texblocks

Building blocks for TeX tables

Idea

Assemble LaTeX tabular environments using simple operations.

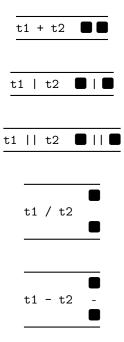This would enable us to create any table layout with a consistent user API.

Defining a new class of R element `tabular` that is the basic structure of the language.

Proposed Syntax

Defining a new class of R element `tabular` that is the basic structure of the language.

Joining elements

Let `t1` and `t2` be two objects of class tabular.

t1 + t2   ■■

t1 | t2   ■ | ■

t1 || t2   ■ || ■

t1 / t2   ■
           ■

t1 - t2   ■
           -
           ■

Using this language creating a table can be broken down to cell level

t1 =(■+■+■) / (■+■+■)

would be translated to

```
1 & 2 & 3 \\
4 & 5 & 6
```

t2 = (■+■+■) - (■+■+■)

would be translated to

```
7 & 8 & 9 \\ \hline
```

```
10 & 11 & 12
```

making their combination a natural extension

```
t1 + t2
```

would translate to

```
1 & 2 & 3 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ cline{4-6}
4 & 5 & 6 & 10 & 11 & 12
```

Mutations

A set of mutation verbs can be defined to mainpulate within table actions, eg

- multirow
- multicolumn

Aesthetics

A set of aesthetic elements can be defined to control the table and cell level attributes, eg

- font: colour, size, face
- background colour