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Control spacing around table caption

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I want to put several tables in the same table float like this:

```
\documentclass[a4paper, 12pt]{article}
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
\usepackage{subfig}
\begin{document}

\begin{table}

\caption{Internal exon scores}\label{tab:internal}
\begin{tabular}{|c|l|l|}
\hline
Ranking&Exon Coverage&Splice Site Support\\
\hline
E1&Complete coverage by a single transcript&Both splice sites\\
E2&Complete coverage by more than a single transcript&Both splice sites\\
E3&Partial coverage&Both splice sites\\
E4&Partial coverage&One splice site\\
E5&Complete or partial coverage&No splice sites\\
E6&No coverage&No splice sites\\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\caption{External exon scores}\label{tab:external}
\begin{tabular}{|c|l|l|}
\hline
Ranking&Exon Coverage&Internal Splice Site Coverage\\
\hline
X1&Complete coverage by one or more transcripts&Splice site covered\\
X2&Exon coverage >= 80\%&Splice site covered\\
X3&Exon coverage < 80\%&Splice site covered\\
X4&Exon coverage < 80\%&Splice site not covered\\
X5&No coverage&Splice site not covered\\
\hline
\end{tabular}

\end{table}
```

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When I build the document, table 2's caption is closer to the bottom of table 1, which makes things confusing. `hspace{}` doesn't seem to work in the table environment. I've worked out that the `subfloat` package appears to be causing the spacing behaviour of the captions. Is there anything else that I can do to introduce a blank horizontal break to space out the captions?

tables spacing floats captions

edited Jul 15 '17 at 14:24



David Carlisle

487k 41 1125
1870

asked Aug 21 '11 at 10:40



MattLBeck

233 1 3 8

- 2 It looks fine with the `article` document class. Perhaps you could turn your code into a complete compilable file, a so-called [minimal working example \(MWE\)](#) that shows the behaviour? – Jake Aug 21 '11 at 10:47

Yup, you're right. I probably should have stripped it down to the basics before asking. I found that the problem was caused by using the `subfloat` package, which I require for a couple of graph floats in my document. I updated the example to a MWE that reproduces the issue. –

MattLBeck Aug 21 '11 at 11:09

- 1 Simply use `\vspace` between the `tabular` environments, or something like `\medskip` or `\bigskip`. – Axel Sommerfeldt Aug 21 '11 at 11:32

3 Answers



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The spacing is caused by the `caption` package, which is loaded by `subfig`. You can adjust the two parameters `aboveskip` and `belowskip` provided by `caption` using something like `\captionsetup{belowskip=12pt,aboveskip=4pt}` in your preamble. Note that

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the caption for a figure caption that's set underneath the figure, but *below* it for a table caption that's set above the table), `belowskip` is the space between the caption and the surrounding text.

Here's your example with the `aboveskip` and `belowskip` adjusted:

Table 1: Internal exon scores

Ranking	Exon Coverage	Splice Site Support
E1	Complete coverage by a single transcript	Both splice sites
E2	Complete coverage by more than a single transcript	Both splice sites
E3	Partial coverage	Both splice sites
E4	Partial coverage	One splice site
E5	Complete or partial coverage	No splice sites
E6	No coverage	No splice sites

Table 2: External exon scores

Ranking	Exon Coverage	Internal Splice Site Coverage
X1	Complete coverage by one or more transcripts	Splice site covered
X2	Exon coverage $\geq 80\%$	Splice site covered
X3	Exon coverage $\geq 80\%$	Splice site covered
X4	Exon coverage $< 80\%$	Splice site not covered
X5	No coverage	Splice site not covered

```
\documentclass[a4paper, 12pt]{article}
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
\usepackage{subfig}

\captionsetup{belowskip=12pt,aboveskip=12pt}
\begin{document}

\begin{table}

\caption{Internal exon scores}\label{Internal exon scores}
\begin{tabular}{|c|l|l|}
\hline
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\hline
E1&Complete coverage by a single transcript&Both splice sites
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E3&Partial coverage&Both splice sites
E4&Partial coverage&One splice site
E5&Complete or partial coverage&No splice sites
E6&No coverage&No splice sites
\hline
\end{tabular}

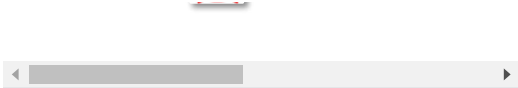
\caption{External exon scores}\label{External exon scores}
\begin{tabular}{|c|l|l|}
\hline
Ranking&Exon Coverage&Internal Splice Site Coverage
\hline
X1&Complete coverage by one or more transcripts&Splice site covered
X2&Exon coverage  $\geq 80\%$ &Splice site covered
X3&Exon coverage  $\geq 80\%$ &Splice site covered
X4&Exon coverage  $< 80\%$ &Splice site not covered
X5&No coverage&Splice site not covered
\hline
\end{tabular}

\end{table}

\end{document}
```

edited Jun 10 '17 at 13:20

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Since you use `subfig` , you can adjust this by `\captionsetup` of the `caption` package, for example:

```
\captionsetup[table]{aboveskip=0pt}
\captionsetup[table]{belowskip=10pt}
```

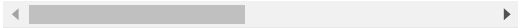
With these adjustments, you will get this output:

Table 1: Internal exon scores		
Ranking	Exon Coverage	Splice Site Support
E1	Complete coverage by a single transcript	Both splice sites
E2	Complete coverage by more than a single transcript	Both splice sites
E3	Partial coverage	Both splice sites
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Table 2: External exon scores		
Ranking	Exon Coverage	Internal Splice Site Coverage
X1	Complete coverage by one or more transcripts	Splice site covered
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X5	No coverage	Splice site not covered

answered Aug 21 '11 at 11:29

Stefan Kottwitz ♦
176k 63 570 759



▲

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without loading another package use

```
\usepackage{subfig}
\let\belowcaptionskip\abovecaptionskip
```

answered Aug 21 '11 at 11:33

Herbert
272k 24 411 724

