The luaprogtable package: programmatic table interface for LualATeX

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1 Introduction

The LATEX3 project provides LATEX users with a handful of macros to interpret and manipulate various types of objects (e.g. integers, floating point numbers, token lists, sequences, ...) However, there is few existing function that allows users to interact with tables in a programmatic fashion. For example, if a user needs to modify the content of the cell on 20th row and 8th column, he/she needs to navigate the correct cell location among a pile of &'s and \\'s, which is very inefficient and error-prone. It is very difficult for someone to modify a cell based on the content within it using LATEX macros.

luaprogtable aims to tackle these problems by providing a series of *programmatic* interface for tables. The \LPTGetCellData and \LPTSetCell commands allows one to access and alter the content of a single cell. The lptview environment allows one to modify a small sub-view of a larger table.

2 Basic Usage

2.1 Concepts

• Coordinate system

This package uses a 1-indexed row-column-order coordinate system.

(1, 1)	(1, 2)	(1, 3)	(1, 4)
(2, 1)	(2, 2)	(2, 3)	
(3, 1)	(3, 2)		
(4, 1)			

• Index expressions

This package adopts a *Pythonic* indexing convention: each *component* is delimited by ','; within each component, a *range* is separated by a colon (':'). For example, the expression 1,2,3:5 has three components, where the first and second components contain a single index 1, 2, respectively; the third component holds the range [3,5].

To comply with LATEX conventions, both ends of a range are *inclusive*. Therefore, the range 3:5 is made up of three indices, namely 3, 4 and 5. Negative indices indicate reverse access. For example, -1 refers to the last element; the range 3:-1 contains all indices between 3 and the last element (both ends included).

• View expressions

In LaTeX, tables are usually constructed with '&' and '\\'. However, it is very difficult to write a simple parser for this syntax, because these special symbols can appear in other environments with different meanings. For simplicity, luaprogtable builds table using view expressions. In view expressions, each column is enclosed with braces ({}); rows are broken with \\. For example, the view expression on the right is equivalent to traditional LaTeX table notation on the left. Note that one cannot abbreviate outermost braces in view expressions.

```
a & b & c & d \\
e & f & g & h \\
i & j & k & l \\

{a} {b} {c} {d} \\
e & f & g & h \\
i & j & k & l \\
i & f & f & f & f \\
i & f & f & f & f \\
i & f & f &
```

Sometimes table cells can span across multiple rows/columns. Because luaprogtable cannot parse LaTeX content, one needs to specify the shape of the cell explicitly for these scenarios. The shape of a cell can be altered by adding [] after the closing brace. If a cell spans n columns, one can type [-n]; if a cell spans n rows, one can type [n]. For example, view expression (2) is equivalent to traditional LaTeX table (1).

2.2 Creating a new table

\LPTNewTable

\LPTNewTable $\{\langle table\ name \rangle\}\ \{\langle num\ cols \rangle\}\ \{\langle table\ preamble \rangle\}\ [\langle table\ options \rangle]$

Creates a new table named after $\langle table\ name \rangle$. The name of the new table must not be the same as existing ones. The number of columns specified in $\langle num\ cols \rangle$ needs to match $\langle table\ preamble \rangle$ for the table to work correctly. In general, $\langle table\ name \rangle$ should not contain comma and back slash. Starting and trailing white spaces in $\langle table\ name \rangle$ will be ignored.

Description of $\langle table \ options \rangle$

```
backend = {tabular}
```

Specifies the table environment to be used for this table. Apart from tabular, one can also use longtable, tabu and so on. However, the corresponding package must be loaded manually.

```
default before line = {}
```

Specifies the default line style before each row.

```
default after line = {}
```

Specifies the default line style after each row.

```
default after spacing = {}
```

Specifies the default additional spacing after each row. This is achieved by appending <code>[<dim expr>]</code> to each row.

```
input method = file,stringbuffer
```

Specifies how LATEX will read the table source generated by luaprogtable.

file The constructed table source will be saved to file system as:

```
\jobname_.table
```

It is then read into IATEX by \input macro. This is ideal for debug purposes because the source is visible to the user.

stringbuffer The constructed table source will be fed into LATEX directly, without the need of file system operations. On LATEX side, this is still achieved by calling \input. However, the corresponding file callback functions on Lua side are changed, which allows LATEX to read from Lua string buffers directly.

```
nrows = \{0\}
```

Specifies the number of rows in the table.

2.3 Selecting current table

\LPTSetCurrentTable

\LPTSetCurrentTable $\{\langle table\ name \rangle\}$

For many subsequent commands, there is no need to specify $\langle table\ name \rangle$ repeatedly: they fetch this information from a global variable. This macro sets the global variable for current table.

\LPTGetCurrentTable

\LPTGetCurrentTable

Get the Lua-escaped name of current table.

2.4 Modifying table rows

\LPTAddRow

\LPTAddRow [\langle row options \rangle]

This command appends one more row to the current table. If an option is not specified in $\langle row\ options \rangle$, the default value is taken from $\langle table\ options \rangle$ of the table.

Description of \(row \ options \)

before line = {}

Specifies the line before this row.

after line = {}

Specifies the line after this row.

after spacing = $\{\}$

Specifies the extra spacing after this row.

\LPTSetRowProp

\LPTSetRowProp $\{\langle index \ expr \rangle\}\ \{\langle row \ options \rangle\}$

This command modifies the properties of rows specified in $\langle index\ expr \rangle$. In this case, $\langle index\ expr \rangle$ can point to multiple rows. For example, the index expression :3,4,6 will trigger the modification of 5 rows, namely row 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.

Description of $\langle row \ options \rangle$

before line = {}

Specifies the line before this row.

after line = {}

Specifies the line after this row.

after spacing = {}

Specifies the extra spacing after this row.

2.5 Modifying table contents

lptview

```
\begin{line properties of the content of the cont
```

This environment creates a sub-view of current table. The sub-view region is specified by $\langle index \; expr \rangle$, and the content of this sub-view is specified by $\langle view \; expr \rangle$. The index expression should always consist of two components, where the first defines the range of rows and the second defines the range of columns.

lptfill

```
\begin{lptfill} {\langle index \; expr \rangle} \\ {\langle content \rangle} \\ \begin{lptfill} \\ \begin{lptf
```

This environment fills table region specified by $\langle index\ expr \rangle$ with $\langle content \rangle$. When $\langle index\ expr \rangle$ is empty, the entire table is filled. Even when $\langle index\ expr \rangle$ is empty, the braces surrounding it cannot be abbreviated.

2.6 Using table source

\LPTUseTable

\LPTUseTable

Reads the source of current table into input stream.

2.7 Deleting existing tables

\LPTDeleteTable

\LPTDeleteTable $\{\langle table\ name \rangle\}$

Remove a table from Lua storage to save memory.

3 Advanced Usage

3.1 Internal design

In Lua, each cell is a *class* with three attributes: data, shape and parent. Apparently, data holds the content of the cell. By default, the shape of all cells is {1,1}; the parent of all cells is nil. When there is a cell that spans multiple rows/columns, the top-left cell will be considered *parent cell*, and the remaining cells in the region would have shape set to nil and parent set to the coordinates of parent cell.

3.2 Programmatic interface

The following macros allow one to access and modify table cells programmatically.

\LPTSetCell

\LPTSetCell $\{\langle index \ expr \rangle\}\ [\langle shape \rangle]\ \{\langle content \rangle\}$

Set the content of the cell specified in $\langle index\; expr \rangle$ to $\langle content \rangle$. The index expression should always consist of two components, where each component only points to one integer. The shape is given by $\langle row \; span \rangle$, $\langle column \; span \rangle$. By default, the shape of a cell is 1,1. When a cell occupies more then one cell space, the shape of its children cells will be set to nil automatically.

Author's note \LPTSetCell is not completely identical to lptview. More concretely, lptview and lptfill override LualATEX's process_input_buffer callback, which allows Lua side to receive verbatim content as is. However, the \(\chiontontent \) of \LPTSetCell needs to be processed by \tl_to_str:n before being passed to Lua. While the outcome is the same most of the time, \tl_to_str:n does append an empty space after macros, which stops verbatim commands from working properly.

\LPTFill

\LPTFill $\{\langle index \ expr \rangle\}\ \{\langle content \rangle\}$

Fills table region specified by $\langle index \; expr \rangle$ with $\langle content \rangle$. When $\langle index \; expr \rangle$ is empty, the entire table is filled.

\LPTGetTableNames

\LPTGetTableNames

Returns a comma-separated string containing the names of all tables.

\LPTGetTableShape

\LPTGetTableShape

Returns the shape of the current table as a token list string. The number of rows is stored in first group; the number of columns is stored in second group.

\LPTGetCellData

\LPTGetCellData $\{\langle index \ expr \rangle\}$

Returns the data of the cell specified by $\langle index \ expr \rangle$.

\LPTGetCellShape

\LPTGetCellShape $\{\langle index \ expr \rangle\}$

Returns the shape of the cell specified by $\langle index\; expr \rangle$ as a token list string. The number of rows is stored in first group; the number of columns is stored in second group. When the shape is nil, the macro returns \c_novalue_tl.

\LPTGetCellParent

$\verb|\LPTGetCellParent| \{\langle index| expr \rangle\}|$

Returns the coordinates of the parent of the cell specified by $\langle index\; expr \rangle$ as a token list string. The row index is stored in first group; the column index is stored in second group. When the parent is nil, the macro returns c_nvalue_tl .

4 Examples

4.1 Creating and filling a table

```
\LPTNewTable{oruVVAVhbMDO}{3}{|c|c|c|}[
    default after line=\hline,
   nrows=3]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{oruVVAVhbMD0}
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before line=\hline}
\begin{lptfill}{}
\verb|#&_^|
\end{lptfill}
\LPTUseTable
        #&_
               #&_
 #&_
 #&
        #&
               #&
 #&_
        #&_
               #&
```

4.2 Changing sub-table

```
\LPTNewTable{IAs50wqBcv0R}{4}{|c|c|c|c|}[
   default after line=\cline{2-4},
   nrows=4]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{IAs50wqBcv0R}
\LPTFill{:-2,:-2}{Lorem}
\LPTFill{-1,2:-2}{Sit}
\LPTFill{:,-1}{Dolor}
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before line=\hline}
\LPTSetRowProp{-1}{after line=\hline}
\begin{lptview}{:, 1}
\end{lptview}
\LPTUseTable
     Lorem
            Lorem
                   Dolor
    Lorem
            Lorem
                   Dolor
     Lorem
            Lorem
                   Dolor
      Sit
             Sit
                   Dolor
```

```
\LPTNewTable{4Fz0h0ES2zU9}{6}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}[
    default after line=\hline,
    nrows=6]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{4Fz0h0ES2zU9}
\begin{lptfill}{}
\verb|Lorem|
\end{lptfill}
```

```
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before line=\hline}
\LPTSetRowProp{3}{after line=\cline{1-2}\cline{5-6}}
\begin{lptview}{3:4, 3:4}
{ \multicolumn{2}{c|}{\multirow{2}{*}{Ipsum}} }[-2]\\
{ \multicolumn{2}{c|}{} }[-2]
\end{lptview}
\LPTUseTable
```

Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Ipsum		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem			Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem Lorem		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem

4.3 Modifying row spacing

```
\LPTNewTable{KSDJ4C6wUgXL}{4}{|c|c|c|c|}[
    default after line=\hline,
    nrows=4]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{KSDJ4C6wUgXL}
\LPTFill{}{$\int_a^b f(x) dx$}
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before line=\hline}
\LPTSetRowProp{-2:-1}{after spacing=1em}
\LPTUseTable
```

$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$
$\int_a^b f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$
$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$
$\int_a^b f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$	$\int_{a}^{b} f(x)dx$
Ja 4 ()		Jav	

4.4 Sequentially constructing a table

```
\LPTNewTable{yTvLL6PEYgoE}{3}{ccc}
\LPTSetCurrentTable{yTvLL6PEYgoE}
\LPTAddRow[before line=\toprule, after line=\midrule]
\begin{lptview}{-1,:}
{Field 1} {Field 2} {Field 3}
\end{lptview}
\LPTAddRow
\begin{lptview}{-1,:}
{Data 1} {Data 2} {Data 3}
```

```
\end{lptview}
\LPTAddRow[after line=\bottomrule]
\begin{lptview}{-1,:}
{Data 4} {\multicolumn{2}{c}{Data 5}}[-2]
\end{lptview}
\LPTUseTable

Field 1 Field 2 Field 3

Data 1 Data 2 Data 3
Data 4 Data 5
```

4.5 Change the color of cells based on value

```
\LPTNewTable{hJXHnablQ14y}{8}{ccccccc}[nrows=8]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{hJXHnablQ14y}
\begin{lptview}{:,:}
{20} {90} {43} {36} {73} {72} {77} {68} \\
{60} {48} {41} {52} {39} {31} {90} {65} \\
{81} {47} {58} {62} {67} {35} {49} {51} \\
{85} {41} {59} {69} {46} {77} {46} {39} \\
{24} {64} {69} {64} {89} {90} {64} {67} \\
{27} {75} {47} {40} {43} {63} {29} {27} \\
{86} {21} {40} {79} {55} {40} {36} {40} \\
{71} {63} {65} {53} {74} {58} {75} {63}
\end{lptview}
\ExplSyntaxOn
\int_step_inline:nn {8} {
    \int_step_inline:nn {8} {
        \str_set:Nx \l_tmpa_str {\LPTGetCellData{#1,##1}}
        \tl_set:Nx \l_tmpa_tl {\int_eval:n {100 - \l_tmpa_str}}
        \str_set:Nx \l_tmpb_str {\exp_not:N\cellcolor{black!\l_tmpa_str}
            \verb|\exp_not:N\color{blue!\l_tmpa_tl}\l_tmpa_str||
        \exp_args:Nno \LPTSetCell {#1,##1} {\l_tmpb_str}
   }
\ExplSyntaxOff
\LPTUseTable
 20
     90
                             77
                             90
 85
 24
                    89
                         90
                         63
 86
```

4.6 Listing the name and shape of all tables

```
\ExplSyntaxOn
\clist_set:Nx \l_tmpa_clist {\LPTGetTableNames}
\LPTNewTable{oOnXsQcb7f8j}{2}{cc}
\LPTSetCurrentTable{oOnXsQcb7f8j}
\LPTAddRow
\begin{lptview}{1,:}
{Table~Name} {Shape}
\end{lptview}
\clist_map_inline:Nn \l_tmpa_clist {
    \LPTAddRow
    \LPTSetCell{-1,1}{\texttt{#1}}
    \LPTSetCurrentTable{#1}
    \tl_set:Nx \l_tmpa_tl {\LPTGetTableShape}
    \LPTSetCurrentTable{oOnXsQcb7f8j}
    \tl_set:Nx \l_tmpb_tl {$(\tl_item:Nn \l_tmpa_tl {1},
        \tilde{1}_{tl_item:Nn l_tmpa_tl {2})}
    \exp_args:Nno \LPTSetCell {-1,2} {\l_tmpb_tl}
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before~line=\toprule, after~line=\midrule}
\LPTSetRowProp{-1}{after~line=\bottomrule}
\LPTUseTable
\ExplSyntaxOff
  Table Name
                 Shape
 4Fz0h0ES2zU9
                  (6,6)
 IAs50wqBcv0R
                  (4, 4)
 KSDJ4C6wUgXL
                  (4, 4)
 hJXHnablQ14y
                  (8,8)
 oruVVAVhbMD0
                  (3,3)
 yTvLL6PEYgoE
                  (3, 3)
```

5 Test cases

Testing robustness of table modification

```
\LPTNewTable{mnEfCpDkN30L}{6}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}[
    default after line=\hline,
    nrows=6]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{mnEfCpDkN30L}
\begin{lptfill}{}
\verb|Lorem|
\end{lptfill}
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before line=\hline}
\LPTSetRowProp{3}{after line=\cline{1-2}\cline{5-6}}
\begin{lptview}{3:4, 3:4}
```

```
{ \multicolumn{2}{c|}{\multirow{2}{*}{Ipsum}} }[-2]\\
{ \multicolumn{2}{c|}{} }[-2]
\end{1ptview}
\LPTUseTable\par\vspace*{1em}
\begin{1ptview}{3:4, 3:4}
{ \multicolumn{2}{c|}{Change} }[-2]\\
{ \multicolumn{2}{c|}{Change} }[-2]
\end{1ptview}
\LPTUseTable\par\vspace*{1em}
\begin{1ptview}{3:4, 3:4}
{A} {B}\\
{C} {D}
\end{1ptview}
\LPTUseTable
```

Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Ipsum		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem			Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem Lorem		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem

Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Change		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Change		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem

Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	A	В	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	С	D	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem

```
\LPTNewTable{869CviFSrnEy}{6}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}[
    default after line=\hline,
    nrows=6]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{869CviFSrnEy}
\begin{lptfill}{}
\verb|Lorem|
\end{lptfill}
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before line=\hline}
\LPTSetRowProp{3}{after line=\cline{1-2}\cline{5-6}}
\LPTSetCell{3,3}[1,2]{\multicolumn{2}{c|}{\multirow{2}{*}{Ipsum}}}
\LPTSetCell{4,3}[1,2]{\multicolumn{2}{c|}{{}}}
\LPTUseTable\par\vspace*{1em}
```

```
\LPTSetCell{3,3}[1,2]{\multicolumn{2}{c|}{Change}} \LPTSetCell{4,3}[1,2]{\multicolumn{2}{c|}{Change}} \LPTUseTable\par\vspace*{1em} \Notice how \verb|Lorem| appears because we haven't changed the values of cell $(3,4)$ and $(4,4)$.\par \LPTSetCell{3,3}{A} \LPTSetCell{4,3}{C} \LPTUseTable\par\vspace*{1em}
```

Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem Lorem		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Ipsum		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	1ps	um	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem Lorem		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem

Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Change		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Change		Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem

Notice how Lorem appears because we haven't changed the values of cell (3,4) and (4,4).

Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	A	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	$^{\mathrm{C}}$	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem
Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem	Lorem

Testing other functions

```
\LPTNewTable{kCYKq42SyQtf}{5}{|c|c|c|c|c|}{
    default after line=\hline,
    nrows=6]
\LPTSetCurrentTable{kCYKq42SyQtf}
\LPTSetRowProp{1}{before line=\hline}
\ExplSyntaxOn
\int_step_inline:nn {6} {
    \int_step_inline:nn {5} {
        \tl_set:Nx \l_tmpa_tl {\LPTGetCellShape{#1,##1}}
        \tl_set:Nx \l_tmpb_tl {shape=\tl_item:Nn \l_tmpa_tl {1},
        \tl_item:Nn \l_tmpa_tl {2}}
    \exp_args:Nno \LPTSetCell {#1,##1} {\l_tmpb_tl}
```

```
}
}
\ExplSyntaxOff
\LPTUseTable\par\vspace*{1em}
\ExplSyntaxOn
\int_step_inline:nn {6} {
    \int_step_inline:nn {5} {
        \tl_set:Nx \l_tmpa_tl {\LPTGetCellParent{#1,##1}}
        \tl_if_eq:NNTF \l_tmpa_tl \c_novalue_tl {
            \LPTSetCell {#1,##1} {NoP}
        }{
            \LPTSetCell {#1,##1} {HasP}
        }
}
\LPTUseTable
\ExplSyntaxOff
```

shape=1,1 $\overline{\text{shape}}=1,1$ shape=1,1shape=1,1shape=1,1shape=1,1

NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP
NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP
NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP
NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP
NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP
NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP	NoP