How To Write A Minimal LATEXML Binding

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1 Introduction

IATEXhas been widely used as a document processor among scholars, especially when one needs to use large quantities of mathematical representations. IATEX is also a good choice for those who are meticulous about typographical quality of documents.

As a page formatting tool, the primary output format of the LATEX formatter is PDF; which – with fixed page formats and limited interaction features – is only partially suited for usage in the modern web. The DLMF (Digital Library of Mathematical Functions) developed LATEXML, a flexible, semantics-preserving LATEX to XML converter to fix this.

However, for every IATEX class and package used in a document IATEXML needs a IATEXML binding – a configuration file that specifies the XML counterpart of the IATEX command sequences provided by the respective class or package.

Even though the LaTeXML distribution provides bindings for the most commonly used classes and packages, the availability of bindings is still the most severe bottleneck for LaTeXML. The LaTeXML documentation [LaTeXML:manual] is mostly written for developers and quite impenetrable for beginners.

To encourage binding development this how-to tutorial goes through the steps and pitfalls of creating a LATEXML class binding from scratch. This tutorial does not cover advanced topics related to LATEXML, for which we refer to the LATEXML manual [LaTeXML:manual].

We have developed a minimal document class mockDoc as an example for this how-to and will go through it step-by-step. All necessary files (and the development version of this tutorial)are available from [mockDoc:git], but are also included in the appendix of this document for reference.

This how-to tutorial is structured as follows: Section 2 briefly reviews LATEXML workflows and the files involved. Section 5 concludes the tutorial.

EdN:1

2 Using LaTeXML

In this tutorial we we assume a working installation of LATEXML—see [LaTeXML:get] for instructions—on a Unix-like system (Linux, Mac OS, etc.).

Given that, we use the command

latexmlc mockDoc.tex --format=XML --destination=mockDoc.xml --log=mockDoc.xml.log

for converting mockDoc.tex into mockDoc.xml.2

EdN:2

The conversion from LATEX to XML is processed by LATEXML. Basically LATEXML maps the LATEX markups to the XML markups, more specifically: macros, primitives and constructors.

 $^{^{1}\}mathrm{EdNote}$: MK: continue, when the struture is fixed

 $^{^2\}mathrm{EdNote}$: Actually, we should also have a HTML step, so that this shows the stylesheet as well.

2.1 Things We Need

source Here we use mockDoc.tex as a minimal example³ see appendix ??⁴

EdN:3 EdN:4

(LATEX class) we provide a LATEX class doc.cls for reference; sometimes it is useful to generate PDF for proofreading. Also, the normal situation in developing LATEXML bindings is that the class/package pre-exists. This file won't be illustrated in this tutorial.

LATEXML binding the core issue of this tutorial. We use doc.cls.ltxml - Section ?? for a step-by-step explanation and appendix A.2 for the end result.

RelaxNG schema IATEXML needs a RelaxNG schema to infer the output structure. We supply it in compact form (mockDoc.rnc; see appendix A.3, which can be converted to the XML form IATEXML needs (mockDoc.rng) via trang.jar. The reason for writing mockDoc.rnc instead of mockDoc.rng is that, mockDoc.rnc is much shorter and easier to maintain.

After you have finished writing all the documents above, run the command mentioned before, and then you should be able to see the converted XML file for mockDoc.tex. In the following chapters we will explain how to construct mockDoc.rnc and doc.cls.ltxml⁵.

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These workflows can be automated via a Unix makefile (see appendix B), which re-generates everything when source files have changed. Then only need to issue the command:

make

BOP:6

you should be able to see the generated mockDoc.xml in your current directory. It should be something similar to your expected mockDoc_sample.xml.

EOP:6

3 The mockDoc Format

3.1 A minimal Document Format

Actually our mockDocformat is probably the smallest one in the world, it is only intended for this tutorial.

The LATEX class only provides one environment: document and four macros: \section, \subsection, \paragraph, and \newline. A minimal example would be

Listing 1: A Minimal LATEX Document

```
\documentclass{doc}
\begin{document}
        \section{A brief introduction about Shelley}
                Percy Bysshe Shelley (4 August 1792 -- 8 July 1822) was one of the
                    major English Romantic poets, and is regarded by some critics
                    as amongst the finest lyric poets in the English language.
        \section{Ode to the West Wind (partial)}
                \subsection{I}
                         \paragraph{1.}
                                 O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being, \
                                    newline
                                 Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead \setminus
                                    newline
                                 Are driven, like ghosts from an enchante fleeing,
                        \paragraph{2.}
                                 Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,\
                                     newline
                                 Pestilence-stricken multitudes: O thou, \newline
                                 Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed
                        \paragraph{3.}
```

 $^{^3\}mathrm{EdNote}$: MK: make a minimal one, use that here

⁴EDNOTE: make other references

 $^{^5\}mathrm{EdNote}$: MK: I think we should rename doc.cls and doc.cls.ltxml to mockDoc.cls, ...

 $^{^6\}mathrm{OLD}$ Part: put somewhere else

```
The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low,\
                                 Each like a corpse within its grave, until \newline
                                 Thine azure sister of the Spring shall blow
                        \paragraph{4.}
                                 Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and fill \backslash
                                     newline (Driving sweet buds like flocks to feed
                                     in air) \newline With living hues and odours
                                    plain and hill:
                        \paragraph {5.}
                                 Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere; \newline
                                     Destroyer and Preserver; hear, O hear!
                \subsection{II}
                        \paragraph {1.}
                                 Thou on whose stream, 'mid the steep sky's
                                    commotion, \newline
                                 Loose clouds like Earth's decaying leaves are shed,
                                      \newline
                                 Shook from the tangled boughs of Heaven and Ocean,
                        \paragraph{2.}
                                 Angels of rain and lightning: there are spread \
                                    newline
                                 On the blue surface of thine airy surge, \newline
                                 Like the bright hair uplifted from the head
                        \paragraph {3.}
                                 Of some fierce Maenad, even from the dim verge \setminus
                                    newline
                                 Of the horizon to the zenith's height, \newline
                                 The locks of the approaching storm. Thou dirge
                        \paragraph{4.}
                                 Of the dying year, to which this closing night \setminus
                                    newline
                                 Will be the dome of a vast sepulchre \ne
                                 Vaulted with all thy congregated might
                        \paragraph {5.}
                                 Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere \newline
                                 Black rain, and fire, and hail will burst: O hear!
\end{document}
%%% Local Variables:
%%% mode: latex
%%% TeX-master: t
%%% End:
```

We want to use this document class for generating XML documents, which use the five elements document, \section, \subsection, \paragraph, and \newline. The XML document corresponding to the LATEX document from Listing 1 is

Listing 2: A Minimal LATEX Document

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?latexml searchpaths="/Users/yuancalvin/xmlTrans/howto"?>
<?latexml class="doc"?>
<?latexml RelaxNGSchema="mockDoc.rng"?>
<mock:document xmlns:mock="https://kwarc.info/projects/mockDoc">
 <mock:section>
    <mock:title>A brief introduction about Shelley</mock:title>
    <mock:p>Percy Bysshe Shelley (4 August 1792 8 July 1822) was one of the major
       English Romantic poets, and is regarded by some critics as amongst the
       finest lyric poets in the English language.
</mock:p>
  </mock:section>
  <mock:section>
    <mock:title>Ode to the West Wind (partial)</mock:title>
    <mock:subsection>
     <mock:title>I</mock:title>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>1.</mock:title>
       <mock:p>
```

```
O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumns being, <mock:break/>Thou, from whose
    unseen presence the leaves dead <mock:break/>Are driven, like ghosts from an
    enchante fleeing,
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>2.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red, <mock: break/>Pestilence-stricken
    multitudes: O thou, <mock:break/>Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>3.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low, <mock: break/>Each like a corpse
   within its grave, until <mock:break/>Thine azure sister of the Spring shall
    blow
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>4.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Her clarion oer the dreaming earth, and fill <mock:break/>(Driving sweet buds like
    flocks to feed in air) <mock:break/>With living hues and odours plain and hill:
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>5.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere; <mock:break/>Destroyer and Preserver;
   hear, O hear!
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
    </mock:subsection>
    <mock:subsection>
      <mock:title>II</mock:title>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>1.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
<!-- \ \%**** \ mockDoc.tex \ Line 25 **** --> Thou on whose stream, mid the steep skys
    commotion, <mock:break/>Loose clouds like Earths decaying leaves are shed, <
    mock: break/>Shook from the tangled boughs of Heaven and Ocean,
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>2.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Angels of rain and lightning: there are spread <mock:break/>On the blue surface of
    thine airy surge, <mock:break/>Like the bright hair uplifted from the head
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>3.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Of some fierce Maenad, even from the dim verge <mock:break/>Of the horizon to the
    zeniths height, <mock:break/>The locks of the approaching storm. Thou dirge
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>4.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Of the dying year, to which this closing night <mock:break/>Will be the dome of a
    vast sepulchre <mock:break/>Vaulted with all thy congregated might
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
     <mock:paragraph>
```

EdN:7

Note the typical format-specific differences between the presentation-oriented IATEX and more content-oriented XML formats. The sectioning is conveyed by macros in IATEX – only giving the start cues (here the numbered section headings) – whereas the XML has start and end tags⁸

EdN:8 BOP:9

After you link mockDoc.tex and doc.cls.ltxml by changing your document class in your mockDoc.tex into your LATEXML binding name, in our case, "doc". Put doc.cls.ltxml and mockDoc.tex in the same folder, LATEXML will load your binding file automatically, when it tries to do the conversion.

EOP:9

3.2 The RelaxNG Schema

Schema is a crucial document that decides how mockDoc.xml is constructed. When you are creating your own schema¹, one good approach to test this is to create your expected mockDoc_sample.xml by hand, according to your mockDoc.tex, then compare mockDoc_sample.xml with the generated mockDoc.xml. You can easily accomplish this by using emacs nxml mode², in which you have the freedom to write your expected mockDoc.xml, while validating your mockDoc.xml at the same time. If validation fails, you can see the error message instantly, such that you can debug your mockDoc.xml or schema accordingly.¹⁰

EdN:10

```
In our mockDoc.rnc:
```

```
document = element document {p, section*}
section = element section {title,(p | subsection)*}
```

you can easily see that, under a document, there can be either p or section, and under a section there can be a title followed by p or a title followed by a subsection. This is because in the first section in mockDoc.tex:

```
\section{A brief introduction about Shelley}
Percy Bysshe Shelley (4 August 1792 -- 8 July 1822)...
```

there is no subsection but texts directly. But in the other sections, there are subsections. In your schema you need to consider all kinds of possible hierarchy of your elements.

4 How to Create a LATEXML Binding

We now come to the central part of our tutorial: writing the LATEXML binding itself. Generally, a LATEXML binding file is a Perl module – and therefore underlies Perl syntax, but special high-level commands simplify expressing the LATEX-to-XML relation.

 $^{^7{\}rm EDNOTE}:\,$ MK: actually, we should make an idealized minimal XML example by remove all the XML-isms from the generated one and show it here.

 $^{^8\}mathrm{EdNote}$: MK: are there more? Here would be the place to discuss them.

 $^{^9\}mathrm{OLD}$ $\mathrm{Part}\colon$ MK: I do not understand this, what do you want to say here?

¹Before you write your expected xml and schema, having a look at the links below can be beneficial: http://relaxng.org/compact-tutorial-20030326.html; http://www.w3schools.com/xml/.

²Here is a tutorial about Emacs nxml mode: http://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/NxmlMode

 $^{^{10}\}mathrm{EdNote}\colon\thinspace \mathrm{MK} \colon \mathrm{convert}$ all footnotes to citations!

4.1 Basic structure

Since LATEX binding is a perl module, we need to initialize a binding file by adding the followings in the beginning of doc.cls.ltxml:

```
package LaTeXML::Package::Pool;
use strict;
use LaTeXML::Package;
use warnings;
```

At the end of doc.cls.ltxml, don't forget to include

1

to make sure that perl works properly.

4.2 Configure namespace

With:

```
RegisterNamespace('mock'=>"https://kwarc.info/projects/mockDoc");
RelaxNGSchema("mockDoc.rng",'mock'=>"https://kwarc.info/projects/mockDoc");
```

We declared the namespace associated the prefix mock with the namespace. 11

EdN:11

4.3 Linebreaks

The next task is to teach LATFXML new commands used in mockDoc.tex. Here is an example:

```
DefConstructor('\newline',"<mock:break/>");
```

This line defines how LATEXML interprets \newline, as you see, LATEXML will translate \newline to <mock:break/> in mockDoc.xml.

4.4 Sectioning

When dealing with section, things get a little tricky, with:

```
DefConstructor('\section{}', "<mock:section><mock:title>#1</mock:title>");
```

we defined \section. But, think about the closing tags. In mockDoc.tex, we declared where the \section starts and where the next \section starts, nevertheless, we never wrote something like "Now close this section". Here is why we need mockDoc.rnc. This schema file tells IATEXML what the structure of our document, and with:

```
Tag('mock:section', autoClose=>1);
```

LATEXML will close the section tags (i.e, adding </mock:section>) whenever needed.

4.5 The Document Environment

You may think something like:

```
DefEnvironment('{document}', "<mock:document>#body</mock:document>");
```

is enough for defining document environment. You can try it, you will find that all spaces disappear. What we actually wrote in doc.cls.ltxml is:

This code can prevent the error mentioned before, however, the mechanism of the beforeDigest part is out of our discussion in this tutorial.

For an environment, we don't need care about auto-closing, since an environment is always like

 $^{^{11}\}mathrm{EdNote}$: MK: we have to explain the why more, not just what to do; that is generally the case.

```
\begin{*environment-name*}
content...
\end{*environment-name*}
```

where \end\{*environment-name*\} will indicate where to close the tags.

4.6 Auto-opening for Paragraphs

Since we also want to write some texts directly under document, without any section. At this circumstance, we need auto-open for p:

```
Tag('mock:p', autoOpen=>1);
```

which will surround such texts.

5 Conclusion

For a web workflow, where the ultimate goal is to generate HTML5, writing a document class from scratch may not be the most common workflow, since the majority of document classes in LaTeX are derived in some way from article.cls and therefore the LaTeXML bindings can inherit the from article.cls.ltmxl, but in some cases we want to use LaTeXML to generate other XML-based format. There we need the techniques in this tutorial. Examples are generating OMDoc from sTeX¹⁴

EdN:12 BNP:13

EdN:14 ENP:13

 $^{^{12}\}mathrm{EdNote}$: MK: say something here

 $^{^{13}{}m NEW~PART}$: MK: do not forget to discuss this somewhere $^{14}{
m EDNOTE}$: MK: cite them from kwarc.bib, are there others?

A Appendix

A.1 The mockDoc Class

```
% File: doc.cls
% Author: Jinbo Zhang
% Date: 3 Feb, 2015
\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
\ProvidesClass{doc}
\RequirePackage{ifthen}
\renewcommand\normalsize{\fontsize{10pt}{12pt}\selectfont}
\setlength{\textwidth}{6.5in}
\setlength{\textheight}{8in}
\newcommand\large{\@setfontsize\large\@xiipt{14}}
\newcommand\Large{\@setfontsize\Large\@xivpt{18}}
% define \paragraph
\newcommand {\paragraph}[1] {
        \newline\newline
        \bfseries #1
        \normalfont
}
% define \section
\newcounter{SectionCount}
\newcommand{\section}[1]{
        \ifthenelse{\value{SectionCount}=0}{}{\newline\newline}
        \Large
        \stepcounter{SectionCount}
        \noindent\bfseries\arabic{SectionCount}\hspace{4mm} #1
        \normalfont
        \newline\newline
}
% define \subsection
\newcounter{SubCount}[SectionCount]
\newcommand {\subsection}[1]{
        \ifthenelse{\value{SubCount}=0}{}{\newline\newline}
        \large
        \stepcounter{SubCount}
        \bfseries\arabic{SectionCount}.\arabic{SubCount}\hspace{3mm} #1
        \normalfont
}
\endinput
```

A.2 The mockDoc Class Binding

```
DefConstructor('\paragraph{}', "<mock:paragraph><mock:title>#1</mock:title><mock:p>
    ");
DefConstructor('\newline', "<mock:break/>");

#autoClose
Tag('mock:paragraph', autoClose=>1);
Tag('mock:section', autoClose=>1);
Tag('mock:subsection', autoClose=>1);
Tag('mock:p', autoClose=>1);
Tag('mock:p', autoClose=>1);
Tag('mock:p', autoOpen=>1);

#make sure Perl work
1;
```

A.3 mockDoc RelaxNG schema

```
default namespace md = "https://kwarc.info/projects/mockDoc"

start = document
document = element document {p, section*}
section = element section {title,(p | subsection)*}
subsection = element subsection {title,paragraph*}
paragraph = element paragraph { title, p }
title = element title { text }
p = element p { (text|element break { empty })*}
```

A.4 Generated XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?latexml searchpaths="/Users/yuancalvin/xmlTrans/howto"?>
<?latexml class="doc"?>
<?latexml RelaxNGSchema="mockDoc.rng"?>
<mock:document xmlns:mock="https://kwarc.info/projects/mockDoc">
  <mock:section>
    <mock:title>A brief introduction about Shelley</mock:title>
    <mock:p>Percy Bysshe Shelley (4 August 1792 8 July 1822) was one of the major
        English Romantic poets, and is regarded by some critics as amongst the
       finest lyric poets in the English language.
</mock:p>
  </mock:section>
  <mock:section>
    <mock:title>Ode to the West Wind (partial)</mock:title>
    <mock:subsection>
      <mock:title>I</mock:title>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>1.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumns being, <mock:break/>Thou, from whose
    unseen presence the leaves dead <mock:break/>Are driven, like ghosts from an
    enchante fleeing,
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>2.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red, <mock:break/>Pestilence-stricken
   multitudes: O thou, <mock:break/>Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>3.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low, <mock:break/>Each like a corpse
    within its grave, until <mock:break/>Thine azure sister of the Spring shall
    blow
</mock:p>
   </mock:paragraph>
```

```
<mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>4.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Her clarion oer the dreaming earth, and fill <mock:break/>(Driving sweet buds like
   flocks to feed in air) <mock:break/>With living hues and odours plain and hill:
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>5.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Wild Spirit, which art moving everywhere; <mock:break/>Destroyer and Preserver;
   hear, O hear!
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
    </mock:subsection>
    <mock:subsection>
      <mock:title>II</mock:title>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>1.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
<!-- %**** mockDoc.tex Line 25 **** -->Thou on whose stream, mid the steep skys
    commotion, <mock:break/>Loose clouds like Earths decaying leaves are shed, <
   mock:break/>Shook from the tangled boughs of Heaven and Ocean,
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
       <mock:title>2.</mock:title>
       <mock:p>
Angels of rain and lightning: there are spread <mock:break/>On the blue surface of
   thine airy surge, <mock:break/>Like the bright hair uplifted from the head
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>3.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Of some fierce Maenad, even from the dim verge <mock:break/>Of the horizon to the
    zeniths height, <mock:break/>The locks of the approaching storm. Thou dirge
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>4.</mock:title>
        <mock:p>
Of the dying year, to which this closing night <mock:break/>Will be the dome of a
   vast sepulchre <mock:break/>Vaulted with all thy congregated might
      </mock:paragraph>
      <mock:paragraph>
        <mock:title>5.</mock:title>
        < mock: p>
Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere <mock:break/>Black rain, and fire, and hail
     will burst: O hear!
</mock:p>
      </mock:paragraph>
    </mock:subsection>
  </mock:section>
</mock:document>
```

B A Makefile for Automation

```
#makefile for using latexml and pdflatex to generate *.pdf and *.xml
#declaration of variables
#set .tex as source. In our case only mockDoc is available
#name .xml and .pdf based on .tex

SRC = $(shell ls *.tex)

XML = $(SRC:%.tex=%.xml)

PDF = $(SRC:%.tex=%.ydf)

HTML = $(SRC:%.xml=%.html)
```