The akshar package

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Abstract

This package provides tools to deal with special characters in a Devanagari string.

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1 Introduction

When dealing with processing strings in the Devanagari script, normal \LaTeX commands usually find some difficulties in distinguishing "normal" characters, like क, and "special" characters, for example ् or ी. Let's consider this example code:

- 1 \ExplSyntaxOn
- 2 \tl set:Nn \l tmpa tl { की}

2 tokens.

- 3 \tl count:N \l tmpa tl \c space token tokens.
- 4 \ExplSyntaxOff

The output is 2, but the number of characters in it is only one! The reason is quite simple: the compiler treats as a normal character, and it shouldn't do so.

To tackle that, this package provides expl3 functions to "convert" a given string, written in the Devanagari script, to a sequence of token lists. each of these token lists is a "true" Devanagari character. You can now do anything you want with this sequence; and this package does provide some front-end macros for some simple actions on the input string.

User manual

2.1 LATEX $2_{\mathcal{E}}$ macros

\aksharStrLen

 $\arrowvert aksharStrLen {\langle token list \rangle}$

Return the number of Devanagari characters in the \taken list\.

There are 4 characters in नमस्कार. expl3 returns 7, which is wrong.

- There are \aksharStrLen{ नमस्कार} characters in नमस्कार.\par
- ³ \pkg{expl3}~returns~\tl count:n { नमस्कार},~which~is~wrong.
- 4 \ExplSyntaxOff

\aksharStrChar

 $\arstropy \arstropy \ars$

Return the n-th character of the token list.

3rd character of नमस्कार is स्का. It is not स.

- ा 3rd character of नमस्कारांs \aksharStrChar{ नमस्कार}{3}.\par
- 2 \ExplSyntaxOn ₃ It~is~not~\tl item:nn { नमस्कार} {3}.
- 4 \ExplSyntaxOff

\aksharStrReplace \aksharStrReplace* \aksharStrReplace $\{\langle tl \ 1 \rangle\}$ $\{\langle tl \ 2 \rangle\}$ $\{\langle tl \ 3 \rangle\}$

Replace all occurences of $\langle tl 2 \rangle$ in $\langle tl 1 \rangle$ with $\langle tl 3 \rangle$, and leaves the modified $\langle tl 1 \rangle$ in the input stream.

The starred variant will replace only the first occurence of (tl 2), all others are left intact.

- 1 \ExplSyntaxOn
- $_2 \neq \exp{expl3} \sim output:\par$

expl3 output: स्कास्काडडस्कांळीस्कास्काड

स्कास्काडडमंळीस्कास्काड

3 \tl set:Nn \l tmpa tl { मममडडमंळीममड} 4 \tl replace all:Nnn \l tmpa tl { म} { स्का}

\aksharStrReplace output:

- 5 \tl_use:N \l_tmpa_tl\par
- 6 \cs{aksharStrReplace} ~ output:\par ा \aksharStrReplace { मममडडमंळीममड} { म} { स्का}
- 8 \ExplSyntaxOff
- 1 \ExplSyntaxOn
- 2 \pkg{expl3} ~ output:\par

expl3 output:

₃ \tl_set:Nn \l_tmpa_tl { ममंममडडमंळीममड}

4 \tl_replace_once:Nnn \l_tmpa_tl { मम} { स्का} स्कांममडडमंळीममड

\aksharStrReplace* output: ममंस्काडडमंळीममड

- 5 \tl_use:N \l_tmpa_tl\par 6 \cs{aksharStrReplace*} ~ output:\par
- 7 \aksharStrReplace* { ममंममडडमंळीममड} { मम} { स्का}
- 8 \ExplSyntaxOff

\aksharStrRemove \aksharStrRemove* \aksharStrRemove $\{\langle tl \ 1 \rangle\}$ $\{\langle tl \ 2 \rangle\}$

Remove all occurrences of $\langle tl 2 \rangle$ in $\langle tl 1 \rangle$, and leaves the modified $\langle tl 1 \rangle$ in the input stream.

The starred variant will remove only the first occurrence of $\langle tl 2 \rangle$, all others are left intact.

1 \ExplSyntaxOn

expl3 output:

2 \pkg{expl3} ~ output:\par

डडंळीड

डडमंळीड

3 \tl set:Nn \l tmpa tl { मममडडमंळीममड} 4 \tl remove all:Nn \l tmpa tl { म}

\aksharStrRemove output:

5 \tl use:N \l tmpa tl\par

- 6 \cs{aksharStrRemove} ~ output:\par
- 7 \aksharStrRemove { मममडडमंळीममड} { म}
- 8 \ExplSyntaxOff

expl3 output: ंममडडमंळीममड \aksharStrRemove* output: ममंडडमंळीममड

```
\ \ExplSyntaxOn

\( \text{pkg} \ \expl3 \) \rightary output:\par

\( \text{tl_set:Nn \l_tmpa_tl } \ \text{ннннзені вінне} \)

\( \text{tl_remove_once:Nn \l_tmpa_tl } \ \text{нн} \)

\( \text{tl_use:N \l_tmpa_tl\par} \)

\( \text{cs} \ \aksharStrRemove* \} \rightary output:\par \)

\( \text{harStrRemove* } \ \text{ \text{ннннзені вінне}} \ \} \ \ \ \text{нн} \)
```

2.2 expl3 functions

8 \ExplSyntaxOff

This section assumes that you have a basic knowledge in LATEX3 programming. All macros in 2.1 directly depend on the following function, so it is much more powerful than all features we have described above.

\akshar_convert:Nn
\akshar_convert:(cn|Nx|cx)

```
\arrowvert:Nn \langle seq var \rangle \{\langle token list \rangle\}
```

This function converts $\langle token \ list \rangle$ to a sequence of characters, that sequence is stored in $\langle seq \ var \rangle$. The assignment to $\langle seq \ var \rangle$ is local to the current $T_E X$ group.

न, म, स्का, and र

```
\ExplSyntaxOn
2 \akshar_convert:Nn \l_tmpa_seq { नमस्कार}
3 \seq_use:Nnnn \l_tmpa_seq { ~and~ } { ,~ } { ,~and~ }
4 \ExplSyntaxOff
```

3 Implementation

```
1 (@@=akshar)
2 (*package)
```

Declare the package. By loading fontspec, xparse, and in turn, expl3, are also loaded.

```
3 \RequirePackage{fontspec}
4 \ProvidesExplPackage {akshar} {2020/05/17} {0.1}
5 {Support for syllables in the Devanagari script (JV)}
```

3.1 Variable declarations

\c__akshar_joining_tl
\c__akshar_diacritics_tl

These variables store the special characters we need to take into account:

- \c_akshar_joining_tl is the "connecting" character \(\circ\).

(End definition for $\c_akshar_joining_tl$ and $\c_akshar_diacritics_tl$.)

\l__akshar_prev_joining_bool

When we get to a normal character, we need to know whether it is joined, i.e. whether the previous character is the joining character. This boolean variable takes care of that.

```
13 \bool_new:N \l__akshar_prev_joining_bool
```

```
(End definition for \l__akshar_prev_joining_bool.)
```

\l_akshar_char_seq This local sequence stores the output of the converter.

```
14 \seq_new:N \l__akshar_char_seq
(End definition for \l__akshar_char_seq.)
```

```
\l_akshar_tmpa_tl Some temporary variables.
\l akshar tmpb_tl
                      15 \tl_new:N \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
\l__akshar_tmpa_seq
                      16 \tl_new:N \l__akshar_tmpb_tl
\l__akshar_tmpb_seq
                      17 \seq_new:N \l__akshar_tmpa_seq
\l__akshar_tmpc_seq
                      18 \seq_new:N \l__akshar_tmpb_seq
\l__akshar_tmpd_seq
                      19 \seq_new:N \l__akshar_tmpc_seq
\l__akshar_tmpe_seq
                      20 \seq_new:N \l__akshar_tmpd_seq
\l__akshar_tmpa_int
                      21 \seq_new:N \l__akshar_tmpe_seq
                      22 \int_new:N \l__akshar_tmpa_int
\l__akshar_tmpb_int
                      23 \int_new:N \l__akshar_tmpb_int
```

(End definition for $\l_akshar_tmpa_tl$ and others.)

3.2 Messages

In \akshar_convert:Nn and friends, the argument needs to be a sequence variable. There will be an error if it isn't.

In \aksharStrChar, we need to guard against accessing an 'out-of-bound' character (like trying to get the 8th character in a 5-character string.)

3.3 Utilities

\tl_if_in:No<u>TF</u> When we get to a character which is not the joining one, we need to know if it is a diacritic. The current character is stored in a variable, so an expanded variant is needed. We only need it to expand only once.

```
44 \prg_generate_conditional_variant:Nnn \tl_if_in:Nn { No } { TF }

(End definition for \tl_if_in:NoTF.)

\seq_set_split:Nxx A variant we will need in \__akshar_var_if_global.

45 \cs_generate_variant:Nn \seq_set_split:Nnn { Nxx }

(End definition for \seq_set_split:Nxx.)
```

\msg_error:nnnxx

\msg_error:nnx Some variants of l3msg functions that we will need when issuing error messages.

```
46 \cs_generate_variant:Nn \msg_error:nnn { nnx }
47 \cs_generate_variant:Nn \msg_error:nnnnn { nnnxx }
```

(End definition for \msg_error:nnx and \msg_error:nnnxx.)

\c__akshar_str_g_tl

words, it returns true iff #1 is a control sequence in the format \g_{α} (name)_seq. \c_akshar_str_seq_tl If it is not a sequence variable, this function will (TODO) issue an error message.

```
_{48} \tl_const:Nx \c__akshar_str_g_tl { \tl_to_str:n {g} } }
49 \tl_const:Nx \c__akshar_str_seq_tl { \tl_to_str:n {seq} }
_{50} \prg_new\_conditional:Npnn \__akshar\_var_if_global:N #1 { T, F, TF }
51
52
      \bool_if:nTF
53
        { \exp_last_unbraced:Nf \use_iii:nnn { \cs_split_function:N #1 } }
54
55
          \msg_error:nnx { akshar } { err_not_a_sequence_variable }
56
            { \token_to_str:N #1 }
          \prg_return_false:
57
        }
58
        {
59
          \seq_set_split:Nxx \l__akshar_tmpb_seq { \token_to_str:N _ }
60
            { \exp_last_unbraced:Nf \use_i:nnn { \cs_split_function:N #1 } }
61
          \seq_get_left:NN \l__akshar_tmpb_seq \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
62
          \seq_get_right:NN \l__akshar_tmpb_seq \l__akshar_tmpb_tl
63
          \tl_if_eq:NNTF \c__akshar_str_seq_tl \l__akshar_tmpb_tl
            {
               \tl_if_eq:NNTF \c__akshar_str_g_tl \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
67
                 { \prg_return_true: } { \prg_return_false: }
            }
68
            {
69
               \msg_error:nnx { akshar } { err_not_a_sequence_variable }
70
                 { \token_to_str:N #1 }
71
               \prg_return_false:
73
        }
74
    }
```

(End definition for __akshar_var_if_global:NTF, \c__akshar_str_g_tl, and \c__akshar_str_seq_-

__akshar_int_append_ordinal:n Append st, nd, rd or th to interger #1. Will be needed in error messages.

```
76 \cs_new:Npn \__akshar_int_append_ordinal:n #1
77
    {
78
      \int_case:nnF { #1 }
        {
80
          { 11 } { th }
81
          { 12 } { th }
82
          { 13 } { th }
83
          { -11 } { th }
84
          { -12 } { th }
85
          { -13 } { th }
86
87
        }
88
        {
          89
              \int_case:nnF { #1 - 10 * (#1 / 10) }
92
                  { 1 } { st }
93
                  { 2 } { nd }
94
                  { 3 } { rd }
95
                } { th }
96
            }
97
            {
98
```

(End definition for __akshar_int_append_ordinal:n.)

3.4 The \akshar_convert:Nn function and its variants

\akshar_convert:Nn \akshar_convert:cn \akshar_convert:Nx \akshar_convert:cx This converts #2 to a sequence of true Devanagari characters. The sequence is set to #1, which should be a sequence variable. The assignment is local.

```
108 \cs_new:Npn \akshar_convert:Nn #1 #2
109 {
```

Clear anything stored in advance. We don't want different calls of the function to conflict with each other.

```
\seq_clear:N \l__akshar_char_seq
\bool_set_false:N \l__akshar_prev_joining_bool
```

Loop through every token of the input.

```
112 \tl_map_variable:NNn {#2} \l__akshar_map_tl
113 {
114 \tl_if_in:NoTF \c__akshar_diacritics_tl {\l__akshar_map_tl}
115 {
```

It is a diacritic. We append the current diacritic to the last item of the sequence instead of pushing the diacritic to a new sequence item.

```
\seq_pop_right:NN \l__akshar_char_seq \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
\seq_put_right:Nx \l__akshar_char_seq
\l_akshar_tmpa_tl \l_akshar_map_tl \rangle
\l_akshar_tmpa_tl \l_akshar_map_tl \rangle
\l_tl_if_eq:NNTF \l_akshar_map_tl \c_akshar_joining_tl
\l_akshar_tmpa_tl \c_akshar_joining_tl
\l_akshar_map_tl \c_akshar_joining_tl
\l_akshar_map_tl \c_akshar_joining_tl
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\l_akshar_map_tl
\l_akshar_map_tl
```

In this case, the character is the joining character, Q. What we do is similar to the above case, but \l_akshar_prev_joining_bool is set to true so that the next character is also appended to this item.

```
\seq_pop_right:NN \l_akshar_char_seq \l_akshar_tmpa_tl
\seq_put_right:Nx \l_akshar_char_seq
\l_akshar_tmpa_tl \l_akshar_map_tl \rangle
\tag{\l_akshar_tmpa_tl \l_akshar_map_tl \rangle
\tag{\bool_set_true:N \l_akshar_prev_joining_bool}
\rangle
\tag{\langle}
\langle
\langle
\tag{\langle}
\langle
\langle
\langle
\tag{\langle}
\langle
\
```

Now the character is normal. We see if we can push to a new item or not. It depends on the boolean variable.

```
\bool_if:NTF \l__akshar_prev_joining_bool
129
130
                      {
                        \seq_pop_right:NN \l__akshar_char_seq \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
                        \seq_put_right:Nx \l__akshar_char_seq
                          { \l_akshar_tmpa_tl \l_akshar_map_tl }
                        \bool_set_false:N \l__akshar_prev_joining_bool
                      }
136
                        \seq_put_right:Nx
                          \l__akshar_char_seq { \l__akshar_map_tl }
138
139
                 }
140
             }
141
         }
142
```

Set #1 to \l_akshar_char_seq. The package automatically determines whether the variable is a global one or a local one.

Generate variants that might be helpful for some.

```
\cs_generate_variant:Nn \akshar_convert:Nn { cn, Nx, cx }
```

(End definition for \akshar_convert:Nn. This function is documented on page 3.)

3.5 Other internal functions

__akshar_seq_push_seq:NN Append sequence #1 to the end of sequence #2. A simple loop will do.

```
148 \cs_new:Npn \__akshar_seq_push_seq:NN #1 #2
149 { \seq_map_inline:Nn #2 { \seq_put_right:Nn #1 { ##1 } } }

(End definition for \__akshar_seq_push_seq:NN.)
```

__akshar_replace:NnnnN

If #5 is \c_false_bool , this function replaces all occurences of #3 in #2 by #4 and stores the output sequence to #1. If #5 is \c_false_bool , the replacement only happens once.

The algorithm used in this function: We will use \l_akshar_tmpa_int to store the "current position" in the sequence of #3. At first it is set to 1.

We will store any subsequence of #2 that may match #3 to a temporary sequence. If it doesn't match, we push this temporary sequence to the output, but if it matches, #4 is pushed instead.

We loop over #2. For each of these loops, we need to make sure the \l_- -akshar_tmpa_int-th item must indeed appear in #3. So we need to compare that with the length of #3.

If now \l_akshar_tmpa_int is greater than the length of #3, the whole
 of #3 has been matched somewhere, so we reinitialize the integer to 1
 and push #4 to the output.

Note that it is possible that the current character might be the start of another match, so we have to compare it to the first character of #3. If they are not the same, we may now push the current mapping character to the output and proceed; otherwise the current character is pushed to the temporary variable.

- Otherwise, we compare the current loop character of #2 with the \l_-akshar_tmpa_int-th character of #3.
 - If they are the same, we still have a chance that it will match, so we increase the "iterator" \l_akshar_tmpa_int by 1 and push the current mapping character to the temporary sequence.
 - If they are the same, the temporary sequence won't match. Let's push that sequence to the output and set the iterator back to 1.
 Note that now the iterator has changed. Who knows whether the current character may start a match? Let's compare it to the first character of #3, and do as in the case of \l_akshar_tmpa_int is greater than the length of #3.

The complexity of this algorithm is $O(m \max(n, p))$, where m, n, p are the lengths of the sequences created from #2, #3 and #4. As #3 and #4 are generally short strings, this is (almost) linear to the length of the original sequence #2.

```
150 \cs_new:Npn \__akshar_replace:NnnnN #1 #2 #3 #4 #5
151 {
152      \akshar_convert:Nn \l__akshar_tmpc_seq {#2}
153      \akshar_convert:Nn \l__akshar_tmpd_seq {#3}
```

```
\akshar_convert:Nn \l__akshar_tmpe_seq {#4}
155
       \seq_clear:N \l__akshar_tmpa_seq
       \seq_clear:N \l__akshar_tmpb_seq
157
       \int_set:Nn \l__akshar_tmpa_int { 1 }
       \int_set:Nn \l__akshar_tmpb_int { 0 }
158
       \seq_map_variable:NNn \l__akshar_tmpc_seq \l__akshar_map_tl
159
160
           \int_compare:nNnTF { \l__akshar_tmpb_int } > { 0 }
161
             { \seq_put_right:NV \l__akshar_tmpb_seq \l__akshar_map_tl }
162
163
                \int_compare:nNnTF
164
                  {\l_akshar_tmpa_int} = {1 + \seq_count:N \l_akshar_tmpd_seq}
                    \bool_if:NT {#5}
                      { \int_incr:N \l__akshar_tmpb_int }
                    \verb|\seq_clear:N \l|_akshar\_tmpb_seq|
                    \__akshar_seq_push_seq:NN
170
                      \l__akshar_tmpa_seq \l__akshar_tmpe_seq
                    \int_set:Nn \l__akshar_tmpa_int { 1 }
                    \tl_set:Nx \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
174
                      { \seq_item:Nn \l__akshar_tmpd_seq { 1 } }
                    \tl_if_eq:NNTF \l__akshar_map_tl \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
                      {
                        \int_incr:N \l__akshar_tmpa_int
178
                        \seq_put_right:NV \l__akshar_tmpb_seq \l__akshar_map_tl
179
180
                      {
                        \seq_put_right:NV \l__akshar_tmpa_seq \l__akshar_map_tl
181
182
                  }
183
184
                    \tl_set:Nx \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
185
                        \seq_item:Nn \l__akshar_tmpd_seq { \l__akshar_tmpa_int }
                    \tl_if_eq:NNTF \l__akshar_map_tl \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
                      {
                        \int_incr:N \l__akshar_tmpa_int
191
                        \seq_put_right:NV \l__akshar_tmpb_seq \l__akshar_map_tl
192
193
194
                        \int_set:Nn \l__akshar_tmpa_int { 1 }
195
                        \__akshar_seq_push_seq:NN
                          \l__akshar_tmpa_seq \l__akshar_tmpb_seq
                        \seq_clear:N \l__akshar_tmpb_seq
                        \tl_set:Nx \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
                          { \seq_item:Nn \l__akshar_tmpd_seq { 1 } }
200
                        \tl_if_eq:NNTF \l__akshar_map_tl \l__akshar_tmpa_tl
201
                          {
202
                             \int_incr:N \l__akshar_tmpa_int
203
                             \seq_put_right:NV
204
                              \l__akshar_tmpb_seq \l__akshar_map_tl
205
                          }
                             \seq_put_right:NV
                              \l__akshar_tmpa_seq \l__akshar_map_tl
                          }
                      }
                  }
214
         _akshar_seq_push_seq:NN \l__akshar_tmpa_seq \l__akshar_tmpb_seq
216
       \__akshar_var_if_global:NTF #1
217
         { \seq_gset_eq:NN #1 \l__akshar_tmpa_seq }
218
         { \seq_set_eq:NN #1 \l__akshar_tmpa_seq }
     }
(End definition for \__akshar_replace:NnnnN.)
```

3.6 Front-end $\LaTeX 2_{\mathcal{E}}$ macros

\aksharStrLen Expands to the length of the string.

(End definition for \aksharStrLen. This function is documented on page 1.)

\aksharStrChar Returns the *n*-th character of the string.

```
225 \NewExpandableDocumentCommand \aksharStrChar {mm}
226
      \akshar_convert:Nn \l_akshar_tmpa_seg {#1}
227
228
      \bool_if:nTF
        {
          \int_compare_p:nNn {#2} < {1 + \seq_count:N \l__akshar_tmpa_seq}</pre>
        }
        { \seq_item:Nn \l__akshar_tmpa_seq { #2 } }
234
          \msg_error:nnnxx { akshar } { err_character_out_of_bound }
235
            { #1 } { \__akshar_int_append_ordinal:n { #2 } }
236
            { \int_eval:n { 1 + \seq_count:N \l__akshar_tmpa_seq } }
          \scan_stop:
238
239
        }
```

(End definition for \aksharStrChar. This function is documented on page 2.)

\aksharStrReplace \aksharStrReplace*

Replace occurences of #3 of a string #2 with another string #4.

```
\NewExpandableDocumentCommand \aksharStrReplace {smmm}
242
       \IfBooleanTF {#1}
243
244
             _akshar_replace:NnnnN \l__akshar_tmpa_seq
             {#2} {#3} {#4} \c_true_bool
         }
           \__akshar_replace:NnnnN \l__akshar_tmpa_seq
249
             {#2} {#3} {#4} \c_false_bool
250
         }
251
       \seq_use:Nn \l__akshar_tmpa_seq {}
252
```

(End definition for \arrangle and \arrangle and \arrangle . These functions are documented on page 2.)

\aksharStrRemove \aksharStrRemove*

Remove occurences of #3 in #2. This is just a special case of \aksharStrReplace.

```
\NewExpandableDocumentCommand \aksharStrRemove {smm}
       \IfBooleanTF {#1}
256
257
         {
              _akshar_replace:NnnnN \l__akshar_tmpa_seq
258
              {#2} {#3} {} \c_true_bool
259
         }
              _akshar_replace:NnnnN \l__akshar_tmpa_seq
             {#2} {#3} {} \c_false_bool
263
264
       \seq_use:Nn \l__akshar_tmpa_seq {}
265
266
```

(End definition for \arrangle and \arrangle and \arrangle . These functions are documented on page 2.)

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