Pre-Class Tables Processing Instructions for CJL

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Updates at: Github Link

Abstract

The goal of this is session is to **discuss table creation and my procedure for automating tables for increased design possibilities.** This document helps setup prerequisites to make the session more interactive.

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1 Introduction

I do statistical analysis in Stata, table preparation in Stata, then use Python to put them together.

I use Stata to create tables, but you could use R to create these horizontal panels/slabs.

Also, **sometime Stata commands leave extra characters that mess up the table and probably R too.**

With Python, you can remove these extra things and add simple customizations.

Hopefully, you already have Python from data management/batch processing.

This guide shows how to make custom tables using a combination of Stata and Python.

The **key is that Stata table .tex files are just text that can be concatenated and regexed** in Python.

I expect it works reasonably well for R too.

I think that an **under-rated benefit is that it makes the notes parts of tables easier**.

2 Tables

Often, pages are portrait in journals.

It helps to make use of the vertical space.

My worst nightmare is tables that require landscape.

3 Data

I have made a hypothetical working directory available to you in two Github repositiories

[As of 9/14/2021, 7:41 p.m., I am still updating their contents and expect it done by Thursday 9/16.]

Websites:

1. https://github.com/BenBlemings/CJLTablesBuild
    - Save this in a folder titled "Build"
    - Move scripts to a subfolder Build > Code
2. https://github.com/BenBlemings/CJLTableAnalysis
    - Save this in a folder titled "Analysis"
    - Move scripts to a subfolder Analysis > Code

This is the data/code from Greg and I's pirate paper.

We will replicate tables from this paper and remark on some of the analysis code.

4 Directory

Look at the directory. It contains the data, code, and some Stata output.

It's broken down to analysis and build folders.

We're not going to go into the build folder, there are dummy files there.

Next, I do some analysis. Figures, Maps, and Tables are all scripted.

Finally, CombineTableFrags.py is where the magic happens.

This script creates a pre-publication folder of table fragments.

It puts it in Build > Input, so the table adournations don't get deleted.

It then puts together the panels from each table.

5 Summary

I finish tables in Python.

I make the numbers in Stata.

I sometimes hand edit parts of tables, but never the numbers.

I always edit the header and footer parts of the table.

I use the code from Stata to guide me for hand-made parts.

6 Pre-Class

Download the folders.

Put it somewhere sensical on your computer.

Suggestion 1: D: \ Dropbox \ CJLTableExamples

(Note you can change the Dropbox path so that it is shorter.)

Suggestion 2: C: \ Desktop \ CJLTableExamples