

Package ‘kvh’

October 30, 2026

Type Package

Title Read/Write Files in Key-Value-Hierarchy Format

Version 1.5.1

Date 2026-10-28

Maintainer Serguei Sokol <sokol@insa-toulouse.fr>

Description

The format KVH is a lightweight format that can be read/written both by humans and machines.

It can be useful in situations where XML or alike formats seem to be an overkill.

We provide an ability to parse KVH files in R pretty fast due to 'Rcpp' use.

URL <http://serguei.sokol.free.fr/kvh-format/>

BugReports <https://github.com/sgsokol/kvh/issues>

License GPL (>= 2)

Imports Rcpp (>= 0.12.12)

LinkingTo Rcpp

Suggests testthat

NeedsCompilation yes

Biarch yes

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Encoding UTF-8

Copyright 2017-2026 INRAE/INSA/CNRS

Author Serguei Sokol [aut, cre]

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-10-30 13:40:40 UTC

Contents

kvh-package	2
esc_kvh_k	3
esc_kvh_v	3

kvh_get_matrix	4
kvh_read	4
obj2kvh	6
obj_by_keys	7
Index	8

kvh-package	<i>Write/read KVH (key-value hierarchy) file</i>
-------------	--

Description

The format KVH is a lightweight format that can be read/written both by humans and machines. It can be useful in situations where XML or alike formats seem to be an overkill. We provide an ability to manipulate kvh files in R with a good efficiency due to Rcpp use. The content read in kvh file is hierarchically organized in nested lists. The key-values are always returned as character strings. It's up to user to convert them further in useful types (numeric vectors, matrices and so on).

Author(s)

Serguei Sokol.

Maintainer: Serguei Sokol <sokol@insa-toulouse.fr>

References

<http://serguei.sokol.free.fr/kvh-format/>

Examples

```
## Not run:
# prepare object to write to kvh file
obj=list(x=structure(1:3, names=letters[1:3]), R=R.version)
# write it
obj2kvh(obj, "test", "test.kvh") # will create test.kvh file
# read it back
l=kvh_read("test.kvh")
# check a field
l$test$x # NB. it has a character values put in a list not a numeric vector as it was in obj.

## End(Not run)
```

esc_kvh_k*Escape Special Characters in a key*

Description

Escape Tabs, Newlines and Backslashes in a string which will be used as a key in a KVH file.

Usage

esc_kvh_k(s)

Arguments

s string

Details

Escape is done by butting a backslash before a special character.'

Value

escaped string

esc_kvh_v*Escape Special Characters in a value*

Description

Escape Newlines and Backslashes in a string which will be used as a key in a KVH file.

Usage

esc_kvh_v(s)

Arguments

s string

Details

Escape is done by butting a backslash before a special character.'

Value

escaped string

kvh_get_matrix	<i>Get matrix from kvh file</i>
----------------	---------------------------------

Description

Given a read connection to kvh file and a vector of keys pointing to a matrix, return this matrix

Usage

```
kvh_get_matrix(f, v)
```

Arguments

f	connection from which kvh file can be read
v	character vector of key-subkeys pointing to a matrix

Details

It is expected that matrix in the kvh file has its upper-leftmost item called "row_col" and it has rownames in the first column and colnames in the first row.

Value

matrix read from kvh

Examples

```
# write a test matrix
obj2kvh(list(comment="this is a test matrix", m=diag(2)), "li", "test.kvh")
# read it back
mr=kvh_get_matrix(file("test.kvh"), c("li", "m"))
# clean
unlink("test.kvh")
```

kvh_read	<i>Parse file in KVH format</i>
----------	---------------------------------

Description

Returns a list with names formed from kvh keys and values formed from kvh values. If a kvh value has sub-keys, it is returned as a nested list. Otherwise it is returned as a character string.

Usage

```

kvh_read(
    fn,
    comment_str = "",
    strip_white = FALSE,
    skip_blank = FALSE,
    split_str = "",
    follow_url = FALSE,
    keys2skip = NULL
)

```

Arguments

fn	character kvh file name.
comment_str	character optional comment string (default empty ""). If non empty, the comment string itself and everything following it on the line is ignored. Note that lines are first appended if end lines are escaped and then a search for a comment string is done.
strip_white	logical optional control of white spaces on both ends of keys and values (default FALSE)
skip_blank	logical optional control of lines composed of only white characters after a possible stripping of a comment (default FALSE)
split_str	character optional string by which a value string can be splitted in several strings (default: empty string, i.e. no splitting)
follow_url	logical optional control of recursive kvh reading and parsing. If set to TRUE and a value starts with 'file:/' then the path following this prefix will be passed as argument 'fn' to another 'kvh_read()' call. The list returned by this last call will be affected to the corresponding key instead of the value 'file:///...'. If a circular reference to some file is detected, a warning is emitted and the faulty value 'file:///...' will be left without change. The rest of the file is proceeded as usual. If a path is relative one (i.e. not starting with '/' neither 'C:/' or alike on windows platform) then it is meant relative to the location of the parent kvh file, not the current working directory.
keys2skip	list of character vectors. Each vector is sequence of nested keys to be skipped (default: NULL).

Details

If a key is to be skipped, its content is read and parsed (to keep the right line numbering), urls links are not followed but its value is not set in the resulting list.

obj2kvh

*Writing/Adding an R Object to KVH File.***Description**

Formats an object before writing it in kvh file.

Usage

```
obj2kvh(obj, objname = NULL, conct = stdout(), indent = 0)
```

Arguments

obj	an R object
objname	character object name to write in kvh file
conct	connection opened for writing or file name
indent	is tab offset for object name

Details

Scalar, vector, matrix and list are pre-processed. Other objects are written as an output string of toString() function To add a content to existent file use "a" as open mode fcn=file("m.kvh", "a") obj2kvh() can be used along the code advancing in the calculations. Writing in a subfield of an already started key requires use of appropriate indent value. The file is started with indent=0 and every sub-field increments the indent by 1. If objname is NULL and obj is not a scalar value, the content of obj is written in kvh file without additional indent.

Value

None

Examples

```
m=matrix(1:6,2,3);
fcf=file("m.kvh", "w");
obj2kvh(m, "m", fcf);
close(fcf);
# clean
unlink("m.kvh")
```

`obj_by_keys`*Get Object Identified by its Keys.*

Description

Given a named nested list returned by `kvh_read()`, get a particular item from it. The object is identified by a series of hierarchical keys, first key corresponds to the first hierarchical level, the second corresponds to the second and so on.

Usage

```
obj_by_keys(li, keys)
```

Arguments

<code>li</code>	a named nested list returned by <code>kvh_read()</code>
<code>keys</code>	character vector naming key suites to identify an object

Value

an object corresponding to `li[[keys[1]][[keys[2]][[...]]]`. Return `NULL` if non valid keys.

Index

* **kvh-format**

kvh-package, [2](#)

esc_kvh_k, [3](#)

esc_kvh_v, [3](#)

kvh (kvh-package), [2](#)

kvh-package, [2](#)

kvh_get_matrix, [4](#)

kvh_read, [4](#)

obj2kvh, [6](#)

obj_by_keys, [7](#)