), since PK files contain equivalent information, but are more compact. (Metafont output in GF format rather than PK for only historical reasons.)

Metafont also usually writes a metric file in TFM format to `'basemfname.tfm'`. A TFM file contains character dimensions, kerns, and ligatures, and spacing parameters. T_EX reads only this `.tfm` file, not the GF file.

The *mode* in the example command above is a name referring to a device definition (see [Section 5.3 \[Modes\]](#), page 25); for example, `localfont` or `ljfour`. These device definitions

must generally be precompiled into the base file. If you leave this out, the default is **proof** mode, as stated in *The Metafontbook*, in which Metafont outputs at a resolution of 2602 dpi; this is usually not what you want. The remedy is simply to assign a different mode—`localfont`, for example.

The *magnification* assignment in the example command above is a magnification factor; for example, if the device is 600 dpi and you specify `mag:=2`, Metafont will produce output at 1200 dpi. Very often, the *magnification* is an expression such as `magstep(.5)`, corresponding to a T_EX “magstep”, which are factors of $1.2\sqrt{2}$.

After running Metafont, you can use the font in a T_EX document as usual. For example:

```
\font\myfont = newfont
\myfont Now I am typesetting in my new font (minimum hamburgers).
```

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘`-help`’ and ‘`-version`’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7):

```
‘-[no]-file-line-error’
‘-fmt=fmtname’
‘-halt-on-error’
‘-ini’
‘-interaction=string’
‘-jobname=string’
‘-kpathsea-debug=number’
‘-[no]parse-first-line’
‘-output-directory’
‘-progname=string’
‘-recorder’
‘-translate-file=tcxfile’
‘-8bit’
‘-mktex=filetype’
‘-no-mktex=filetype’
```

These options are common to T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost. See [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7.

Turn on or off the ‘`mktex`’ script associated with *filetype*. The only value that makes sense for *filetype* is ‘`mf`’.

5.2 Initial Metafont

`inimf` is the “initial” form of Metafont, which does lengthy initializations avoided by the “virgin” (`vir`) form, so as to be capable of dumping ‘`.base`’ files (see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). For a detailed comparison of virgin and initial forms, see [Section 3.5.1 \[Initial and virgin\]](#), page 10. In past releases, a separate program `inimf` was installed to invoke the initial form, but this is no longer the case.

For a list of options and other information, see [Section 5.1 \[mf invocation\]](#), page 23.

The only memory dump file commonly used with Metafont is the default ‘`plain.base`’, also known as ‘`mf.base`’ (again, see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). It is created by default during installation, but you can also do so by hand if necessary (e.g., if a Metafont update is issued):

```
mf -ini '\input plain; input modes; dump'
```

(The quotes prevent interpretation of the backslashes from the shell.) Then install the resulting ‘plain.base’ in ‘\$(basedir)’ (‘/usr/local/share/texmf/web2c’ by default), and link ‘mf.base’ to it.

For an explanation of the additional ‘modes.mf’ file, see [Section 5.3 \[Modes\]](#), page 25. This file has no counterpart in T_EX or MetaPost.

In the past, it was sometimes useful to create a base file ‘cmmf.base’ (a.k.a. ‘cm.base’), with the Computer Modern macros also included in the base file. Nowadays, however, the additional time required to read ‘cmbase.mf’ is exceedingly small, usually not enough to be worth the administrative hassle of updating the ‘cmmf.base’ file when you install a new version of ‘modes.mf’. People actually working on a typeface may still find it worthwhile to create their own base file, of course.

5.3 Modes: Device definitions for Metafont

Running Metafont and creating Metafont base files requires information that T_EX and MetaPost do not: *mode* definitions which specify device characteristics, so Metafont can properly rasterize the shapes.

When making a base file, a file containing modes for locally-available devices should be input after ‘plain.mf’. One commonly used file is <ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/modes.mf>; it includes all known definitions.

If, however, for some reason you have decreased the memory available in your Metafont, you may need to copy ‘modes.mf’ and remove the definitions irrelevant to you (probably most of them) instead of using it directly. (Or, if you’re a Metafont hacker, maybe you can suggest a way to redefine `mode_def` and/or `mode_setup`; right now, the amount of memory used is approximately four times the total length of the `mode_def` names, and that’s a lot.)

If you have a device not included in ‘modes.mf’, please see comments in that file for how to create the new definition, and please send the definition to tex-fonts@mail.tug.org to get it included in the next release of ‘modes.mf’.

Usually, when you run Metafont you must supply the name of a mode that was dumped in the base file. But you can also define the mode characteristics dynamically, by invoking Metafont with an assignment to `smode` instead of `mode`, like this:

```
mf '\smode:="newmode.mf"; mag:=magnification; input mfname'
```

This is most useful when you are working on the definition of a new mode.

The *magnification* and *mfname* arguments are explained in [Section 5.1 \[mf invocation\]](#), page 23. In the file ‘newmode.mf’, you should have the following (with no `mode_def` or `enddef`), if you are using ‘modes.mf’ conventions:

```
mode_param (pixels_per_inch, dpi);
mode_param (blacker, b);
mode_param (fillin, f);
mode_param (o_correction, o);
mode_common_setup_;
```

(Of course, you should use real numbers for *dpi*, *b*, *f*, and *o*.)

For more information on the use of `smode`, or if you are not using ‘modes.mf’, see page 269 of *The Metafontbook*.

5.4 Online Metafont graphics

The Web2c implementation of Metafont can do online graphics with a number of devices. (See the Metafont manual for more information about how to draw on your screen.) By default, no graphics support is enabled.

Metafont examines the `MFTERM` environment variable or config file value at runtime, or the `TERM` environment variable if `MFTERM` is not set, to determine the device support to use. Naturally, only the devices for which support has been compiled in can be selected.

Here is a table of the possibilities, showing the `MFTERM` value and the corresponding `configure` option(s) in parentheses.

<code>epsf</code>	(<code>--with-epsfwin</code>) Pseudo-window server for Encapsulated PostScript (see <code>'web2c/window/epsf.c'</code>). This device produces an EPS file containing the graphics which would be displayed online on other devices. The name of the EPS file defaults to <code>metafont.eps</code> but can be changed by setting the <code>MFEPSPF</code> environment variable to the new filename. Contributed by Mathias Herberts.
<code>hp2627</code>	(<code>--with-hp2627win</code>) HP2627a color graphics terminals.
<code>mftalk</code>	(<code>--with-mftalkwin</code>) Generic window server (see <code>'web2c/window/mftalk.c'</code>).
<code>next</code>	(<code>--with-next</code>) NeXT window system. This requires a separate program, called <code>DrawingServant</code> , available separately. See the <code>'web2c/window/next.c'</code> .
<code>regis</code>	(<code>--with-regiswin</code>) Regis terminals.
<code>sun</code>	(<code>--with-suntoolswin</code>) The old Suntools (not any flavor of X) window system. (You can get the even older SunWindows <code>gfx</code> system by using <code>'sun-gfx.c'</code> .)
<code>tek</code>	(<code>--with-tektronixwin</code>) Tektronix terminals.
<code>uniterm</code>	(<code>--with-unitermwin</code>) Uniterm, Simon Poole's emulator of a smart Tektronix 4014 terminal. This may work with regular Tektronix terminals as well; it's faster than the driver <code>--with-tek</code> selects.
<code>xterm</code>	(<code>--with-x11win</code> , <code>--with-x</code> , <code>--with-x11</code>) The X window system (version 11).

There are two variants of the X11 support, one that works with the Xt toolkit, and another that works directly with Xlib. The Xt support is more efficient and has more functionality, so it is the default. If you must use the Xlib support, use `'configure --with-x --with-x-toolkit=no'`.

You cannot specify any of the usual X options (e.g., `'-geometry'`) on the Metafont command line, but you can specify X resources in your `'~/.Xdefaults'` or `'~/.Xresources'` file. The class name is `Metafont`. If you're using the Xt support, all the usual X toolkit resources are supported. If you're using the Xlib support, only the `geometry` resource is supported.

You specify the X display to which Metafont connects in the `DISPLAY` environment variable, as usual.

Writing support for a new device is straightforward. Aside from defining the basic drawing routines that Metafont uses (see `'mf.web'`), you only have to add another entry to the tables on the last page of `'web2c/lib/texmfmp.c'`. Or you can write an independent program and use `Mftalk` (see `'web2c/window/mftalk.c'`).

5.5 GFtoDVI: Character proofs of fonts

GFtoDVI makes *proof sheets* from a GF bitmap file as output by, for example, Metafont (see [Chapter 5 \[Metafont\], page 23](#)). This is an indispensable aid for font designers or Metafont hackers. Synopsis:

```
gftodvi [option]... gfname [gf]
```

The font *gfname* is searched for in the usual places (see [Section “Glyph lookup” in Kpathsea](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable KPATHSEA_DEBUG to ‘-1’ before running the program.

The suffix ‘gf’ is supplied if not already present. This suffix is not an extension, no ‘.’ precedes it; for instance, ‘cmr10.600gf’.

The output filename is the basename of *gfname* extended with ‘.dvi’, e.g., ‘gftodvi /wherever/foo.600gf’ creates ‘./foo.dvi’.

The characters from *gfname* appear one per page in the DVI output, with labels, titles, and annotations, as specified in Appendix H (Hardcopy Proofs) of *The Metafontbook*.

GFtoDVI uses several fonts besides *gfname* itself:

- *gray font* (default ‘gray’): for the pixels that actually make up the character. Simply using black is not right, since then labels, key points, and other information could not be shown.
- *title font* (default ‘cmr8’): for the header information at the top of each output page.
- *label font* (default ‘cmtt10’): for the labels on key points of the figure.
- *slant font* (no default): for diagonal lines, which are otherwise simulated using horizontal and vertical rules.

To change the default fonts, you must use `special` commands in your Metafont source file, typically via commands like `slantfont slantlj4`. There is no default slant font since no one printer is suitable as a default. You can make your own by copying one of the existing files, such as ‘.../fonts/source/public/misc/slantlj4.mf’ and then running `mf` on it.

For testing purposes, you may find it useful to run `mf rtest` (hit RETURN when it stops) to get a ‘gf’ file of a thorn glyph. Or use `mfw` instead of `mf` to have the glyph(s) displayed on the screen. After that, `gftodvi rtest.2602gf` should produce ‘rtest.dvi’, which you process as usual.

The program accepts the following option, as well as the standard ‘-verbose’, ‘-help’, and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)):

```
‘-overflow-label-offset=points’
```

Typeset the so-called overflow labels, if any, *points* T_EX points from the right edge of the character bounding box. The default is a little over two inches (ten million scaled points, to be precise). Overflow equations are used to locate coordinates when their actual position is too crowded with other information.

5.6 MFT: Prettyprinting Metafont source

MFT translates a Metafont program into a T_EX document suitable for typesetting, with the aid of T_EX macros defined in the file ‘mftmac.tex’. Synopsis:


```
mft [option]... mfname[.mf]
```

MFT searches the usual places for *mfname* (see [Section “Supported file formats” in *Kpathsea*](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` to ‘-1’ before running the program. The output goes to the basename of *mfname* extended with ‘.tex’, e.g., ‘mft /wherever/foo.mf’ creates ‘./foo.tex’.

Line breaks in the input are carried over into the output; moreover, blank spaces at the beginning of a line are converted to quads of indentation in the output. Thus, you have full control over the indentation and line breaks. Each line of input is translated independently of the others.

Further control is allowed via Metafont comments:

- Metafont comments following a single ‘%’ should be valid T_EX input. But Metafont material can be included within vertical bars in a comment; this will be translated by MFT as if it were regular Metafont code. For example, a comment like ‘% |x2r| is the tip of the bowl’ will be translated into the T_EX ‘% \$x_{2r}\$ is the ...’, i.e., the ‘x2r’ is treated as an identifier.
- ‘%%’ indicates that the remainder of an input line should be copied verbatim to the output. This is typically used to introduce additional T_EX material at the beginning or an MFT job, e.g. code to modify the standard layout or the formatting macros defined in ‘mftmac.tex’, or to add a line saying ‘%%\bye’ at the end of the job. (MFT doesn’t add this automatically in order to allow processing several files produces by MFT in the same T_EX job.)
- ‘%% token1 other-tokens’ introduces a change in MFT’s formatting rules; all the *other-tokens* will henceforth be translated according to the current conventions for *token1*. The tokens must be symbolic (i.e., not numeric or string tokens). For example, the input line

```
%% addto fill draw filldraw
```

says to format the ‘fill’, ‘draw’, and ‘filldraw’ operations of plain Metafont just like the primitive token ‘addto’, i.e., in boldface type. Without such reformatting commands, MFT would treat ‘fill’ like an ordinary tag or variable name. In fact, you need a ‘%%’ command even to get parentheses to act like delimiters.

- ‘%%’ introduces an MFT comment, i.e., MFT ignores the remainder of such a line.
- Five or more ‘%’ signs should not be used.

(The above description was edited from ‘mft.web’, written by D.E. Knuth.)

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), [page 7](#)):

```
‘-change=chfile[.ch]’
```

Apply the change file *chfile* as with Tangle and Weave (see [Chapter 8 \[WEB\]](#), [page 39](#)).

```
‘-style=mftfile[.mft]’
```

Read *mftfile* before anything else; a MFT style file typically contains only MFT directives as described above. The default style file is named ‘plain.mft’, which defines this properly for programs using plain Metafont. The MFT files

is searched along the `MFTINPUTS` path; see [Section “Supported file formats” in *Kpathsea*](#).

Other examples of MFT style files are ‘`cmbase.mft`’, which defines formatting rules for the macros defined in ‘`cm.base`’, and ‘`e.mft`’, which was used in the production of Knuth’s Volume E, *Computer Modern Typefaces*.

Using an appropriate MFT style file, it is also possible to configure MFT for typesetting MetaPost sources. However, MFT does not search the usual places for MetaPost input files.

If you use eight-bit characters in the input file, they are passed on verbatim to the `TEX` output file; it is up to you to configure `TEX` to print these properly.

6 MetaPost: Creating technical illustrations

MetaPost is a picture-drawing language similar to Metafont (see [Chapter 5 \[Metafont\]](#), [page 23](#)), but instead of outputting bitmaps in a “font”, it outputs PostScript commands. It’s primarily intended for creating technical illustrations.

MetaPost also provides for arbitrary integration of text and graphics in a natural way, using any typesetter (T_EX and Troff are both supported) and a number of other subsidiary programs, described below.

6.1 mpost invocation

MetaPost (installed as `mpost`) reads a series of pictures specified in the MetaPost programming language, and outputs corresponding PostScript code. This section merely describes the options available in the Web2c implementation. For a complete description of the MetaPost language, see AT&T technical report CSTR-162, generally available in ‘*texmf/doc/metapost/*’, where *texmf* is the root of T_EX directory structure. See also:

- <http://cm.bell-labs.com/who/hobby/MetaPost.html> (the MetaPost author’s home page);
- <http://tug.org/metapost.html> (papers, packages, and related information).

Also, a standard MetaPost package for drawing graphs is documented in AT&T technical report CSTR-164, available as the file ‘`mpgraph.ps`’, generally stored alongside ‘`mpman.ps`’.

MetaPost processes its command line and determines its memory dump (`mem`) file in a way exactly analogous to Metafont and T_EX (see [Section 4.1 \[tex invocation\]](#), [page 14](#), and see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), [page 10](#)). Synopses:

```
mpost [option]... [mpname[.mp]] [mp-commands]
mpost [option]... \first-line
mpost [option]... &mem args
```

MetaPost searches the usual places for the main input file *mpname* (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)), extending *mpname* with ‘`.mp`’ if necessary. To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` to ‘`-1`’ before running the program.

MetaPost writes its PostScript output to a series of files ‘*basempname.nnn*’ (or perhaps ‘*basempname.ps*’, very occasionally ‘*basempname.tfm*’), where *nnn* are the figure numbers specified in the input, typically to the `beginfig` macro, and *basempname* is the basename of *mpname*, or ‘`mpout`’ if no input file was specified. MetaPost uses the ‘`.ps`’ extension when the figure number is out of range, e.g., if you say `beginfig(-1)`.

You can use the output files as figures in a T_EX document just as with any other PostScript figures. For example, with this T_EX command:

```
\special{psfile="filename"}
```

or by using ‘`epsf.tex`’ (see [Section “EPSF macros” in Dvips](#)).

The MetaPost construct

```
btex ... tex-input ... etex
```

calls `MakeMPX` to generate a MPX file containing a MetaPost picture expression corresponding to *tex-input* (see [Section 6.3 \[makempx invocation\]](#), [page 32](#)).

The construct

```
verbatimtex ... tex-input ... etex
```

simply passes the *tex-input* through to MakeMPX and thus to T_EX. For example, if you are using L^AT_EX, your MetaPost input file must start with a `verbatimtex` block that gives the necessary `\documentclass` (or `\documentstyle`) `\begin{document}` command. You will also need to set the environment variable `TEX` to ‘`latex`’ (see [Section 6.3 \[makempx invocation\]](#), page 32).

tex-input need not be specifically T_EX input; it could also be Troff. In that case, you will need the ‘`-m pictures`’ Troff macro package (unfortunately absent from many Troff implementations), or an equivalent such as the ‘`-m pspic`’ macros from GNU groff described in `grops(1)`.

Other typesetters can be supported with no change to MetaPost itself; only MakeMPX needs to be updated.

Naturally, you must use fonts that are supported by the typesetter; specifically, you’ll probably want to use standard PostScript fonts with Troff. And only the T_EX system understands Computer Modern or other Metafont fonts; you can also use PostScript fonts with T_EX, of course.

MetaPost-generated PostScript figures which do use Computer Modern fonts for labels cannot be directly previewed or printed. Instead, you must include them in a T_EX document and run the resulting DVI file through Dvips to arrange for the downloading of the required fonts (see [Section “Fonts in figures” in Dvips](#)). To help with this, the MetaPost distribution provides a small T_EX file ‘`mproof.tex`’ which is typically called as:

```
tex mproof mp-output-files... ; dvips mproof -o
```

The resulting file ‘`mproof.ps`’ can then be printed or previewed.

To generate EPSF files, set the internal MetaPost variable `prologues` positive. To make the output files self-contained, use only standard PostScript fonts. MetaPost reads the same ‘`psfonts.map`’ file as Dvips, to determine PostScript fonts that need to be downloaded (see [Section “psfonts.map” in Dvips](#)).

MetaPost can write output files, via the `write` primitive; this opens a security hole. See [Section 4.1 \[tex invocation\]](#), page 14.

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘`-help`’ and ‘`-version`’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7):

```
‘-[no]-file-line-error’
‘-fmt=fmtname’
‘-halt-on-error’
‘-ini’
‘-interaction=string’
‘-jobname=string’
‘-kpathsea-debug=number’
‘-[no]parse-first-line’
‘-output-directory’
‘-progname=string’
‘-recorder’
‘-translate-file=tcxfile’
```

‘-8bit’ These options are common to T_EX, Metafont, and MetaPost. See [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7.

‘-T’

‘-troff’ Set the `prologues` internal variable to 1, and use `makempx -troff` to generate MPX files.

‘-tex=*texprogram*’

When this option is given, the program *texprogram* is used to typeset the labels.

6.2 Initial MetaPost

`inimpost` is the “initial” form of MetaPost, which does lengthy initializations avoided by the “virgin” (`vir`) form, so as to be capable of dumping ‘.mem’ files (see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). For a detailed comparison of virgin and initial forms, see [Section 3.5.1 \[Initial and virgin\]](#), page 10. In past releases, a separate program `inimpost` was installed for the initial form, but this is no longer the case.

For a list of options and other information, see [Section 6.1 \[mpost invocation\]](#), page 30.

The principal memory dump file used with MetaPost is the default, ‘`plain.mem`’, also known as ‘`mpost.mem`’ (again, see [Section 3.5.2 \[Memory dumps\]](#), page 10). It is created by default during installation, but you can also do so by hand if necessary (e.g., if a ‘`plain.mp`’ update is issued):

```
mpost -ini '\input plain dump'
```

(The quotes prevent interpretation of the backslashes from the shell.) Then install the resulting ‘`plain.mem`’ in ‘`$(memdir)`’ (‘`/usr/local/share/texmf/web2c`’ by default), and link ‘`mpost.mem`’ to it.

MetaPost also provides a mem file with all the features of plain Metafont, called ‘`mfplain.mem`’. You can create that in the same way; just replace ‘`plain`’ in the above command with ‘`mfplain`’. ‘`mfplain.mem`’ file lets you directly process Metafont source files with MetaPost, producing character proofs (one file for each character) similar to those produced with Metafont in proof mode and GFtoDVI (see [Section 5.5 \[gftodvi invocation\]](#), page 27).

Another MetaPost mem file, named MetaFun, provides many advanced features. It was developed and maintained by Pragma ADE. The home page for MetaFun, other MetaPost-related things, and lots more from Pragma: <http://www.pragma-ade.com/>.

6.3 MakeMPX: Support MetaPost labels

In MetaPost, labels can be typeset using any document processor; the Web2c implementation supports T_EX and Troff. MakeMPX translates the labels from the typesetting language back into low-level MetaPost commands in a so-called *mpx file*, so text can be manipulated like other graphic objects. It is invoked automatically by MetaPost. Synopsis:

```
makempx [-troff] mpfile mpxfile
```

The input comes from *mpfile* (no path searching is done), and the output goes to *mpxfile*. However, if the file *mpxfile* already exists, and is newer than *mpfile*, then nothing is done (presumably the file is up-to-date).

Otherwise:

1. MPto is run to extract the label text from the MetaPost source file *mpfile* (see [Section 6.6 \[mpto invocation\]](#), page 35).

2. The typesetting program itself is run, either T_EX or Troff (see below). If T_EX, and the file named by the MPT_{EX}PRE environment variable exists (`mptexpre.tex` by default), that file is prepended to the input from the MetaPost file.
3. The typesetter output (a DVI file in the case of T_EX, Ditr_off output for Troff) is translated back to MetaPost, by DVIt_oMP (see [Section 6.4 \[dvitomp invocation\]](#), [page 34](#)) or DMP (see [Section 6.5 \[dmp invocation\]](#), [page 34](#)) respectively.

If any of the above steps fail, for example if there was a typesetting mistake in the original *mpfile*, output may be left in files named `'mpxerr.{log,tex,dvi}'` (T_EX) or `'mpxerr{,.t}'` (Troff), so you can diagnose the problem.

The `'-troff'` option to MP_to selects the Troff commands, rather than T_EX. MetaPost supplies this automatically if the `'-T'` or `'-troff'` option was specified to MetaPost.

The MPX file created by MakeMPX is a sequence of MetaPost picture expressions, one for every label in the original MetaPost input file.

The names of the commands run by MakeMPX, and the directory added to the shell search PATH for the commands' location, are overridden by environment variables. Here is a list:

MAKEMPX_BINDIR

The directory added to the PATH. Default is the `'$(bindir)'` Make directory, which in turn is set from the configure-time `'--bindir'`, `'--exec-prefix'` and `'--prefix'` options; if nothing else is specified, the default is file `'/usr/local'`.

NEWER The command run to determine if *mpxfile* is out of date with respect to *mpfile*; default is `'newer'`.

MPTOTEX The command run to extract MetaPost labels in T_EX format; default is `'mpto -tex'`.

MPTOTR Likewise, for Troff; default is `'mpto -troff'`.

DVITOMP The command run to convert T_EX output back to MetaPost; default is `'dvitomp'`.

DMP Likewise, for Troff; default is `'dmp'`.

TEX The command run to typeset the labels in T_EX; the default is `'etex'`, set in `'texmf.cnf'`. If you use L^AT_EX, set this to `latex`, and supply an appropriate `verbatimtex` header in the MP source (see [Section 6.1 \[mpost invocation\]](#), [page 30](#)). Or put `'%&latex'` as the first line of your L^AT_EX source.

TROFF Likewise, for Troff; default is `'eqn -d\$\$ | troff -Tpost'`. You may need to replace `'-Tpost'` by `'-Tterm'`, where *term* is the PostScript device name for your Troff implementation, e.g., `'ps'` or `'psc'`; see `troff(1)`.

If you change this, you will also need to set the TR_FONTS environment variable or configuration value to point to the appropriate font directory, traditionally `'/usr/lib/font/devterm'`.

One more complication is whether the troff programs have a `'g'` prefix. On Windows, T_EX Live supports both ways: `'makempx.exe'` is built to use `'gsoelim.exe'`, `'geqn.exe'`, and `'gtroff.exe'`, while

‘makempx-without-g-prefix.exe’ is built to use ‘soelim.exe’, ‘eqn.exe’, and ‘troff.exe’. MetaPost users on Windows using troff for their labels should arrange to run the proper binary.

6.4 DVItOMP: DVI to MPX conversion

DVItOMP converts DVI files into low-level MetaPost commands in a so-called MPX file. This program is generally invoked only by MakeMPX (see [Section 6.3 \[makempx invocation\]](#), [page 32](#)). Synopsis:

```
dvitomp dvifile[.dvi] [mpxfile[.mpx]]
```

If *mpxfile* is not specified, the output goes to the basename of *dvifile* extended with ‘.mpx’, e.g., ‘dvitomp /wherever/foo.dvi’ creates ‘./foo.mpx’.

DVItOMP supports Dvips-style color specials, such as ‘color push *name*’ and ‘color pop’, outputting them as `withcolor` MetaPost commands.

The only options are ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), [page 7](#)).

6.5 DMP: Ditroff to MPX conversion

DMP converts device-independent Troff (ditroff) output files into low-level MetaPost commands in a so-called MPX file. This program is generally invoked by MakeMPX (see [Section 6.3 \[makempx invocation\]](#), [page 32](#)). Synopsis:

```
dmp [ditroff-file [mpxfile]]
```

If *ditroff-file* is not specified, input comes from standard input; and if *mpxfile* is not specified, output goes to standard output.

DMP was written to process the output of a Troff pipeline fed the output of `mpto -troff` (see [Section 6.6 \[mpto invocation\]](#), [page 35](#)). DMP understands all the ‘Dc’ graphics functions that `dpost` does, but it ignores ‘x X’ device control functions such as ‘x X SetColor:...’, ‘x X BeginPath:’, and ‘x X DrawPath:...’.

The available font names are defined in the support file ‘trfonts.map’, which DMP looks for along the MPSUPPORT path.

Another support file ‘trchars.adj’, also looked for along the MPSUPPORT path, contains a character adjustment table which should reflect the shift amounts found in the standard PostScript prologue for Troff and `dpost` found in the TRFONTS directory. Such an adjustment table is unnecessary for some Troff implementations, in which case ‘trchars.adj’ should be replaced by an empty file—but it must still exist.

DMP was written for one particular Troff implementation, and it unfortunately has many built-in assumptions about the output and fonts file formats used by Troff, which may not be satisfied in other environments. In particular, GNU groff uses some extensions in its file formats described in `groff_font(5)` and `groff_out(5)` which make its output completely unusable for DMP. On the other hand, the Troff version found in Sun Solaris 2.x, and perhaps other systems derived from System V R4, works fine with the default settings.

If you run into trouble and want to adapt DMP to other systems, you might have to try the following (this is primarily for hackers):

- If DMP complains about a missing font table (e.g., ‘Cannot find TR’), your Troff may not support the device ‘post’.

Check `troff(1)` for the devices supported by your Troff and set the `TROFF` environment variable appropriately (see above). Also, locate the appropriate font directory and set the `TRFONTS` variable as needed.

- If DMP complains about a missing font description file (e.g., ‘Font TR was not in map file’), your version of Troff may be using internal font names different from those in the distributed ‘`trfonts.map`’; e.g., TR and TI instead of R and I for Times-Roman and Times-Italic.

In this case, you may have to adapt ‘`trfonts.map`’ and perhaps also ‘`trchars.adj`’ in the MetaPost support directory (‘`texmf/metapost/support`’ by default).

- If DMP still complains that it cannot parse the font description files or the Troff output (e.g., ‘TR has a bad line in its description file’, you are probably out of luck and have to hack the DMP program (in ‘`web2c/mpware/dmp.c`’).

Such problems may be caused by subtle differences in the file formats, such as use of tabs vs. spaces as field separators or decimal vs. octal vs. hex format for font metric data.

A reasonably good description of the expected Troff file formats can be found in AT&T technical report CSTR-54 (*Troff User’s Manual*, Revised 1992). Documentation on the subtle differences in other Troff implementation is harder to find except for GNU groff, where it’s all documented in the above-mentioned `groff_font(5)` and `groff_out(5)`.

Any contributions to improve the portability of DMP or to make it work with GNU groff are welcome, of course.

(Some of the above description was edited from the ‘`dmp.c`’ source file, written by John Hobby.)

The only options are ‘`--help`’ and ‘`--version`’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), [page 7](#)).

6.6 MPto: Extract labels from MetaPost input

MPto extracts the labels from a MetaPost input file; this is the contents of any `btex...etex` and `verbatimtex...etex` sections. This program is generally invoked by MakeMPX (see [Section 6.3 \[makempx invocation\]](#), [page 32](#)). Synopsis:

```
mp to [option]... mpfile
```

The input comes from `mpfile`; no path searching is done. The output goes to standard output. Leading and trailing spaces and tabs are removed, and various predefined typesetter commands are included at the beginning of and end of the file and of each section.

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘`-help`’ and ‘`-version`’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), [page 7](#)):

- ‘`-troff`’ Surround the MetaPost sections with Troff commands.
- ‘`-tex`’ Surround the MetaPost sections with T_EX commands. This is the default.

6.7 Newer: Compare file modification times

Newer compares file modification times. Synopsis:

```
newer src1 [ src2 ... srcN ] target
```

Newer exits successfully if the files *src1* ... *srcN* exist and at least one of them is not older than *dependent*, i.e., the modification time (mtime) of at least one of the source files is greater than or the same as that of *dependent*. Newer also exits successfully if the file *dependent* doesn't exist. See [Section “Attribute Meanings” in GNU C Library](#).

The program accepts the following option, as well as the standard ‘--help’ and ‘--version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)):

‘--quiet’ Return result only, do not print any output.

‘--verbose’

List missing source files to STDERR. This is the default.

This is used by MakeMPX (see [Section 6.3 \[makempx invocation\], page 32](#)).

7 BibTeX: Bibliographies

BibTeX automates much of the job of typesetting bibliographies, and makes bibliography entries reusable in many different contexts.

7.1 BibTeX invocation

BibTeX creates a printable bibliography (‘.bbl’) file from references in a ‘.aux’ file, generally written by T_EX or L^AT_EX. The ‘.bbl’ file is then incorporated on a subsequent run. The basic bibliographic information comes from ‘.bib’ files, and a BibTeX style (‘.bst’) file controls the precise contents of the ‘.bbl’ file. Synopsis:

```
bibtex [option]... auxfile[.aux]
```

The output goes to the basename of *auxfile* extended with ‘.bbl’; for example, ‘bibtex /wherever/foo.aux’ creates ‘./foo.bbl’. BibTeX also writes a log file to the basename of *auxfile* extended with ‘.blg’.

The names of the ‘.bib’ and ‘.bst’ files are specified in the ‘.aux’ file as well, via the ‘\bibliography’ and ‘\bibliographystyle’ (L^AT_EX) macros. BibTeX searches for ‘.bib’ files using the BIBINPUTS and TEXBIB paths, and for ‘.bst’ files using BSTINPUTS (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)). It does no path searching for ‘.aux’ files.

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)):

‘-terse’ Suppress the program banner and progress reports normally output.

‘-min-crossrefs=*n*’

If at least *n* (2 by default) bibliography entries refer to another entry *e* via their `crossref` field, include *e* in the .bbl file, even if it was not explicitly referenced in the .aux file. For example, *e* might be a conference proceedings as a whole, with the cross-referencing entries being individual articles published in the proceedings. In some circumstances, you may want to avoid these automatic inclusions altogether; to do this, make *n* a sufficiently large number.

See also:

‘btxdoc.tex’

Basic L^AT_EXable documentation for general BibTeX users.

‘btXHak.tex’

L^AT_EXable documentation for style designers.

‘btxdoc.bib’

BibTeX database file for the two above documents.

‘xampl.bib’

Example database file with all the standard entry types.

‘<ftp://ftp.math.utah.edu/pub/tex/bib/>’

A very large ‘.bib’ and ‘.bst’ collection, including references for all the standard T_EX books and a complete bibliography for TUGboat.

7.2 Basic BibTeX style files

Here are descriptions of the four standard and four semi-standard basic BibTeX styles. ‘CTAN:/biblio/bibtex’ contains these and many more (for CTAN info, see [Section “unix-tex.ftp”](#) in *Kpathsea*).

plain	Sorts entries alphabetically, with numeric labels. Generally formatted according to van Leunen’s <i>A Handbook for Scholars</i> . The other style files listed here are based on plain .
abbrv	First names, month names, and journal names are abbreviated.
acm	Names are printed in small caps.
alpha	Alphanumeric labels, e.g., ‘Knu66’.
apalike	No labels at all; instead, the year appears in parentheses after the author. Use this in conjunction with ‘ apalike.tex ’ (plain TeX) or ‘ apalike.sty ’ (LaTeX), which also changes the citations in the text to be ‘(<i>author</i> , <i>year</i>)’.
ieeetr	Numeric labels, entries in citation order, IEEE abbreviations, article titles in quotes.
siam	Numeric labels, alphabetic order, <i>Math. Reviews</i> abbreviations, names in small caps.
unsrc	Lists entries in citation order, i.e., unsorted.
btbst.doc	The template file and documentation for the standard styles.

8 WEB: Literate programming

WEB languages allow you to write a single source file that can produce both a compilable program and a well-formatted document describing the program in as much detail as you wish to prepare. Writing in this kind of dual-purpose language is called *literate programming*. (The Usenet newsgroup ‘`comp.programming.literate`’ and the mailing list `litprog@shsu.edu` are devoted to this subject; they are gatewayed to each other.)

WEB-like languages have been implemented with many pairs of base languages: Cweb provides C and Troff (see [Appendix B \[References\]](#), page 56); CWEB provides C and T_EX (‘`CTAN:/web/c_cpp/cweb`’); Spiderweb provides C, C++, Awk, Ada, many others, and T_EX (‘`CTAN:/web/spiderweb`’); and, of course, the original WEB provides Pascal and T_EX, the implementation languages for the original T_EX, Metafont, MetaPost, and related programs to come from the T_EX project at Stanford.

The original WEB language is documented in the file ‘`webman.tex`’, which is included in the `ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/lib.tar.gz` archive (and available in many other places, of course).

8.1 Tangle: Translate WEB to Pascal

Tangle creates a compilable Pascal program from a WEB source file (see [Chapter 8 \[WEB\]](#), page 39). Synopsis:

```
tangle [option]... webfile[.web] [changefile[.ch]]
```

The Pascal output is written to the basename of *webfile* extended with ‘.p’; for example, ‘`tangle /wherever/foo.web`’ creates ‘`./foo.p`’. Tangle applies *changefile* to *webfile* before writing the output; by default, there is no change file.

If the program makes use of the WEB string facility, Tangle writes the string pool to the basename of *webfile* extended with ‘.pool’.

The Pascal output is packed into lines of 72 characters or less, with the only concession to readability being the termination of lines at semicolons when this can be done conveniently.

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘`--help`’ and ‘`--version`’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7):

‘`-length=number`’

The number of characters that are considered significant in an identifier. Whether underline characters are counted depends on the ‘`-underline`’ option. The default value is 32, the original tangle used 7, but this proved too restrictive for use by Web2c.

‘`-lowercase`’

‘`-mixedcase`’

‘`-uppercase`’

These options specify the case of identifiers in the output of tangle. If ‘`-uppercase`’ (‘`-lowercase`’) is specified, tangle will convert all identifiers to uppercase (lowercase). The default is ‘`-mixedcase`’, which specifies that the case will not be changed.

`‘-underline’`

When this option is given, tangle does not strip underline characters from identifiers.

`‘-loose’`

`‘-strict’` These options specify how strict tangle must be when checking identifiers for equality. The default is `‘-loose’`, which means that tangle will follow the rules set by the case-smashing and underline options above. If `‘-strict’` is set, then identifiers will always be stripped of underlines and converted to uppercase before checking whether they collide.

8.2 Weave: Translate WEB to T_EX

Weave creates a T_EX document from a WEB source file (see [Chapter 8 \[WEB\], page 39](#)), assuming various macros defined in `‘webmac.tex’`. It takes care of typographic details such as page layout, indentation, and italicizing identifiers. It also automatically gathers and outputs extensive cross-reference information. Synopsis:

```
weave [option]... webfile[.web] [changefile[.ch]]
```

The output is to the basename of *webfile* extended with `‘.tex’`; for example, `‘weave /wherever/foo.web’` creates `‘./foo.tex’`. Weave applies *changefile* to *webfile* before writing the output; by default, there is no change file.

The program accepts the following option, as well as the standard `‘-verbose’`, `‘-help’` and `‘-version’` (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)):

`‘-x’` Omit the cross-reference information: the index, the list of WEB module names, and the table of contents (an empty `‘CONTENTS.tex’` file will still be written when the Weave output file is processed by T_EX using the default `‘webmac.tex’`, though).

Conventionally, WEB programmers should define the T_EX `\title` macro at the beginning of the source file. Also, to get output of only changed modules, one can say `\let\maybe=\iffalse` (usually as the first change in the change file).

8.3 Pooltype: Display WEB pool files

Pooltype shows the so-called *string number* of each string in a WEB pool file (see [Chapter 8 \[WEB\], page 39](#)), as output by Tangle (see [Section 8.1 \[tangle invocation\], page 39](#)), including the first 256 strings corresponding to the possible input characters. Pooltype primarily serves as an example of WEB conventions to implementors of the T_EX system. Synopsis:

```
pooltype [option]... poolfile[.pool]
```

No path searching is done for *poolfile*. Output is to standard output.

The only options are `‘--help’` and `‘--version’` (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)).

As an example of the output, here is the (edited) output for `‘tex.pool’`:

```
0: "^^@"
1: "^^A"
...
255: "^^ff"
```

```
256: "pool size"  
...  
1314: "Using character substitution: "  
(23617 characters in all.)
```

In Metafont and MetaPost, the first 256 characters are actually represented as single bytes (i.e., themselves), not in the ‘^^’ notation. Consider Pooltype as showing the results after conversion for output.

9 DVI utilities

T_EX outputs a file in *DVI* (DeVice Independent) format as a compact representation of the original document. DVI files can be translated to meet the requirements of a real physical device, such as PostScript printers (see [Section “Introduction” in Dvips](#)), PCL printers (see `dvilj(1)`), and X displays (see `xdvi(1)`). In fact, DVI translators are available for virtually all common devices: see ‘*CTAN:/dviware*’ (for CTAN info, see [Section “unixtex.ftp” in Kpathsea](#)).

For the precise definition of the DVI file format, see (for example) the source file ‘*web2c/dvitype.web*’.

The DVI-processing programs in the Web2c distribution are not device drivers; they perform generic utility functions.

9.1 DVICopy: Canonicalize virtual font references

DVICopy reads a DVI file, expands any references to virtual fonts (see [Section “Virtual fonts” in Dvips](#)) to base fonts, and writes the resulting DVI file. Thus you can use virtual fonts even if your DVI processor does not support them, by passing the documents through DVICopy first. Synopsis:

```
dvicopy [option]... [indvi[.dvi] [outdvi[.dvi]]]
```

DVICopy reads standard input if *indvi* is not specified, and writes standard output if *outdvi* is not specified.

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘*-help*’ and ‘*-version*’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)):

```
‘-magnification=integer’
```

Override existing magnification in *indvi* with *integer*; 1000 specifies no magnification. This is equivalent to setting T_EX’s `\mag` parameter.

```
‘-max-pages=n’
```

Process *n* pages; default is one million.

```
‘-page-start=page-spec’
```

Start at the first page matching *page-spec*, which is one or more (signed) integers separated by periods, corresponding to T_EX’s `\count0...9` parameters at `\shipout` time; ‘***’ matches anything. Examples: ‘3’, ‘1.*.-4’.

9.2 DVitype: Plain text transliteration of DVI files

DVitype translates a DeVice Independent (DVI) file (as output by T_EX, for example) to a plain text file that humans can read. It also serves as a DVI-validating program, i.e., if DVitype can read a file, it’s correct. Synopsis:

```
dvitype [option]... dvifile[.dvi]
```

DVitype does not read any bitmap files, but it does read TFM files for fonts referenced in *dvifile*. The usual places are searched (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` to ‘-1’ before running the program.

Output goes to standard output.

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘`-help`’ and ‘`-version`’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7):

- ‘`-dpi=real`’
Do pixel movement calculations at *real* pixels per inch; default 300.0.
- ‘`-magnification=integer`’
Override existing magnification in *indvi* with *integer*; 1000 specifies no magnification. This is equivalent to setting T_EX’s `\mag` parameter.
- ‘`-max-pages=n`’
Process *n* pages; default is one million.
- ‘`-output-level=n`’
Verbosity level of output, from 0 to 4 (default 4):
 - 0: Global document information only.
 - 1: Most DVI commands included, and typeset characters summarized.
 - 2: Character and movement commands explicitly included.
 - 3: DVI stack and current position calculations included.
 - 4: Same information as level 3, but DVIt_ype does random positioning in the file, reading the DVI postamble first.
- ‘`-page-start=page-spec`’
Start at the first page matching *page-spec*, which is one or more (signed) integers separated by periods, corresponding to T_EX’s `\count0...9` parameters at `\shipout` time; ‘`*`’ matches anything. Examples: ‘1’, ‘5.*.-9’.
- ‘`-show-opcodes`’
Show numeric opcode values (in decimal) for DVI commands, in braces after the command name. This can help in debugging DVI utilities. We use decimal because in the DVI format documentation (in ‘*dvitype.web*’, among others) the opcodes are shown in decimal.

9.2.1 DVIt_ype output example

As an example of the output from DVIt_ype (see section above), here is its (abridged) translation of the ‘*story.dvi*’ resulting from running the example in *The T_EXbook*, with ‘`-output-level=4`’ and ‘`-show-opcodes`’ on.

```
...
Options selected:
  Starting page = *
  Maximum number of pages = 1000000
  Output level = 4 (the works)
  Resolution = 300.00000000 pixels per inch
numerator/denominator=25400000/473628672
magnification=1000;      0.00006334 pixels per DVI unit
' TeX output 1992.05.17:0844'
Postamble starts at byte 564.
maxv=43725786, maxh=30785863, maxstackdepth=3, totalpages=1
Font 33: cmsl10---loaded at size 655360 DVI units
```

```

Font 23: cmbx10---loaded at size 655360 DVI units
Font 0: cmr10---loaded at size 655360 DVI units

42: beginning of page 1
87: push {141}
level 0: (h=0,v=0,w=0,x=0,y=0,z=0,hh=0,vv=0)
88: down3 -917504 {159} v:=0-917504=-917504, vv:=-58
92: pop {142}
...
104: putrule {137} height 26214, width 30785863 (2x1950 pixels)
113: down3 5185936 {159} v:=655360+5185936=5841296, vv:=370
117: push {141}
level 1: (h=0,v=5841296,w=0,x=0,y=0,z=0,hh=0,vv=370)
118: right4 12265425 {146} h:=0+12265425=12265425, hh:=777
[ ]
123: fntdef1 23 {243}: cmbx10
145: fntnum23 {194} current font is cmbx10
146: setchar65 h:=12265425+569796=12835221, hh:=813
147: w3 251220 {150} h:=12835221+251220=13086441, hh:=829
151: setchar83 h:=13086441+418700=13505141, hh:=856
...
164: setchar82 h:=17448202+565245=18013447, hh:=1142
165: x0 -62805 {152} h:=18013447-62805=17950642, hh:=1138
166: setchar89 h:=17950642+569796=18520438, hh:=1174
[A SHORT STORY]
167: pop {142}
level 1: (h=0,v=5841296,w=0,x=0,y=0,z=0,hh=0,vv=370)
...
550: pop {142}
level 0: (h=0,v=42152922,w=0,x=0,y=0,z=0,hh=0,vv=2670)
551: down3 1572864 {159} v:=42152922+1572864=43725786, vv:=2770
555: push {141}
level 0: (h=0,v=43725786,w=0,x=0,y=0,z=0,hh=0,vv=2770)
556: right4 15229091 {146} h:=0+15229091=15229091, hh:=965
561: setchar49 h:=15229091+327681=15556772, hh:=986
[ 1]
562: pop {142}
level 0: (h=0,v=43725786,w=0,x=0,y=0,z=0,hh=0,vv=2770)
563: eop {140}

```

Explanation:

- The DVItypes options are recorded at the beginning, followed by global information about the document, including fonts used.
- Each DVI command is preceded by its byte position in the file ('42:', '87:', ...), and (because of the '-show-opcodes') followed by its decimal opcode value in braces ('{141}', '{142}', ...).
- The 'level' lines record information about the DVI stack; 'h' and 'v' define the current

position in DVI units, while ‘**hh**’ and ‘**vv**’ are the same in pixels.

- Text sequences are summarized in brackets, as in ‘[A SHORT STORY]’ and the ‘[1]’.

10 Font utilities

The Web2c programs described here convert between various T_EX-related font formats; the first section below briefly describes the formats. GFtoPK is the only one that is routinely used, as Metafont outputs GF format, but it's most efficient for device drivers to use PK.

The precise definitions of the PK, GF, TFM, PL, VF, and VPL formats mentioned below are in the source files that read them; `'pktype.web'`, `'gftype.web'`, `'tftopl.web'`, etc.

10.1 Font file formats

(For another perspective on this, see [Section “Font concepts” in *Dvips*](#)).

Font files come in several varieties, with suffixes like:

```
.tfm  .pk  .gf  .pxl (obsolete)  .pl  .mf  .vf  .vpl
```

Each represents a file format.

A TFM (T_EX font metric) file is a compact binary file that contains information about each character in a font, about combinations of characters within that font, and about the font as a whole. The font metric information contained in TFM files is device-independent units is used by T_EX to do typesetting. Unlike the bitmap (raster) fonts described below, TFM font files contain no information about the shapes of characters. They describe rectangular areas and combinations thereof, but not what will eventually be printed in those areas.

Since T_EX does scaling calculations, one TFM file serves for all magnifications of a given typeface. On the other hand, the best printed results are obtained when magnified (or reduced fonts) are not produced geometrically (as done by PostScript, for example) but rather optically, with each size a separate design (as done with Computer Modern and the EC fonts, for example); then a separate TFM file is needed for each size.

At any rate, T_EX produces a DVI (DeVice Independent) file from your source document. In order to print DVI files on real devices, you need font files defining digitized character shapes and other data. Then previewers and printer-driver programs can translate your DVI files into something usable by your monitor or printer. Bitmap fonts come with suffixes such as `‘.600pk’` or `‘.600gf’` or `‘.3000pxl’`, where the `‘600’` is the horizontal dots-per-inch resolution at which the font was produced, and the `‘pk’` or `‘gf’` or `‘pxl’` indicates the font format. Outline fonts in PostScript Type 1 format have suffixes such as `‘.pfa’` or `‘.pfb’`.

Fonts in pk (packed) format are in the tightly packed raster format that is pretty much the standard today. They take up less space than fonts in the gf (generic font) format that Metafont generates, and far less space than fonts in pxl format. Fonts in pxl format take up gross amounts of disk space and permit only 128 characters. They are obsolete.

Font files with the `‘.pl’` (property list) suffix are the plain text (human-readable) analog of the binary `‘.tfm’` files. The TFtoPL and PLtoTF programs convert between the two formats (see [Section 10.6 \[tftopl invocation\]](#), page 51 and [Section 10.7 \[pltotf invocation\]](#), page 53).

Font files with the `‘.mf’` suffix are in Metafont source format. These are the files used by Metafont to generate rastered fonts for specific typefaces at specific magnifications for the specific resolution and type of mapping used by your device.

The suffix ‘.vf’ identifies “virtual font” files, for which ‘.vpl’ is the human-readable analog. See [Section 10.8 \[vftovp invocation\], page 53](#), and [Section 10.9 \[vptovf invocation\], page 54](#). For further discussion of virtual fonts, see ‘*CTAN:/doc/virtual-fonts.knuth*’, ‘*CTAN:/help/virtualfonts.txt*’, and [Section “Virtual fonts” in Dvips](#).

(This section is based on documentation in the original Unix T_EX distribution by Pierre MacKay and Elizabeth Tachikawa.)

10.2 GFtoPK: Generic to packed font conversion

GFtoPK converts a generic font (GF) file output by, for example, Metafont (see [Section 5.1 \[mf invocation\], page 23](#)) to a packed font (PK) file. PK files are considerably smaller than the corresponding gf files, so they are generally the bitmap font format of choice. Some DVI-processing programs, notably Dvips, only support PK files and not GF files. Synopsis:

```
gftopk [option]... gfname.dpi [gf] [pkfile]
```

The font *gfname* is searched for in the usual places (see [Section “Glyph lookup” in Kpathsea](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable KPATHSEA_DEBUG to ‘-1’ before running the program.

The suffix ‘gf’ is supplied if not already present. This suffix is not an extension; no ‘.’ precedes it: for instance, ‘cmr10.600gf’.

If *pkfile* is not specified, the output is written to the basename of ‘*gfname.dpi*pk’, e.g., ‘gftopk /wherever/cmr10.600gf’ creates ‘./cmr10.600pk’.

The only options are ‘--verbose’, ‘--help’, and ‘--version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)).

10.3 PKtoGF: Packed to generic font conversion

PKtoGF converts a packed font (PK) file to a generic font (GF) file. Since PK format is much more compact than GF format, the most likely reason to do this is to run GFtype (see [Section 10.5 \[gftype invocation\], page 49](#)) on the result, so you can see the bitmap images. Also, a few old utility programs do not support PK format. Synopsis:

```
pktoGF [option]... pkname.dpi [pk] [gffile]
```

The font *pkname* is searched for in the usual places (see [Section “Glyph lookup” in Kpathsea](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable KPATHSEA_DEBUG to ‘-1’ before running the program.

The suffix ‘pk’ is supplied if not already present. This suffix is not an extension; no ‘.’ precedes it: for instance, ‘cmr10.600pk’.

If *gffile* is not specified, the output is written to the basename of ‘*pkname.dpi*gf’, e.g., ‘pktoGF /wherever/cmr10.600pk’ creates ‘./cmr10.600gf’.

The only options are ‘--verbose’, ‘--help’, and ‘--version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)).

10.4 PKtype: Plain text transliteration of packed fonts

PKtype translates a packed font (PK) bitmap file (as output by GFtoPK, for example) to a plain text file that humans can read. It also serves as a PK-validating program, i.e., if PKtype can read a file, it’s correct. Synopsis:

```
pktype pfname.dpi [pk]
```

The font *pfname* is searched for in the usual places (see [Section “Glyph lookup” in *Kpathsea*](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` to ‘-1’ before running the program.

The suffix ‘pk’ is supplied if not already present. This suffix is not an extension; no ‘.’ precedes it: for instance, ‘cmr10.600pk’.

The translation is written to standard output.

The only options are ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\], page 7](#)).

As an example of the output, here is the (abridged) translation of the letter ‘K’ in ‘cmr10’, as rendered at 600dpi with the mode ‘ljfour’ from `modes.mf` (available from `ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/modes.mf`).

```
955:  Flag byte = 184  Character = 75  Packet length = 174
      Dynamic packing variable = 11
      TFM width = 815562  dx = 4259840
      Height = 57  Width = 57  X-offset = -3  Y-offset = 56
      [2]23(16)17(8)9(25)11(13)7(27)7(16)7(28)4(18)7(28)2(20)7(27)...
      ...
      (14)9(24)12(5)[2]23(13)21
```

Explanation:

‘955’ The byte position in the file where this character starts.

‘Flag byte’

‘Dynamic packing variable’

Related to the packing for this character; see the source code.

‘Character’

The character code, in decimal.

‘Packet length’

The total length of this character definition, in bytes.

‘TFM width’

The device-independent (TFM) width of this character. It is 2^{24} times the ratio of the true width to the font’s design size.

‘dx’

The device-dependent width, in *scaled pixels*, i.e., units of horizontal pixels times 2^{16} .

‘Height’

‘Width’ The bitmap height and width, in pixels.

‘X-offset’

‘Y-offset’

Horizontal and vertical offset from the upper left pixel to the reference (origin) pixel for this character, in pixels (right and down are positive). The *reference pixel* is the pixel that occupies the unit square in Metafont; the Metafont reference point is the lower left hand corner of this pixel. Put another way, the x-offset is the negative of the left side bearing; the right side bearing is the horizontal escapement minus the bitmap width plus the x-offset.

‘[2]23(16)...’

Finally, run lengths of black pixels alternate with parenthesized run lengths of white pixels, and brackets indicate a repeated row.

10.5 GFont: Plain text transliteration of generic fonts

GFont translates a generic font (GF) bitmap file (as output by Metafont, for example) to a plain text file that humans can read. It also serves as a GF-validating program, i.e., if GFont can read a file, it’s correct. Synopsis:

```
gfont [option]... gfname.dpi [gf]
```

The font *gfname* is searched for in the usual places (see [Section “Glyph lookup” in Kpathsea](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable KPATHSEA_DEBUG to ‘-1’ before running the program.

The suffix ‘gf’ is supplied if not already present. This suffix is not an extension; no ‘.’ precedes it: for instance, ‘cmr10.600gf’.

The translation is written to standard output.

The program accepts the following options, as well as the standard ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), [page 7](#)):

‘-images’ Show the characters’ bitmaps using asterisks and spaces.

‘-mnemonics’

Translate all commands in the GF file.

As an example of the output, here is the (abridged) translation of the letter ‘K’ in ‘cmr10’, as rendered at 600dpi with the mode ‘ljfour’ from ‘modes.mf’ (available from <ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/modes.mf>), with both ‘-mnemonics’ and ‘-images’ enabled.

GFont outputs the information about a character in two places: a main definition and a one-line summary at the end. We show both. Here is the main definition:

```
2033: beginning of char 75: 3<=m<=60 0<=n<=56
      (initially n=56) paint(0)24(12)20
2043: newrow 0 (n=55) paint 24(12)20
2047: newrow 0 (n=54) paint 24(12)20
2051: newrow 0 (n=53) paint 24(12)20
2055: newrow 7 (n=52) paint 10(21)13
2059: newrow 8 (n=51) paint 8(23)9
...
2249: newrow 8 (n=5) paint 8(23)11
2253: newrow 7 (n=4) paint 10(22)12
2257: newrow 0 (n=3) paint 24(11)22
2261: newrow 0 (n=2) paint 24(11)22
2265: newrow 0 (n=1) paint 24(11)22
2269: newrow 0 (n=0) paint 24(11)22
2273: eoc
```

```
.<--This pixel's lower left corner is at (3,57) in METAFONT coordinates
```

```
*****  
*****  
*****  
*****  
  
*****  
*****  
  
. . .  
  
*****  
*****  
  
*****  
*****  
*****  
*****  
*****
```

```
*****  
*****  
*****  
*****  
*****
```

```
.<--This pixel's upper left corner is at (3,0) in METAFONT coordinates
```

Explanation:

'2033'

'2043'

‘...’ The byte position in the file where each GF command starts.

```
'beginning of char 75'
```

The character code, in decimal.

$$3 \leq m \leq 60 \quad 0 \leq n \leq 56$$

The character's bitmap lies between 3 and 60 (inclusive) horizontally, and between 0 and 56 (inclusive) vertically. (m is a column position and n is a row position.) Thus, 3 is the left side bearing. The right side bearing is the horizontal escapement (given below) minus the maximum m .

```
'(initially n=56) paint (0)24(12)20'
```

The first row of pixels: 0 white pixels, 24 black pixels, 12 white pixels, etc.

```
'newrow 0 (n=55) paint 24(12)20'
```

The second row of pixels, with zero leading white pixels on the row.

'eoc' The end of the main character definition.

Here is the GF postamble information that GFtype outputs at the end:

Character 75: dx 4259840 (65), width 815562 (64.57289), loc 2033

Explanation:

‘dx’ The device-dependent width, in *scaled pixels*, i.e., units of horizontal pixels times 2¹⁶. The ‘(65)’ is simply the same number rounded. If the vertical escapement is nonzero, it would appear here as a ‘dy’ value.

<code>'width'</code>	The device-independent (TFM) width of this character. It is 2^{24} times the ratio of the true width to the font's design size. The <code>'64.57289'</code> is the same number converted to pixels.
----------------------	---

'loc'	The byte position in the file where this character starts.
-------	--

10.6 TFtoPL: T_EX font metric to property list conversion

TFtoPL translates a T_EX font metric (TFM, see [Section “Metric files” in Dvips](#)) file (as output by Metafont, for example) to *property list format* (a list of parenthesized items describing the font) that humans can edit or read. This program is mostly used by people debugging T_EX implementations, writing font utilities, etc. Synopsis:

```
tftopl [option]... tfmname[.tfm] [plfile[.pl]]
```

The font *tfmname* (extended with ‘.tfm’ if necessary) is searched for in the usual places (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable KPATHSEA_DEBUG to ‘-1’ before running the program.

If *plfile* (which is extended with ‘.pl’ if necessary) is not specified, the property list file is written to standard output. The property list file can be converted back to TFM format by the companion program TFtoPL (see the next section).

The program accepts the following option, as well as the standard ‘-verbose’, ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7):

‘-charcode-format=type’

Output character codes in the PL file according to *type*: either ‘octal’ or ‘ascii’. Default is ‘ascii’ for letters and digits, octal for all other characters. Exception: if the font’s coding scheme starts with ‘T_EX math sy’ or ‘T_EX math ex’, all character codes are output in octal.

In ‘ascii’ format, character codes that correspond to graphic characters, except for left and right parentheses, are output as a ‘C’ followed by the single character: ‘C K’, for example. In octal format, character codes are output as the letter ‘O’ followed by octal digits, as in ‘O 113’ for ‘K’.

‘octal’ format is useful for symbol and other non-alphabetic fonts, where using ASCII characters for the character codes is merely confusing.

As an example of the output, here is the (abridged) property list translation of ‘cmr10.tfm’:

```
(FAMILY CMR)
(FACE 0 352)
(CODINGScheme TEX TEXT)
(DESIGNSize R 10.0)
(COMMENT DESIGNSize IS IN POINTS)
(COMMENT OTHER SIZES ARE MULTIPLES OF DESIGNSize)
(CHECKSUM 0 11374260171)
(FONTDIMEN
  (SLANT R 0.0)
  (SPACE R 0.333334)
  (STRETCH R 0.166667)
  (SHRINK R 0.111112)
  (XHEIGHT R 0.430555)
  (QUAD R 1.000003)
  (EXTRASPACE R 0.111112)
)
(LIGTABLE
```

```

...
(LABEL C f)
(LIG C i 0 14)
(LIG C f 0 13)
(LIG C l 0 15)
(KRN 0 47 R 0.077779)
(KRN 0 77 R 0.077779)
(KRN 0 41 R 0.077779)
(KRN 0 51 R 0.077779)
(KRN 0 135 R 0.077779)
(STOP)
...
)
...
(CCHARACTER C f
  (CHARWD R 0.305557)
  (CHARHT R 0.694445)
  (CHARIC R 0.077779)
  (COMMENT
    (LIG C i 0 14)
    (LIG C f 0 13)
    (LIG C l 0 15)
    (KRN 0 47 R 0.077779)
    (KRN 0 77 R 0.077779)
    ...
  )
)
...

```

As you can see, the general format is a list of parenthesized *properties*, nested where necessary.

- The first few items (FAMILY, FACE, and so on) are the so-called *headerbyte* information from Metafont, giving general information about the font.
- The FONTDIMEN property defines the T_EX `\fontdimen` values.
- The LIGTABLE property defines the ligature and kerning table. LIG properties define ligatures: in the example above, an ‘f’ (in the ‘LABEL’) followed by an ‘i’ is a ligature, i.e., a typesetting program like T_EX replaces those two consecutive characters by the character at position octal ‘014 in the current font—presumably the ‘fi’ ligature. KRN properties define kerns: if an ‘f’ is followed by character octal ‘047 (an apostrophe), T_EX inserts a small amount of space between them: 0.077779 times the design size the font was loaded at (about three-quarters of a printer’s point by default in this case, or .001 inches).
- The CHARACTER property defines the dimensions of a character: its width, height, depth, and italic correction, also in design-size units, as explained in the previous item. For our example ‘f’, the depth is zero, so that property is omitted. T_FtoP_L also inserts any kerns and ligatures for this character as a comment.

10.7 PLtoTF: Property list to T_EX font metric conversion

PLtoTF translates a property list file (as output by TFtoPL, for example) to T_EX font metric (TFM, see [Section “Metric files” in Dvips](#)) format. It’s much easier for both programs and humans to create the (plain text) property list files and let PLtoTF take care of creating the binary TFM equivalent than to output TFM files directly. Synopsis:

```
pltotf [option]... plfile[.pl] [tfmfile[.tfm]]
```

If *tfmfile* (extended with ‘.tfm’ if necessary) is not specified, the TFM file is written to the basename of ‘*plfile.tfm*’, e.g., ‘`pltotf /wherever/cmr10.pl`’ creates ‘`./cmr10.tfm`’. (Since TFM files are binary, writing to standard output by default is undesirable.)

The only options are ‘-verbose’, ‘-help’, and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7).

For an example of property list format, see the previous section.

10.8 VFtoVP: Virtual font to virtual property lists

VFtoVP translates a virtual font metric (VF, see [Section “Virtual fonts” in Dvips](#)) file and its accompanying T_EX font metric (TFM, see [Section “Metric files” in Dvips](#)) file (as output by VPtoVF, for example) to *virtual property list format* (a list of parenthesized items describing the virtual font) that humans can edit or read. This program is mostly used by people debugging virtual font utilities. Synopsis:

```
vftovp [option]... vfname[.vf] [tfmname[.tfm] [vplfile[.vpl]]]
```

The fonts *vfname* and *tfmname* (extended with ‘.vf’ and ‘.tfm’ if necessary) are searched for in the usual places (see [Section “Supported file formats” in Kpathsea](#)). To see all the relevant paths, set the environment variable `KPATHSEA_DEBUG` to ‘-1’ before running the program. If *tfmname* is not specified, *vfname* (without a trailing ‘.vf’) is used.

If *vplfile* (extended with ‘.vpl’ if necessary) is not specified, the property list file is written to standard output. The property list file can be converted back to VF and TFM format by the companion program VFtoVP (see the next section).

The program accepts the following option, as well as the standard ‘-verbose’, ‘-help’ and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7):

‘-charcode-format=type’

Output character codes in the PL file according to *type*: either ‘octal’ or ‘ascii’. Default is ‘ascii’ for letters and digits, octal for all other characters. Exception: if the font’s coding scheme starts with ‘TeX math sy’ or ‘TeX math ex’, all character codes are output in octal.

In ‘ascii’ format, character codes that correspond to graphic characters, except for left and right parentheses, are output as a ‘C’ followed by the single character: ‘C K’, for example. In octal format, character codes are output as the letter ‘O’ followed by octal digits, as in ‘O 113’ for ‘K’.

‘octal’ format is useful for symbol and other non-alphabetic fonts, where using ASCII characters for the character codes is merely confusing.

10.9 VPtoVF: Virtual property lists to virtual font

VPtoVF translates a virtual property list file (as output by VFtoVP, for example) to virtual font (VF, see [Section “Virtual fonts” in *Dvips*](#)) and \TeX font metric (TFM, see [Section “Metric files” in *Dvips*](#)) files. It’s much easier for both programs and humans to create the (plain text) property list files and let VPtoVF take care of creating the binary VF and TFM equivalents than to output them directly. Synopsis:

```
vptovf [option]... vplfile[.vpl] [vffile[.vf] [tfmfile[.tfm]]]
```

If *vffile* (extended with ‘.vf’ if necessary) is not specified, the VF output is written to the basename of ‘*vplfile.vf*’; similarly for *tfmfile*. For example, ‘vptovf /wherever/ptmr.vpl’ creates ‘./ptmr.vf’ and ‘./ptmr.tfm’.

The only options are ‘-verbose’, ‘-help’, and ‘-version’ (see [Section 3.2 \[Common options\]](#), page 7).

10.10 Font utilities available elsewhere

The Web2c complement of font utilities merely implements a few basic conversions. Many other more sophisticated font utilities exist; most are in ‘*CTAN:/fonts/utilities*’ (for CTAN info, see [Section “unixtex.ftp” in *Kpathsea*](#)). Here are some of the most commonly-requested items:

- AFM (Adobe font metric) to TFM conversion: see [Section “Invoking afm2tfm” in *Dvips*](#), and ‘*CTAN:/fonts/utilities/afmtoptl*’.
- BDF (the X bitmap format) conversion: <ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/bdf.tar.gz>.
- Creating fonts using MetaPost: MetaType1. <ftp://bop.eps.gda.pl/pub/metatype1>. This is used to create the excellent Latin Modern font family (‘*CTAN:/fonts/lm*’), which extends Computer Modern to a vast repertoire of scripts.
- Editing of bitmap fonts: Xbfe from the GNU font utilities mentioned below; the X BDF-editing programs available from <ftp://ftp.x.org/R5contrib/xfed.tar.Z> and <ftp://ftp.x.org/R5contrib/xfedor.tar.Z>; and finally, if your fonts have only 128 characters, you can use the old gftopxl, pxtoch, and chtopx programs from <ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/web>.
- Editing of outline fonts: FontForge, fontforge.sourceforge.net. This is a very elaborate program with support for many outline formats (Type 1, OpenType, TrueType, ...), and many advanced font editing features.
- PK bitmaps from PostScript outline fonts: gsftopk from the ‘xdvi’ distribution. Alternatively, ps2pk, from ‘*CTAN:/fonts/utilities/ps2pk*’.
- PostScript Type 1 font format conversion (i.e., between PFA and PFB formats): <ftp://ftp.tug.org/tex/tlutils.tar.gz>.
- Scanned image conversion: the (aging) GNU font utilities convert type specimen images to Metafont, PostScript, etc.: <http://www.gnu.org/software/fontutils/>.
- Tracing bitmaps to fitted outlines: Autotrace (<http://autotrace.sourceforge.net>), Potrace (<http://potrace.sourceforge.net>). For Metafont fonts, either of the two programs mftrace (<http://www.xs4all.nl/~hanwen/mftrace>) or textrace (<http://textrace.sourceforge.net>) make the job easier.
- Virtual font creation: ‘*CTAN:/fonts/utilities/fontinst*’.

Appendix A Legalisms

In general, each file has its own copyright notice stating the copying permissions for that file. Following is a summary.

The Web2c system itself and most of the original WEB source files are public domain.

`'tex.web'`, the $\text{MLT}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ code, `'mf.web'`, and `'bibtex.web'`, are copyrighted by their authors. They may be copied verbatim, but may be modified only through a `'ch'` file.

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2. Dvips and Afm2tfm: See [Section “Top” in *Dvips*](#).
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4. TUGboat: <http://tug.org/TUGboat>.
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<ftp://ftp.math.utah.edu/pub/tex/bib/texbook1.bib>.
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