Introduction to Huxtable

David Hugh-Jones 2017-09-13

Contents

Introduction	1
About this document	
Huxtable	
Installation	
Getting started	. 2
Changing the look and feel	3
Huxtable properties	. 3
Pipe style syntax	. 4
Getting properties	. 5
Editing content	5
Standard subsetting	
Using dplyr with huxtable	
Functions to insert rows, columns and footnotes	
More formatting	7
Number format	
Escaping HTML or LaTeX	
Width and cell wrapping	
Adding row and column names	
Column and row spans	
Quick themes	. 11
Selecting rows, columns and cells	12
Row and column functions	. 12
Conditional formatting	. 12
Creating a regression table	14
Out and to 1:6	14
Output to different formats	14
End matter	15
IL table	



About this document

This is the introductory vignette for the R package 'huxtable', version 0.3.0.9000. A current version is available on the web in HTML or PDF format.

Huxtable

Huxtable is a package for creating *text tables*. It is powerful, but easy to use. It is meant to be a replacement for packages like xtable, which is useful but not always very user-friendly. Huxtable's features include:

- Export to LaTeX, HTML, Word and Markdown
- Easy integration with knitr and rmarkdown documents
- Multirow and multicolumn cells
- Fine-grained control over cell background, spacing, alignment, size and borders
- Control over text font, style, size, colour, alignment, number format and rotation
- Table manipulation using standard R subsetting, or dplyr functions like filter and select
- Easy conditional formatting based on table contents
- Quick table themes
- Automatic creation of regression output tables with the huxreg function

We will cover all of these features below.

Installation

If you haven't already installed huxtable, you can do so from the R command line:

```
install.packages('huxtable')
```

Getting started

A huxtable is a way of representing a table of text data in R. You already know that R can represent a table of data in a data frame. For example, if mydata is a data frame, then mydata[1, 2] represents the the data in row 1, column 2, and mydata\$start_time is all the data in the column called start_time.

A huxtable is just a data frame with some extra properties. So, if myhux is a huxtable, then myhux[1, 2] represents the data in row 1 column 2, as before. But this cell will also have some other properties - for example, the font size of the text, or the colour of the cell border.

To create a table with huxtable, use the function huxtable, or hux for short. This works very much like data.frame.

If you already have your data in a data frame, you can convert it to a huxtable with as_hux.

```
data(mtcars)
car_ht <- as_hux(mtcars)</pre>
```

If you look at a huxtable in R, it will print out a simple representation of the data. Notice that we've added the column names to the data frame itself, using the add_colnames argument to hux. We're going to print them out, so they need to be part of the actual table. **NB:** This means that row 1 of your data will be row 2 of the huxtable, and the column names of your data will be the new row 1.

```
print_screen(ht)
```

```
## Employee Salary
## Employee Salary
```

```
## John Smith 50000.00
## Jane Doe 50000.00
## David Hugh-Jones 40000.00
```

To print a huxtable out using LaTeX or HTML, just call print_latex or print_html. In knitr documents, like this one, you can simply evaluate the hux. It will know what format to print itself in.

ht.

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

Changing the look and feel

Huxtable properties

The default output is a very plain table. Let's make it a bit smarter. We'll make the table headings bold, draw a line under the header row, right-align the second column, and add some horizontal space to the cells.

To do this, we need to set cell level properties. You set properties by assigning to the property name, just as you assign names(x) <- new_names in base R. The following commands assign the value 10 to the right_padding and left_padding properties, for all cells in ht:

```
right_padding(ht) <- 10
left_padding(ht) <- 10
```

To assign properties to just some cells, you use subsetting, just as in base R. So, to make the first row of the table **bold** and give it a bottom border, we do:

```
bold(ht)[1,] <- TRUE
bottom_border(ht)[1,] <- 1</pre>
```

And to right-align the second column, we do:

```
align(ht)[,2] <- 'right'
```

We can also specify a column by name:

```
align(ht)[,'Salary'] <- 'right'</pre>
```

After these changes, our table looks smarter:

ht

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

So far, all these properties have been set at cell level. Different cells can have different alignment, text formatting and so on. By contrast, caption is a table-level property. It only takes one value, which sets a table caption.

```
caption(ht) <- 'Employee table'
ht</pre>
```

Table 1: Employee table

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

As well as cell properties and table properties, there is also one row property, row heights, and one column property, column widths.

The table below shows a complete list of properties. Most properties work the same for LaTeX and HTML, though there are some exceptions.

Table 2: Huxtable properties

Cell Text	Cell	Row	Column	Table
bold	align	row_height	col _width	caption
escape_contents	background_color			caption_pos
font	$bottom_border$			height
font	$bottom_border_color$			label
font_size	bottom_padding			position
italic	colspan			$tabular_environment$
na_string	left_border			width
$numeric_format$	$left_border_color$			
pad_decimal	left_padding			
rotation	$right_border$			
$\operatorname{text}\operatorname{_color}$	$right_border_color$			
wrap	$right_padding$			
	rowspan			
	top_border			
	top_border_color			
	$top_padding$			
	valign			

Pipe style syntax

If you prefer to use the magrittr pipe operator (%>%), then you can use set_* functions. These have the same name as the property, with set_ prepended. They return the modified huxtable, so you can chain them together like this:

```
library(dplyr)
hux(
                     = c('John Smith', 'Jane Doe', 'David Hugh-Jones'),
        Employee
       Salary
                     = c(50000, 50000, 40000),
        add_colnames = TRUE
                                       %>%
      set_bold(1, 1:2, TRUE)
                                       %>%
      set_bottom_border(1, 1:2, 1)
                                       %>%
      set_align(1:4, 2, 'right')
                                       %>%
      set_right_padding(10)
                                       %>%
      set_left_padding(10)
                                       %>%
      set caption('Employee table')
```

Table 3: Employee table

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

set_* functions for cell properties are called like this: set_xxx(ht, row, col, value) or like this:
set_xxx(ht, value). If you use the second form, then the value is set for all cells. set_* functions
for table properties are always called like set_xxx(ht, value). We'll learn more about this interface in a
moment.

There are also three useful convenience functions:

- set_all_borders sets left, right, top and bottom borders for selected cells;
- set_all_border_colors sets left, right, top and bottom border colors;
- set_all_padding sets left, right, top and bottom padding (the amount of space between the content and the border).

Getting properties

To get the current properties of a huxtable, just use the properties function without the left arrow:

```
italic(ht)

## Employee Salary
## 1  FALSE FALSE

## 2  FALSE FALSE
## 3  FALSE FALSE
## 4  FALSE FALSE

position(ht)
```

```
## [1] "center"
```

As before, you can use subsetting to get particular rows or columns:

Editing content

Standard subsetting

You can subset, sort and generally data-wrangle a huxtable just like a normal data frame. Cell and table properties will be carried over into subsets.

Car	mpg	cyl	am
Datsun 710	22.80	4.00	1.00
Merc 240D	24.40	4.00	0.00
Merc 230	22.80	4.00	0.00
Fiat 128	32.40	4.00	1.00

Using dplyr with huxtable

You can also use dplyr functions:

```
car_ht <- car_ht
                                                            %>%
     huxtable::add_rownames(colname = 'Car')
                                                            %>%
      slice(1:10)
                                                            %>%
      select(Car, mpg, cyl, hp)
                                                            %>%
      arrange(hp)
                                                            %>%
      filter(cyl > 4)
                                                            %>%
      rename(MPG = mpg, Cylinders = cyl, Horsepower = hp) %>%
      mutate(kml = MPG/2.82)
                                                %>%
car_ht <- car_ht</pre>
      set_number_format(1:7, 'kml', 2)
                                                %>%
      set_col_width(c(.35, .15, .15, .15, .2)) %>%
      set_width(.6)
      huxtable::add_colnames()
car_ht
```

Car	MPG	Cylinders	Horsepower	kml
Valiant	18.10	6.00	105.00	6.42
Mazda RX4	21.00	6.00	110.00	7.45
Mazda RX4 Wag	21.00	6.00	110.00	7.45
Hornet 4 Drive	21.40	6.00	110.00	7.59
Merc 280	19.20	6.00	123.00	6.81
Hornet Sportabout	18.70	8.00	175.00	6.63
Duster 360	14.30	8.00	245.00	5.07

In general it is a good idea to prepare your data first, before styling it. For example, it was easier to sort the cars_mpg data by cylinder, before adding column names to the data frame itself.

Functions to insert rows, columns and footnotes

Huxtable has three convenience functions for adding a row or column to your table: insert_row, insert_column and add_footnote.

insert_row and insert_column let you add a single row or column. The after parameter specifies where in the table to do the insertion, i.e. after what row or column number.

add_footnote adds a single row at the bottom, which spans the whole table and has a border above.

```
ht <- insert_row(ht, 'Hadley Wickham', '100000', after = 3)
ht <- add_footnote(ht, 'DHJ deserves a pay rise')
ht</pre>
```

Table 4: Employee table

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
Hadley Wickham	100000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

DHJ deserves a pay rise

More formatting

Number format

You can change how huxtable formats numbers using number_format. Huxtable guesses whether your cell is a number based on its contents, not on the column type. Set number_format to a number of decimal places (for more advanced options, see the help files).

```
number_format(car_ht) <- 0
car_ht[1:5,]</pre>
```

Car	MPG	Cylinders	Horsepower	kml
Valiant	18	6	105	6
Mazda RX4	21	6	110	7
Mazda RX4 Wag	21	6	110	7
Hornet 4 Drive	21	6	110	8

You can also align columns by decimal places. If you want to do this for a cell, just set the pad_decimal property to '.' (or whatever you use for a decimal point).

```
pointy_ht <- hux(c('Do not pad this.', 11.003, 300, 12.02, '12.1 **'))
pointy_ht <- set_all_borders(pointy_ht, 1)
width(pointy_ht) <- .2

number_format(pointy_ht) <- 3
pad_decimal(pointy_ht)[2:5] <- '.'
align(pointy_ht) <- 'right'
pointy_ht</pre>
```

Do not pad this.
11.003
300.000
12.020
12.1 **

There is currently no true way to align cells by the decimal point in HTML, and only limited possibilities in TeX, so pad_decimal works by right-padding cells with spaces. The output may look better if you use a fixed width font.

Escaping HTML or LaTeX

By default, HTML or LaTeX code will be escaped:

```
code_ht <- if (is_latex) hux('Here is some maths: $a^b$') else
    hux('The code for a copyright symbol is &copy;')
code_ht</pre>
```

Here is some maths: \$a^b\$

To avoid this, set escape_contents to FALSE.

```
escape_contents(code_ht)[1, 1] <- FALSE
code_ht</pre>
```

Here is some maths: a^b

Width and cell wrapping

You can set table widths using the width property, and column widths using the col_width property. If you use numbers for these, they will be interpreted as proportions of the table width (or for width, a proportion of the width of the surrounding text). If you use character vectors, they must be valid CSS or LaTeX widths. The only unit both systems have in common is pt for points.

```
width(ht) <- 0.35
col_width(ht) <- c(.7, .3)
ht</pre>
```

Table 5: Employee table

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
Hadley Wickham	100000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

DHJ deserves a pay rise

It is best to set table width explicitly, then set column widths as proportions.

By default, if a cell contains long contents, it will be stretched. Use the wrap property to allow cell contents to wrap over multiple lines:

```
ht[4, 1] <- 'David Arthur Shrimpton Hugh-Jones'
ht</pre>
```

Table 6: Employee table

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
David Arthur Shrimpton Hugh-Jones	100000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

DHJ deserves a pay rise

```
ht_wrapped <- ht
wrap(ht_wrapped) <- TRUE
ht_wrapped</pre>
```

Table 7: Employee table

Employee	Salary
John Smith	50000.00
Jane Doe	50000.00
David Arthur Shrimpton Hugh-Jones	100000.00
David Hugh-Jones	40000.00

DHJ deserves a pay rise

Adding row and column names

Just like data frames, huxtables can have row and column names. Often, we want to add these to the final table. You can do this using either the add_colnames/add_rownames arguments to as_huxtable, or the functions of the same name. (Be aware that as of March 2017, these conflict with some deprecated dplyr functions.)

```
as_hux(mtcars[1:4, 1:4])
      huxtable::add_rownames(colname = 'Car name') %>%
      huxtable::add_colnames()
                           Car name
                                                                 \operatorname{disp}
                                               mpg
                                                        cyl
                                                                           hp
                           Mazda RX4
                                                        6.00
                                                                 160.00
                                                                           110.00
                                               21.00
                           Mazda RX4 Wag
                                                                           110.00
                                               21.00
                                                        6.00
                                                                 160.00
                           Datsun 710
                                               22.80
                                                                 108.00
                                                                           93.00
                                                        4.00
                           Hornet 4 Drive
                                               21.40
                                                        6.00
                                                                 258.00
                                                                           110.00
```

Column and row spans

Huxtable cells can span multiple rows or columns, using the colspan and rowspan properties.

```
cars_mpg <- cbind(car_type = rep("", nrow(cars_mpg)), cars_mpg)</pre>
cars_mpg$car_type[1] <- 'Four cylinders'</pre>
cars_mpg$car_type[13] <- 'Six cylinders'</pre>
cars mpg$car type[20] <- 'Eight cylinders'</pre>
rowspan(cars_mpg)[1, 1] <- 12</pre>
rowspan(cars_mpg)[13, 1] <- 7</pre>
rowspan(cars_mpg)[20, 1] <- 14</pre>
cars_mpg <- rbind(c('', 'List of cars', '', '', ''), cars_mpg)</pre>
colspan(cars_mpg)[1, 2] <- 4</pre>
align(cars_mpg)[1, 2] <- 'center'</pre>
# a little more formatting:
cars_mpg <- set_all_padding(cars_mpg, 2)</pre>
cars_mpg <- set_all_borders(cars_mpg, 1)</pre>
valign(cars_mpg)[1,] <- 'top'</pre>
col_width(cars_mpg) <- c(.4 , .3 , .1, .1, .1)</pre>
number_format(cars_mpg)[, 4:5] <- 0</pre>
bold(cars_mpg)[1:2, ] <- TRUE</pre>
bold(cars_mpg)[, 1] <- TRUE</pre>
if (is_latex) font_size(cars_mpg) <- 10</pre>
cars_mpg
```

	List of cars			
	Car	mpg	cyl	am
	Datsun 710	22.80	4	1
	Merc 240D	24.40	4	0
	Merc 230	22.80	4	0
	Fiat 128	32.40	4	1
Four cylinders	Honda Civic	30.40	4	1
rour cylinders	Toyota Corolla	33.90	4	1
	Toyota Corona	21.50	4	0
	Fiat X1-9	27.30	4	1
	Porsche 914-2	26.00	4	1
	Lotus Europa	30.40	4	1
	Volvo 142E	21.40	4	1
	Mazda RX4	21.00	6	1
	Mazda RX4 Wag	21.00	6	1
	Hornet 4 Drive	21.40	6	0
Six cylinders	Valiant	18.10	6	0
	Merc 280	19.20	6	0
	Merc 280C	17.80	6	0
	Ferrari Dino	19.70	6	1
	Hornet Sportabout	18.70	8	0
	Duster 360	14.30	8	0
	Merc 450SE	16.40	8	0
	Merc 450SL	17.30	8	0
	Merc 450SLC	15.20	8	0
	Cadillac Fleetwood	10.40	8	0
Eight cylinders	Lincoln Continental	10.40	8	0
Eight cynnders	Chrysler Imperial	14.70	8	0
	Dodge Challenger	15.50	8	0
	AMC Javelin	15.20	8	0
	Camaro Z28	13.30	8	0
	Pontiac Firebird	19.20	8	0
	Ford Pantera L	15.80	8	1
	Maserati Bora	15.00	8	1

Quick themes

Huxtable comes with some predefined themes for formatting.

theme_striped(cars_mpg[14:20,], stripe = 'bisque1', header_col = FALSE, header_row = FALSE)

 ${\bf Mazda}~{\bf RX4}$ 6 1 21.00Mazda RX4 Wag 21.00 1 6 Hornet 4 Drive 21.400 Six cylinders Valiant 18.10 6 0 Merc 280 19.206 0 Merc 280C 17.80 0 Ferrari Dino 19.701

Selecting rows, columns and cells

Row and column functions

If you use the set_* style functions, huxtable has some convenience functions for selecting rows and columns.

To select all rows, or all columns, use everywhere in the row or column specification. To select just even or odd-numbered rows or columns, use evens or odds. To select the last n rows or columns, use final(n). To select every nth row, use every(n) and to do this starting from row m use every(n, from = m).

With these functions it is easy to add striped backgrounds or outer borders to tables:

```
car_ht %>%
     set_left_border(everywhere, 1, 1)
                                                 %>%
                                                        # left outer border
                                                                             - every row, first colum
     set_right_border(everywhere, final(1), 1)
                                                 %>%
                                                        # right outer border - every row, last column
     set_top_border(1, everywhere, 1)
                                                 %>%
                                                        # top outer border
                                                                             - first row, every colum
     set_bottom_border(final(1), everywhere, 1)
                                                     # bottom outer border - last row, every column
                                                 %>%
     set_background_color(evens, everywhere, 'wheat') # horizontal stripe - even rows, all columns
```

Car	MPG	Cylinders	Horsepower	kml
Valiant	18	6	105	6
Mazda RX4	21	6	110	7
Mazda RX4 Wag	21	6	110	7
Hornet 4 Drive	21	6	110	8
Merc 280	19	6	123	7
Hornet Sportabout	19	8	175	7
Duster 360	14	8	245	5

Of course you could also just do 1:nrow(car_ht), but, in the middle of a dplyr pipe, you may not know exactly how many rows or columns you have. Also, these functions make your code easy to read.

Lastly, remember that you can set a property for every cell by simply omitting the row and col arguments, like this: set_background_color(ht, 'orange').

Conditional formatting

set_bold(1, everywhere, TRUE)

You may want to apply conditional formatting to cells, based on their contents. Suppose we want to display a table of correlations, and to highlight ones which are significant. We can use the where() function to select those cells.

```
library(psych)
data(attitude)
att corr <- corr.test(as.matrix(attitude))</pre>
att_hux <- as_hux(att_corr$r)</pre>
                                                                              %>%
      set_background_color(where(att_corr$p < 0.05), 'yellow')</pre>
                                                                              \%>% # selects cells with p < 0.
                                                                              \%>% # selects cells with p < 0.
      set_background_color(where(att_corr$p < 0.01), 'orange')</pre>
      set_text_color(where(row(att_corr$r) == col(att_corr$r)), 'grey')
att_hux <- att_hux</pre>
                                                                              %>%
      huxtable::add_rownames()
                                                                              %>%
      huxtable::add_colnames()
                                                                              %>%
      set caption('Correlations in attitudes among 30 departments')
                                                                              %>%
```

%>%

Table 8: Correlations in attitudes among 30 departments

rownames	rating	complaints	privileges	learning	raises	critical	advance
rating	1.00	0.83	0.43	0.62	0.59	0.16	0.16
complaints	0.83	1.00	0.56	0.60	0.67	0.19	0.22
privileges	0.43	0.56	1.00	0.49	0.45	0.15	0.34
learning	0.62	0.60	0.49	1.00	0.64	0.12	0.53
raises	0.59	0.67	0.45	0.64	1.00	0.38	0.57
critical	0.16	0.19	0.15	0.12	0.38	1.00	0.28
advance	0.16	0.22	0.34	0.53	0.57	0.28	1.00

We have now seen three ways to call set_* functions in huxtable:

- With four arguments, like set_property(hux_object, rows, cols, value);
- With two arguments, like set_property(hux_object, value) to set a property everywhere;
- With three arguments, like set_property(hux_object, where(condition), value) to set a property for specific cells.

The second argument of the three-argument version must return a 2-column matrix. Each row of the matrix gives one cell. where() does this for you: it takes a logical matrix argument and returns the rows and columns where a condition is TRUE. It's easiest to show this with an example:

```
m <- matrix(c('dog', 'cat', 'dog', 'dog', 'cat', 'cat', 'cat', 'dog'), 4, 2)</pre>
##
        [,1] [,2]
## [1,] "dog" "cat"
## [2,] "cat" "cat"
## [3,] "dog" "cat"
## [4,] "dog" "dog"
where(m == 'dog') # m is equal to 'dog' in cells (1, 1), (3, 1), (4, 1) and (4, 2):
##
        row col
              1
## [1,]
          1
## [2,]
          3
              1
## [3,]
          4
              1
## [4,]
          4
```

set_* functions have one more optional argument, the byrow argument, which is FALSE by default. Use this when you are setting a pattern of property values for many cells and want to specify a pattern by row:

	text	text	text	text	text	text
text		text		text		
text	text		text	text		
text	text	text		text		
text	text	text	text		text	text
text	text	text		text		
text	text	text		text	text	

Creating a regression table

A common task for scientists is to create a table of regressions. The function huxreg does this for you. Here's a quick example:

```
data(diamonds, package = 'ggplot2')

lm1 <- lm(price ~ carat, diamonds)

lm2 <- lm(price ~ depth, diamonds)

lm3 <- lm(price ~ carat + depth, diamonds)

huxreg(lm1, lm2, lm3)</pre>
```

	(1)	(2)	(3)
(Intercept)	-2256.361 ***	5763.668 ***	4045.333 ***
	(13.055)	(740.556)	(286.205)
carat	7756.426 ***		7765.141 ***
	(14.067)		(14.009)
depth		-29.650 *	-102.165 ***
		(11.990)	(4.635)
N	53940	53940	53940
R2	0.849	0.000	0.851
logLik	-472730.266	-523772.431	-472488.441
AIC	945466.532	1047550.862	944984.882

^{***} p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05.

For more information see the huxreg vignette, available online in HTML or PDF or in R via vignette(huxreg).

Output to different formats

If you use knitr and rmarkdown in RStudio, huxtable objects should automatically display in the appropriate format (HTML or LaTeX). You need to have some LaTeX packages installed for huxtable to work. To find out what these are, you can call report_latex_dependencies(). This will print out and/or return a set of usepackage{...} statements. If you use Sweave or knitr without rmarkdown, you can use this function in your LaTeX preamble to load the packages you need.

rmarkdown exports to Word via Markdown. You can use huxtable to do this, but since Markdown tables are rather basic, a lot of formatting will be lost. If you want to create Word or Powerpoint documents directly, install the ReporteRs package from CRAN. You can then convert your huxtable objects to FlexTable objects and include them in Word documents. Almost all formatting should work. See the ReporteRs documentation and ?as_FlexTable for more details.

Sometimes you may want to select how huxtable objects are printed by default. For example, in an RStudio notebook (a .Rmd document with output_format = html_notebook), huxtable can't automatically work out what format to use, as of the time of writing. You can set it manually using options(huxtable.print = print_notebook) which prints out HTML in an appropriate format.

Lastly, you can print a huxtable on screen using print_screen. Borders, column and row spans and cell alignment are shown:

print_screen(ht)

```
## Employee table
##
      Employee
                                            Salary
##
      Employee
                                               Salary
##
##
      John Smith
                                             50000.00
##
      Jane Doe
                                             50000.00
##
      David Arthur Shrimpton Hugh-Jones
                                            100000.00
##
      David Hugh-Jones
                                              40000.00
##
      DHJ deserves a pay rise
##
```

If you need to output to another format, file an issue request on Github.

End matter

For more information, see the website or github.