langsci-avm

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1 Introduction

langsci-avm is a LaTeX3 package aimed at typesetting beautiful feature structures, also known as attribute-value matrices, for use in linguistics. The package provides a minimal and easy to read syntax. It depends only on the array package and can be placed almost everywhere, in particular in footnotes or graphs and tree structures. The package is meant as an update to, and serves the same purpose as, Christopher Manning's avm package, but shares no code base with that package. When you come from avm, please see Section 3.5 for a quick conversion guide.

To start using langsci-avm, place \usepackage{langsci-avm} in your preamble.

1.1 Example

1.2 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Phelype Oleinik for help on recursion and expansion with LATEX3. Thanks to Ahmet Bilal Özdemir and Stefan Müller for their contributions in planning and testing this package.

^{*}mailto:felix.kopecky@langsci-press.org. Please submit bug reports and feature requests to https://github.com/langsci/langsci-avm/issues.

2 User interface

2.1 Typing structures and settings

 \avm

The heart of this package and its root document comand is \avm. It currently runs only in text mode, but can be run in math mode if it is escaped with \avm\. In the scope of the command, delimiter characters are processed to open and close (sub-)structures, as described in Section 2.2. For a description of the \langle options \rangle, see \avmsetup.

\avmsetup

 $\operatorname{avmsetup} \{\langle options \rangle\}$

 $\langle options \rangle$ is a comma-separated list of key = value settings. The $\{\langle options \rangle\}$ are the same as in $\langle options \rangle$. When inserted in $\langle options \rangle$, they apply locally, and globally if given to $\langle options \rangle$. Local settings always override global ones, and you can have any feasible number of $\langle options \rangle$ in your document.

 $stretch = \langle factor \rangle$

(initially 0.9)

Define \arraystretch, i.e. the factor of line spacing. Increasing this may be useful if there is too little vertical space between delimiters in subsequent rows.

 $columnsep = \langle length \rangle$

(initially 0.5ex)

Define the \tabcolsep, i.e. horizontal space before and after any column. The first and second column will have 1\columnsep to the left and right, respectively. Between the two the distance is 2\columnsep. Using relative units (like ex or em) may be a good idea so that columnsep scales well with changes in font size.

 $delimfactor = \langle factor \rangle$

(initially 1000)

Sets \delimiterfactor. The calculation for the minimum height of a delimiter is $y \cdot f/1000$, where y is the height of the content and f the value of delimiter. The default 1000 ensure that the delimiters' height is at least that of the structure.

 $delimfall = \langle length \rangle$

(initially Opt)

Controls \delimitershortfall, i.e. the maximum height that the delimiters can be shorter than the enclosed structure. The default Opt ensure that the delimiters are not shorter than the contents.

 $extraskip = \langle length \rangle$

(initially \smallskipamount)

If a substructure is immediately followed by a \\, an extra amount of vertical skip is added so that the content of the next line, possibly another delimiter, does not clash with the delimiter in this line.

 $attributes = \langle font \ settings \rangle$

(initially \scshape)

The font for attributes, i.e. the first column of each structure.

values = $\langle font \ settings \rangle$

(initially \itshape)

The font for values, i.e. the second column of each structure.

types = $\langle font \ settings \rangle$

(initially \itshape)

The font used in \type and \type*.

 $tags = \langle format \ settings \rangle$

(initially \footnotesize)

The font (size) used in \t ag and the shortcuts 1...9.

 $switch = \langle token \rangle$

(initially!)

Define the escape token. Change this if you need to use "!" as a text glyph.

2.2 Commands available in the scope of \avm

Within the scope of \awm , these delimiters create (sub-)structures that are enclosed by the respective delimiter. Due to the special meaning that curly braces have in \arrangle TeX, they are the only ones that need to be run with an escape token (\). It is currently possible to mix delimiters, e.g. with $<\langle structure \rangle$), but this may change in future versions.

A $\langle structure \rangle$ is basically the content of a stylised tabular: The columns are separated by & and a new line is entered with $\setminus \setminus$.

langsci-avm expects your (sub-)structures to have at most two columns, so that for every line in each (sub-)structure, there should be no more than one &. It is recommended to have exactly one & in your $\langle structure \rangle$. In the current beta version, display issues may appear in some structures if none is given.

!...! ! $\langle text \rangle$!

Escapes the avm mode so that all delimiters can be used as usual characters. If you need ! as a regular character, see \avmsetup to change the switch option.

```
\tag
\0
\1
...
\9
```

Updated: 2020-04-29

```
\tag {\langle identifier \rangle} \0, \1, \2, \3, \4, \5, \6, \7, \8, \9
```

\tag puts its ${\langle identifier \rangle}$ in a box, more precisely an \fbox. Within the box, the tags font is applied. \1, ..., \9 are shortcuts to \tag and place the respective number in the box. For example, \4 is equivalent to \tag{4}. The shortcuts do not take any arguments.

If you want to use this command outside an AVM, you can obtain, for example, 4, by using \avm{\4}, or the equivalent {\fboxsep.25ex\fbox{\footnotesize 4}}.

\type \type*

Updated: 2020-03-30

 $\texttt{\type} *\ \{ \type \\}$

Will typeset the $\langle type \rangle$ in the types font (roman italics by default). The starred variant $\type*$ will span the complete (sub-)structure and can only be placed in the first column of this structure. After the starred $\type*$, a $\$ is recommended, but can be omitted in "normal" cases.

```
\avm{[ \type*{A type spanning a line}
    attr & [\type{type}] ]}
```

 $\begin{bmatrix} A & type & spanning & a & line \\ ATTR & [type] \end{bmatrix}$

Some $\langle attributes \rangle$ think that the layout of the other attributes in their community leaves no space for them to express their individuality. They desire a life outside the confines of the alignment defined by the others, while still remaining a member of the matrix.

Technically, this is a line with no snapping to the column layout, but with spacing between the $\langle attribute \rangle$ and $\langle type \rangle$. After \punk, a \\ is recommended, but can be omitted in "normal" cases.

Updated: 2020-03-16

In the scope of \avm, \+ comes out as " \oplus ". "+" can be obtained normally. In the earlier Version 0.1.0-beta, + produced " \oplus ".

New: 2020-03-17

In the scope of \awm , $\-$ comes out as " \ominus ". To use the "optional hyphenation" meaning of $\-$, please write !\-!.

\shuffle

New: 2020-03-17

In the scope of \avm, \shuffle is a shortcut for "O" to mark the shuffle relation.

3 Applications

3.1 Disjunctions and other relations

Sometimes AMVs are placed beside other content to express disjunctions or other relations. In langsci-avm this is done naturally:

3.2 Use as a vector

It's possible to use langsci-avm for feature vectors rather than matrices, as may be useful in generative grammar.

3.3 Combinations with gb4e and expex

This package works fine with gb4e and its fork langsci-gb4e. To align the example number at the top of your structure, please use **\attop** from gb4e:

The same can be achieved with expex using an experimental syntax:

A future version of langsci-avm will include a more user-friendly approach. There is currently no known way of adjusting the alignment with linguex.

3.4 Combinations with forest

This package also works fine with forest. As per the forest documentation, it is recommended to protect any \avm-statements with {} in nodes:

3.5 Switching from Christopher Manning's avm package

Switching from avm to langsci-avm will require some, though hopefully minimal, changes to the code. In particular, the "active mode" has disappeared, there is now a single way of sorting (see \type), and tags are now produced without @ (\4 instead of @4, etc.). Please refer to Section 4 for features known from avm that are not yet available in langsci-avm.

3.6 Tweaking the attribute font with with fontspec

The attributes in your structure are usually type set in SMALL CAPS. That means that your input should usually be lowercase, unless capitals along small capitals in that attribute's description make sense. Some fonts also provide "old style" figures (also known as "text" or "medieval" figures). Those can be enabled with fontspec's Numbers=OldStyle feature.

The following example is output in Libertinus, since the font for this documentation does not support the necessary font features.

3.7 Spanning both columns

You can use the multicol package to span both columns in a (sub-)structure. Please remember that every structure has two columns, so the only sensible usage is

```
\mbox{\mbox{\mbox{multicolumn}}\{2\}\{1\}\{...\}
```

but only in the first column of a (sub-)structure. For a special usage case, see \type and \type* (which do not depend on multicol).

4 Caveats and planned features

- 1. There are currently no error messages. If you do not receive the intended output, please make sure that your code fits the syntax described in this documentation. If your code is fine but the output is not, please submit a bug report or feature request at https://github.com/langsci/langsci-avm/issues.
- 2. The package currently assumes that it is called in text mode.

These features are planned for the future:

- 3. A check whether the delimiters are balanced, i.e. whether all (sub-)structures are closed by a], }, etc.
- 4. Introduce the ability to draw (curved) lines between structures and elements.
- 5. Improve the appearance of angle brackets so that they vertically span the complete structure they enclose, maybe using scalerel.

5 Feedback and bug reports

Comments, usage reports, and feature requests are welcome! Please open an issue for any of these at https://github.com/langsci/langsci-avm/issues, or write to me at mailto:felix.kopecky@langsci-press.org if you feel the need for a feature not listed here, big or small.

6 Implementation

```
1 (*package)
2 (@@=avm)
3 \RequirePackage{xparse,array}
4 \ProvidesExplPackage {langsci-avm}
5 {2020-03-11} {0.1.0-beta}
6 {AVMs and feature structures in LaTeX3}
```

This document command initialises an AVM. The first, optional argumet is a key-value list of settings (see \keys_define:nn below) and the second is the AVM itself, given in the syntax described in this documentation.

\avm enters a group so that keys- and macro-assignemts remain local. It then initialises the commands and shortcuts made locally available, sets its mode to true and assigns the keys as given in the optional argument (if any). After the wrapper \avm_-wrap:n is called, the group is closed.

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

\avmsetup Forward the key-value settings given as the optional argument to \avm to the keys defined in \keys_define:nn { avm }. For the meaning of these keys and initial values, see Section 2.1.

```
16 \NewDocumentCommand{\avmsetup}{ m }
    { \keys_set:nn { avm } { #1 } }
19 \keys_define:nn { avm }
20
    {
      stretch .code:n
                              = {\def\arraystretch{#1}},
21
      stretch .initial:n
                              = \{0.9\},
      columnsep .dim_set:N
                              = \tabcolsep,
23
      columnsep .initial:n
                              = \{.5ex\},\
      delimfactor .int_set:N = \delimiterfactor,
25
      delimfactor .initial:n = {1000},
      delimfall .dim_set:N = \delimitershortfall,
      delimfall .initial:n
                             = {0pt},
```

```
attributes .code:n
                              = {\cs_set:Nn \__avm_font_attribute: {#1}},
      attributes .initial:n = {\scshape},
30
                              = { \cs_{set:Nn \__avm_font_type: {#1}} },
31
      types .code:n
      types .initial:n
                              = {\itshape},
32
      values .code:n
                              = {\cs_set:Nn \__avm_font_value: {#1}},
33
      values .initial:n
                              = {\itshape},
                              = {\cs_set:Nn \__avm_font_tag: {#1}},
      tags .code:n
35
      tags .initial:n
                              = {\footnotesize},
36
      switch .code:n
                              = {\tl_set:Nn \__avm_mode_switch_character {#1}},
37
                              = { ! },
      switch .initial:n
                              = \l_avm_extra_skip_dim,
39
      extraskip .dim_set:N
      extraskip .initial:n
                              = {\smallskipamount}
40
41
```

(End definition for \avmsetup. This function is documented on page 3.)

\l_avm_mode_bool \l_avm_parens_tracker We need an auxiliary variable to store the current mode. \l_avm_parens_tracker is a stack for a future check whether the delimiters given to \avm are balanced.

```
42 \bool_new:N \l__avm_mode_bool
43 \seq_new:N \l__avm_parens_tracker

(End definition for \l_avm_mode_bool and \l_avm_parens_tracker.)
```

\seq_set_split:NVn

In preparation for \avm_wrap:n, we need to split the user input at each occurrence of the escape character. Since the character is given in a variable, we need a variant of the sequence splitter that takes the *evaluation* of the variable, rather than the variable itself, as its second argument.

```
44 \cs_generate_variant:Nn \seq_set_split:Nnn { NVn } (End definition for \seq_set_split:NVn.)
```

\l_avm_in_first_column

A boolean to check whether we are in the first column (value true) or in the second (value false).

```
45 \bool_new:N \l__avm_in_first_column

(End definition for \l_avm_in_first_column.)
```

_avm_init_first_column:
_avm_init_second_column:

These macros apply the settings for the columns in a (sub-)structure. They take care of font selection and report the currently active column back to the system. Knowing which column is active is important when closing the (sub-)structure. If the structure is closed without a second column present, we need to skip back 2\tabcolsep.

```
46 \cs_new:Nn \__avm_init_first_column:
     {
47
       \bool_set_true:N \l__avm_in_first_column
48
49
       \normalfont\__avm_font_attribute:
50
51
   \cs_new:Nn \__avm_init_second_column:
53
        \bool_set_false:N \l__avm_in_first_column
54
       \normalfont\__avm_font_value:
55
     }
56
(End definition for \_avm_init_first_column: and \_avm_init_second_column:.)
```

present. 57 \cs_new:Nn __avm_kern_unused_columns: \bool_if:NTF \l__avm_in_first_column 59 { \span\hspace*{-2\tabcolsep} } 60 { } 61 } 62 $(End\ definition\ for\ _avm_kern_unused_columns:.)$ This function is used together with the delimiter replacements. It checks whether the __avm_extra_skip: delimiter is followed by a line break, in which case an extra skip is automatically inserted 63 \cs_new:Nn __avm_extra_skip: \peek_meaning_ignore_spaces:NTF \\ {\vspace*{\l_avm_extra_skip_dim}} {} 65 $(End\ definition\ for\ _avm_extra_skip:.)$ The replacement instructions for __avm_parse:n __avm_module_begin: __avm_module_end: 67 \cs_new:Nn __avm_module_begin: etc. { 68 \begin{tabular}{@{} 69 >{__avm_init_first_column:}l 70 71 >{__avm_init_second_column:}l @{}} } 73 \cs_new:Nn __avm_module_end: 74 75 76 \end{tabular} 77 } 78 \cs_new:Nn __avm_replace_lbrace: 79 { 80 __avm_parse_output:nw 81 { \c_math_toggle_token\left\lbrace__avm_module_begin: } } 83 84 \cs_new:Nn __avm_replace_rbrace: 85 { __avm_parse_output:nw 86 { __avm_module_end:\right\rbrace\c_math_toggle_token__avm_extra_skip: } 87 } 88 \cs_new:Nn __avm_replace_lbrack: 89 { 90 __avm_parse_output:nw 91 { \c_math_toggle_token\left\lbrack__avm_module_begin: } } 93 94 \cs_new:Nn __avm_replace_rbrack: 95 _avm_parse_output:nw 96 { __avm_module_end:\right\rbrack\c_math_toggle_token__avm_extra_skip: } 97

A helper macro to fill the horizontal space if a row is ended prematurely, i.e. if no & is

__avm_kern_unused_columns:

99 \cs_new:Nn __avm_replace_lparen:

```
100
            {
                _avm_parse_output:nw
       101
                { \c_math_toggle_token\left(\__avm_module_begin: }
       102
            }
       103
          \cs_new:Nn \__avm_replace_rparen:
       104
       105
                _avm_parse_output:nw
       106
                { \__avm_module_end:\right)\c_math_toggle_token\__avm_extra_skip: }
       107
            }
       108
          \cs_new:Nn \__avm_replace_langle:
       109
       110
            {
                _avm_parse_output:nw
                { \c_math_toggle_token\left<\__avm_module_begin: }
          \cs_new:Nn \__avm_replace_rangle:
       114
            {
              116
                { \__avm_module_end:\right>\c_math_toggle_token\__avm_extra_skip: }
       117
       118
          \cs_new:Nn \__avm_replace_plus:
       120
              \__avm_parse_output:nw { \ensuremath { \oplus } }
          \cs_new:Nn \__avm_replace_minus:
       123
       124
                _avm_parse_output:nw { \ensuremath { \ominus } }
       125
       126
          \cs_new:Nn \__avm_replace_circle:
       128
              \__avm_parse_output:nw { \ensuremath { \bigcirc } }
       129
       (End definition for \ avm module begin:, \ avm module end:, and etc..)
\tag
\type
       131 \cs_new:Npn \__avm_controls_tag:n #1
\punk
            { \fboxsep.25ex\fbox{\normalfont\_avm_font_tag: #1} }
          \cs_new:Npn \__avm_controls_type:n #1
            { \c_group_begin_token\normalfont\__avm_font_type: #1\c_group_end_token }
          \cs_new_protected:Npn \__avm_controls_type_starred:n #1
       135
       136
              \bool_set_false:N \l__avm_in_first_column
              \normalfont\__avm_font_type: #1\span\hspace*{-2\tabcolsep}
       138
              \peek_meaning_ignore_spaces:NTF \\ {} {\\}
       139
            }
       140
          \cs_new_protected:Npn \__avm_controls_punk:nn #1 #2
       142
            {
              \bool_set_false:N \l__avm_in_first_column
       143
              \normalfont\c_group_begin_token\__avm_font_attribute:#1%
       144
              \c_group_end_token\hspace{2\tabcolsep}%
       145
              \c_group_begin_token\__avm_font_type: #2\c_group_end_token%
       146
              \span\peek_meaning_ignore_spaces:NTF \\ {} {\\}
       147
       148
       149
```

```
\verb|\cs_new:Nn \  \  | \_avm_initialise\_document\_commands: \\
150
     {
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \tag
152
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\tag}{m}{ \_avm_controls_tag:n {##1} } }
         { \NewDocumentCommand{\tag}{m}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {##1} } }
154
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \0
155
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\0}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {0} } }
156
           \NewDocumentCommand{\0}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {0} } }
157
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \1
158
           \RenewDocumentCommand{\1}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {1} } }
159
            \NewDocumentCommand{\1}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {1} } }
160
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \2
161
            \RenewDocumentCommand{\2}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {2} } }
162
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {2} } }
            \NewDocumentCommand{\2}{}{
163
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \3
164
            \RenewDocumentCommand{\3}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {3} } }
165
            \NewDocumentCommand{\3}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {3} } }
166
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \4
167
           \RenewDocumentCommand{\4}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {4} } }
            \NewDocumentCommand{\4}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {4} } }
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \5
170
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\5}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {5} } }
171
         { \NewDocumentCommand{\5}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {5} } }
       \cs if exist:NTF \6
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\6}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {6} } }
174
         { \NewDocumentCommand{\6}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {6} } }
175
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \7
176
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\7}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {7} } }
177
           \NewDocumentCommand{\7}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {7} } }
178
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \8
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\8}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {8} } }
180
           \NewDocumentCommand{\8}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {8} } }
181
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \9
182
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\9}{}{
                                              \__avm_controls_tag:n {9} } }
183
           \NewDocumentCommand{\9}{}{
                                              \_avm_controls_tag:n {9} } }
184
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \type
185
            \RenewDocumentCommand{\type}{s m}
186
187
           {
188
             \IfBooleanTF { ##1 }
                  \_avm_controls_type_starred:n {##2} }
                  \_avm_controls_type:n {##2} }
            }
          }
192
             \NewDocumentCommand{\type}{s m}
193
          ₹
194
              \IfBooleanTF { ##1 }
195
                   \_avm_controls_type_starred:n {##2} }
196
                   \_avm_controls_type:n {##2} }
197
             }
198
           }
199
       \cs_if_exist:NTF \punk
201
         { \RenewDocumentCommand{\punk}{m m}
           \{ \_avm\_controls\_punk:nn {##1}{##2} \} \}
202
           \NewDocumentCommand{\punk}{m m}
203
```

```
204 { \_avm_controls_punk:nn {##1}{##2} } }
205 }
(End definition for \tag, \type, and \punk. These functions are documented on page 4.)
```

__avm_wrap:n

The wrapper that first splits the input to \avm at each occurrence of __avm_mode_-switch_character and then inverses \l__avm_mode_bool. It then calls the parser (__-avm_parse:n) for each splitted sequence. This wrapping is necessary because there is no known expandable way to switch a boolean.

(End definition for __avm_wrap:n.)

__avm_parse:n

Finnaly, the parser. It is build on \@@_act:NNNnn from 13t1 (see the sub-section *Token by token changes*). Many thanks to Phelype Oleinik for help on this, and in particular on help with expansion.

```
\cs_new:Npn \__avm_parse:n #1
     {
218
         \exp:w
219
          \group_align_safe_begin:
220
           \__avm_parse_loop:w #1
           \q_recursion_tail \q_recursion_stop
            \__avm_result:n { }
     }
224
225
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_end:w \__avm_result:n #1
226
       \group_align_safe_end:
228
229
       \exp_end:
       #1
230
     }
231
232
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_parse_loop:w #1 \q_recursion_stop
233
234
       \tl_if_head_is_N_type:nTF {#1}
235
236
            \_ avm_N_type:N #1 \q_recursion_stop
         }
         {
           \tl_if_head_is_group:nTF {#1}
240
              { \__avm_replace_group:nw #1 \q_recursion_stop }
241
              { \__avm_replace_space:w #1 \q_recursion_stop }
242
243
     }
244
```

```
245
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_N_type:N #1
246
247
       \quark_if_recursion_tail_stop_do:Nn #1 { \__avm_end:w }
248
       \bool_if:NTF \l__avm_mode_bool
249
         { \__avm_replace:N #1 }
250
         { \__avm_replace_none:N #1 }
251
     }
252
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_replace_none:N #1
254
255
     {
        \__avm_parse_output:nw {#1}
256
257
258
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_replace:N #1
259
     {
260
       \str_case:nnF {#1}
261
262
           { \+ }{ \__avm_replace_plus: }
           { \- }{ \__avm_replace_minus: }
           { \shuffle }{ \__avm_replace_circle: }
265
           { [ }{ \_avm_replace_lbrack: }
266
           { ] }{ \_avm_replace_rbrack: }
267
           { ( }{ \_avm_replace_lparen: }
268
           { ) }{ \__avm_replace_rparen: }
269
           { \{ }{ \_avm_replace_lbrace: }
270
           { \} }{ \_avm_replace_rbrace: }
271
           { < }{ \__avm_replace_langle: }</pre>
272
           { > }{ \_avm_replace_rangle: }
273
         { \__avm_replace_none:N #1 }
275
     }
276
277
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_replace_group:nw #1
278
     { \exp_args:No \exp_args:No \_avm_replace_group:n { \_avm_parse:n {#1} } }
279
280
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_replace_group:n #1 { \__avm_parse_output:nw { {#1} } }
281
282
283
   \exp_last_unbraced:NNo
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_replace_space:w \c_space_tl { \__avm_parse_output:nw { ~ } }
   \cs_new:Npn \__avm_parse_output:nw #1 #2 \q_recursion_stop \__avm_result:n #3
     { \_avm_parse_loop:w #2 \q_recursion_stop \_avm_result:n {#3 #1 } }
(End definition for \__avm_parse:n.)
288 (/package)
```