

NAME

bfmt - simple text formatter

SYNOPSIS

bfmt [-num|file|-l text|-p text|-f|-b] ...

DESCRIPTION

Bfmt is a simple text formatter which reads the concatenation of input files (or standard input if none are given) and produces on standard output a version of its input with lines *justified* and 72 characters long as possible. Contrasted with fmt, spacing at the beginning of the input lines is *not* preserved in the output, as is interword spacing.

Parameter -l defines a prefix string for every line output. Parameter -p defines a prefix string for every paragraph. Specifying -l overrides previous -p values. Parameters -f and -b specify whether or not the paragraphs will be aligned flushleft or justified. Default is justified.

Bfmt is meant to format mail messages prior to sending, but may also be useful for other simple tasks. For instance, within visual mode of the ex editor (e.g. vi) the command
!}bfmt
will reformat a paragraph, evening the lines.

Bfmt will break lines at whitespace positions (i.e., blanks, tabulators, and linebreaks), besides this it will take into account TeX's 'hard space' character '\ '.

EXAMPLES

Think of a file named foo.txt containing:

```
XXXXXX XX XXXX XXXXXXXX. XXX XXXXXXX XX XXXXXXX XX
XXXXXXXX XXX XXX. XXXX'X XX!
```

```
XXX XXXX XXX XXXXX XX XXXXXXX XXXX XXX XXXX XX
XXXXXXXX XX X XXXXX XXXXX. XXXXX XXX XXXXX XXXX XX
XXX.
```

Output 'bfmt -40 foo.txt':

```
XXXXXX  XX  XXXX  XXXXXXXX.  XXX XXXXXXX XX
XXXXXXXX XX XXXXXXXX XXX XXX. XXXX'X XX!
```

```
XXX  XXXX  XXX  XXXXX XX XXXXXXX XXXX XXX
XXXX  XX  XXXXXXX XX X XXXXX XXXXX. XXXXX
XXX XXXXX XXXX XX XXX.
```

Output 'bfmt -40 -f foo.txt':

```
XXXXXX XX XXXX XXXXXXXX. XXX XXXXXXX XX
XXXXXXXX XX XXXXXXXX XXX XXX. XXXX'X XX!
```

```
XXX XXXX XXX XXXXX XX XXXXXXX XXXX XXX
XXXX XX XXXXXXX XX X XXXXX XXXXX. XXXXX
XXX XXXXX XXXX XX XXX.
```

Output 'bfmt -40 -l " " -p " o " foo.txt':

```
o XXXXX  XX  XXXX  XXXXXXXX.  XXX XXXXXXX
  XX  XXXXXXX  XX  XXXXXXXX  XXX  XXX.
  XXXX'X XX!
```

```

o XXX XXXX XXX XXXXX XX XXXXXX XXXX XXX
  XXXX  XX  XXXXXX  XX  X  XXXXX XXXXX.
  XXXXX XXX XXXXX XXXX XX XXX.

```

Output 'bfmt -40 -f -l "> " foo.txt':

```

> XXXXX XX XXXX XXXXXXXX. XXX XXXXXX XX
> XXXXXX XX XXXXXXXX XXX XXX. XXXX'X XX!

> XXX XXXX XXX XXXXX XX XXXXXX XXXX
> XXX XXXX XX XXXXXX XX X XXXXX XXXXX.
> XXXXX XXX XXXXX XXXX XX XXX.

```

Output 'bfmt -40 -p " " foo.txt':

```

      XXXXX XX XXXX XXXXXXXX. XXX XXXXXX XX
XXXXXX XX XXXXXXXX XXX XXX. XXXX'X XX!

      XXX  XXXX  XXX  XXXXX XX XXXXXX XXXX
XXX  XXXX  XX  XXXXXX  XX X XXXXX XXXXX.
XXXXX XXX XXXXX XXXX XX XXX.

```

SEE ALSO

```
nroff(1), mail(1), fmt(1)
```

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BUGS

Also Bfmt takes into account TeX's '\ ' spacing, it does not its comment conventions!