What *is* a morphologically analyzed bible version?

Think of a morphology version as a bible version for your computer to read. For lack of a better analogy it can be thought of as a "computerese translation" where every word in the original Greek or Hebrew has been "translated" into its lexical form (lemma) and codes that specify the parsing of the inflected form of the lemma that occurs in the actual text.

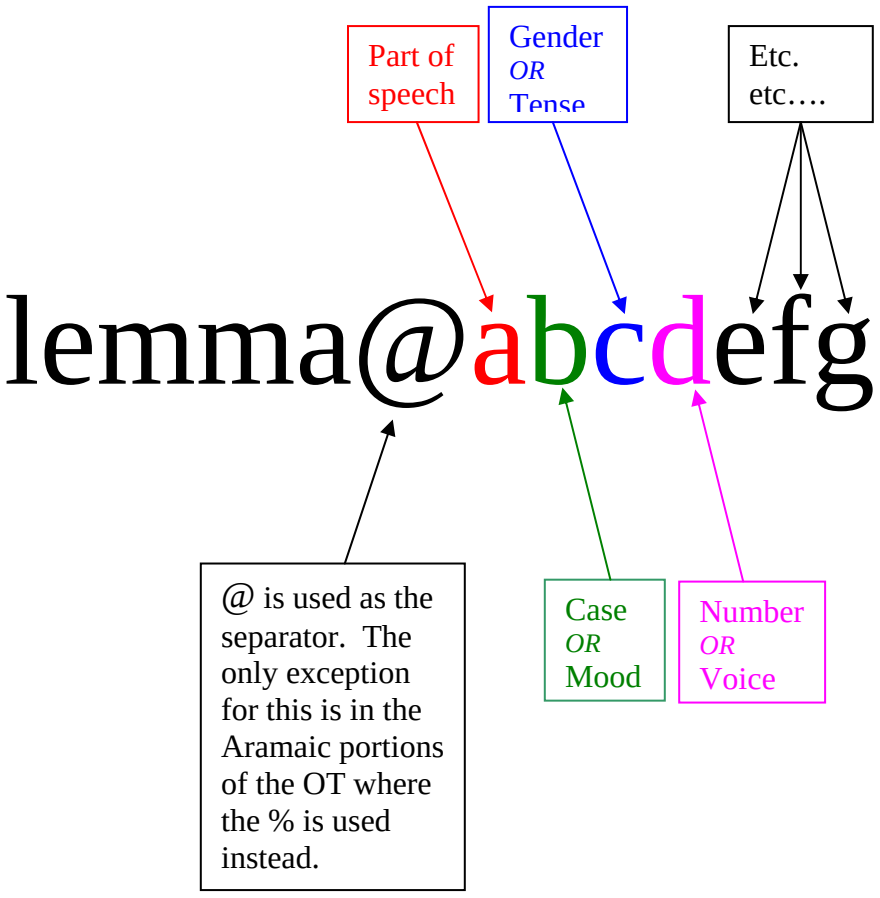
What is the purpose of a morphology version?

It is nice that we can mouse over a Greek or Hebrew word and BibleWorks will instantly present us with the corresponding parsing for the word, but that is not really what makes a morphology version so valuable. The great value in a morphology version is that it can be searched! With a morphology version I can very easily find all occurrences of indicative aorist passive verbs in the GNT, or all occurrences of any form of כפר in the Hebrew OT.

What does a morphology version look like?

The most important thing to understand in order to use a morphology version is that every "word" in a morphology version is of the form lemma@codes; that lemma@codes is a single "word" in a morphology version; both the lemma and the codes are two halves of the same "word." (By the way, to a computer a "word" is simply a string of characters without spaces.)

To help us understand this most important bible version, let's invent our own morphology coding scheme and see how we would then create a corresponding morphology version:



Coding Scheme:
See manual §10.3

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POS:   n =noun
       v =verb
       a =adjective
       b =adverb
       r =pronoun
Case:
       n =nominative
       g =genitive
       d =dative
       a =accusative
       v =vocative
Mood:
       i =indicative
       d =imperative
       s =subjunctive
       o =optative...
Gender:
       m =masculine
       f =feminine
       n =neuter
Tense:
       p =present
       f =future
       i =imperfect
       x =perfect
Number:
       s =singular
       p =plural
Voice:
       a =active
       m =middle
       p =passive
```

Morphology versions are always based on Greek or Hebrew versions or translations that are very important to our understanding of the originals (like the Targumim, Peshitta, or LXX). But as an exercise to help us see how morphology versions are created, let's morphologically analyze the following English sentence:

I am running.

The first thing we do is identify the lemma of each of these words. That is, under what dictionary entry would one find this word listed? That finishes the first half of each lemma@codes word…

I@codes be@codes run@codes

…now we have to parse each original word. We then abbreviate the parsing (morphology) according to some scheme and then place the morphology codes after the @. Let's now try parsing each word using the coding scheme we invented above.

I@rpnns be@vipa1s run@vppa

(Move your mouse over the codes above to see a meaning for each code.)

Notice that the only forms you will ever find in a morphologically analyzed work are lexical forms (lemmas). For example if there was such a thing as a morphologically analyzed English bible version you would never find the word am@codes since "am" is an inflected form of "be." In every instance where the original English text contained the word "am", the morphology version would contain the word "be@codes."