tinytable

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tinytable is a small but powerful R package to draw HTML, LaTeX, PDF, Markdown, and Typst tables. The interface is minimalist, but it gives users direct and convenient access to powerful frameworks to create endlessly customizable tables.

This tutorial introduces the main functions of the package. It is available in two versions:

- PDF
- HTML

1 Tiny Tables

```
library(tinytable)
x <- mtcars[1:4, 1:5]
tt(x)</pre>
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

1.1 Output formats

tinytable can produce tables in HTML, Markdown, or LaTeX (PDF) format. To choose, we use the output argument:

```
tt(x, output = "html")
tt(x, output = "latex")
tt(x, output = "markdown")
```

When calling tinytable from a Quarto or Rmarkdown document, tinytable detects the output format automatically and generates an HTML or LaTeX table as appropriate. This means that we do not need to explicitly specify the output format.

1.2 Themes

tinytable offers a few basic themes out of the box: "default", "striped", "grid", "void." Those themes can be applied with the theme argument of the tt() function. As we will see below, it is easy to go much beyond those basic settings to customize your own tables. Here we only illustrate a few of the simplest settings:

tt(x, theme = "striped")

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

tt(x, theme = "grid")

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

tt(x, theme = "void")

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

1.3 Alignment

To align columns, we use a single string, where each letter represents a column:

tt(x, align = "ccrrl")

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

1.4 Width

The width arguments accepts a number between 0 and 1, indicating what proportion of the linewidth the table should cover:

tt(x, width = 0.5)

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

tt(x, width = 1)

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

1.5 Line breaks and text wrapping

When the width argument is specified and a cell includes long text, the text is automatically wrapped to match the table.

```
d <- data.frame(
    a = "Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque
    b = "dicta sunt explicabo. Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur aut odi:
)
tt(d, width = 3/4)</pre>
```

a	b
Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudan- tium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore ver- itatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae	dicta sunt explicabo. Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur aut odit aut fugit, sed quia consequuntur magni dolores eos

Manual line breaks work sligthly different in LaTeX (PDF) or HTML. This table shows the two strategies. For HTML, we insert a
br> tag. For LaTeX, we wrap the string in curly braces {}, and then insert two (escaped) backslashes: \\\

```
d <- data.frame(
  "{Sed ut \\\\ perspiciatis unde}",
  "dicta sunt<br> explicabo. Nemo"
) |> setNames(c("LaTeX line break", "HTML line break"))
tt(d, width = 1)
```

LaTeX line break	HTML line break
Sed ut perspiciatis unde	dicta sunt br> explicabo. Nemo

1.6 Captions and cross-references

In Quarto, one can specify captions and use cross-references using code like this:

```
@tbl-blah shows that...

```{r}

#| label: tbl-blah
#| tbl-cap: "Blah blah blah"
```

Table 1: Blah blah blah

mpg	cyl	disp	hp
21	6	160	110
21	6	160	110
22.8	4	108	93
21.4	6	258	110

```
library(tinytable)
tt(mtcars[1:4, 1:4])
```

And here is the rendered version of the code chunk above:

Table 1 shows that...

```
library(tinytable)
tt(mtcars[1:4, 1:4], placement = NULL)
```

For standalone LaTeX tables, you can use the caption argument like so:

```
tt(x, caption = "Blah blah.\\label{tbl-blah}")
```

Be aware that this more approach may not work well in Quarto or Rmarkdown documents.

#### 1.7 Math

You can render equations inside tables using the common \$...\$ syntax:

```
dat <- data.frame(Math = c("$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$", "$\frac{1}{2}$"))
tt(dat)
```

Math
$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

In LaTeX (PDF), you can also use the mode inner setting from tabularray to math in tables without \$ delimiters (see Section 5):

$$Math$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

## 2 Style

The main styling function for the tinytable package is style\_tt(). Via this function, you can access three main interfaces to customize tables:

- A general interface to frequently used style choices which works for both HTML and LaTeX (PDF): colors, font style and size, row and column spans, etc. This is accessed through several distinct arguments in the style\_tt() function, such as italic, color, etc
- 2. A specialized interface which allows users to use the powerful tabularray package to customize LaTeX tables. This is accessed by passing tabularray settings as strings to the tabularray\_inner and tabularray\_outer arguments of style\_tt().
- 3. A specialized interface which allows users to use the powerful Bootstrap framework to customize HTML tables. This is accessed by passing CSS declarations and rules to the bootstrap\_css and bootstrap\_css\_rule arguments of style\_tt().

#### 2.1 Colors, lines, space, font, spans, etc.

These functions can be used to customize rows, columns, or individual cells. They control many features, including:

- Text color
- Background color
- Widths
- Heights
- Alignment
- Text Wrapping
- Column and Row Spacing
- Cell Merging
- Multi-row or column spans
- Border Styling
- Font Styling

#### • Header Customization

The style\_\*() functions can modify individual cells, or entire columns and rows. The portion of the table that is styled is determined by the i (rows) and j (columns) arguments.

#### 2.2 Cells, rows, columns

To style individual cells, we use the style\_cell() function. The first two arguments—i and j—identify the cells of interest, by row and column numbers respectively. To style a cell in the 2nd row and 3rd column, we can do:

```
tt(x) |>
 style_tt(
 i = 2,
 j = 3,
 background = "black",
 color = "white")
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

The i and j accept vectors of integers to modify several cells at once:

```
tt(x) |>
style_tt(
 i = 2:3,
 j = c(1, 3, 4),
 italic = TRUE,
 color = "red")
```

mpg	cyl	disp	disp hp	
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

We can style all cells in a table by omitting both the  $\mathtt{i}$  and  $\mathtt{j}$  arguments:

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

We can style entire rows by omitting the j argument:

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

We can style entire columns by omitting the i argument:

$$tt(x) \mid style_tt(j = c(2, 4), bold = TRUE)$$

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

Of course, we can also call the style\_tt() function several times to apply different styles to different parts of the table:

```
tt(x) |>
 style_tt(i = 1, j = 1:2, color = "orange") |>
 style_tt(i = 1, j = 3:4, color = "green")
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

#### 2.3 Colors

The color and background arguments in the style\_tt() function are used for specifying the text color and the background color for cells of a table created by the tt() function. This argument plays a crucial role in enhancing the visual appeal and readability of the table, whether it's rendered in LaTeX or HTML format. The way we specify colors differs slightly between the two formats:

#### For HTML Output:

- Hex Codes: You can specify colors using hexadecimal codes, which consist of a # followed by 6 characters (e.g., #CC79A7). This allows for a wide range of colors.
- Keywords: There's also the option to use color keywords for convenience. The supported keywords are basic color names like black, red, blue, etc.

#### For LaTeX Output:

- Hexadecimal Codes: Similar to HTML, you can use hexadecimal codes. However, in LaTeX, you need to include these codes as strings (e.g., "#CC79A7").
- Keywords: LaTeX supports a different set of color keywords, which include standard colors like black, red, blue, as well as additional ones like cyan, darkgray, lightgray, etc.
- Color Blending: An advanced feature in LaTeX is color blending, which can be achieved using the xcolor package. You can blend colors by specifying ratios (e.g., white!80!blue or green!20!red).
- Luminance Levels: The ninecolors package in LaTeX offers colors with predefined luminance levels, allowing for more nuanced color choices (e.g., "azure4", "magenta8").

Note that the keywords used in LaTeX and HTML are slightly different.

```
tt(x) |> style_tt(i = 1:4, j = 1, color = "#FF5733")
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

Note that when using Hex codes in a LaTeX table, we need extra declarations in the LaTeX preamble. See ?tt for details.

#### 2.4 Spanning cells

Sometimes, it can be useful to make a cell stretch across multiple colums, for example when we want to insert a label. To achieve this, we can use the colspan argument. Here, we make the 2nd cell of the 2nd row stretch across three columns:

```
tt(x) |> style_tt(
 i = 2, j = 2,
 colspan = 3,
 align = "c",
 color = "white",
 background = "black")
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21		6		3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

Here is the original table for comparison:

```
tt(x)
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat
21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

#### 2.5 Headers

The header can be omitted from the table by deleting the column names in the x data frame:

```
k <- x
colnames(k) <- NULL
tt(k)
```

21	6	160	110	3.9
21	6	160	110	3.9
22.8	4	108	93	3.85
21.4	6	258	110	3.08

## 3 Groups and labels

The group\_tt() function can label groups of rows (i) or columns (j).

#### **3.1 Rows**

The i argument accepts a named list of integers. The numbers identify the positions where row group labels are to be inserted. The names includes the text that should be inserted:

```
dat <- mtcars[1:9, 1:8]

tt(dat) |>
 group_tt(i = list(
 "I like (fake) hamburgers" = 3,
 "She prefers halloumi" = 4,
 "They love tofu" = 7))
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat	wt	qsec	vs
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.62	16.46	0
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.875	17.02	0
I like (fa	ake) ł	namburg	gers				
22.8	4	108	93	3.85	2.32	18.61	1
She pre	fers h	alloumi					
21.4	6	258	110	3.08	3.215	19.44	1
18.7	8	360	175	3.15	3.44	17.02	0
18.1	6	225	105	2.76	3.46	20.22	1
They lo	ve tof	u					
14.3	8	360	245	3.21	3.57	15.84	0
24.4	4	146.7	62	3.69	3.19	20	1
22.8	4	140.8	95	3.92	3.15	22.9	1

The group\_tt() function only includes a few arguments: x, i, j, and indent. But whenever we call group\_tt(), the function will automatically apply a style\_tt() call to all the new group labels, using any extra argument supplied to group\_tt() (arguments are pushed via ...). This means that we can apply all the usual stying options to row labels:

```
tt(dat) |>
 group_tt(
 align = "c",
 color = "white",
 background = "gray",
 bold = TRUE,
 i = list(
 "I like (fake) hamburgers" = 3,
 "She prefers halloumi" = 4,
 "They love tofu" = 7))
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp	drat	wt	qsec	vs
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.62	16.46	0
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.875	17.02	0
	1	like (f	ake)	hambı	ırgers		
22.8	4	108	93	3.85	2.32	18.61	1
		She p	refers	hallo	umi		
21.4	6	258	110	3.08	3.215	19.44	1
18.7	8	360	175	3.15	3.44	17.02	0
18.1	6	225	105	2.76	3.46	20.22	1
		$\operatorname{Th}$	ey lo	ve tof	u		
14.3	8	360	245	3.21	3.57	15.84	0
24.4	4	146.7	62	3.69	3.19	20	1
22.8	4	140.8	95	3.92	3.15	22.9	1

#### 3.2 Columns

The syntax for column groups is very similar, but we use the j argument instead. The named list specifies the labels to appear in column-spanning labels, and the values must be a vector of consecutive and non-overlapping integers that indicate which columns are associated to which labels:

```
tt(dat) |>
 group_tt(
 j = list(
 "Hamburgers" = 1:3,
 "Halloumi" = 4:5,
 "Tofu" = 7))
```

Ha	Hamburgers		Halloumi		Tofu		
$\overline{\mathrm{mpg}}$	cyl	disp	hp	drat	wt	qsec	vs
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.62	16.46	0
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.875	17.02	0
22.8	4	108	93	3.85	2.32	18.61	1
21.4	6	258	110	3.08	3.215	19.44	1
18.7	8	360	175	3.15	3.44	17.02	0
18.1	6	225	105	2.76	3.46	20.22	1
14.3	8	360	245	3.21	3.57	15.84	0
24.4	4	146.7	62	3.69	3.19	20	1
22.8	4	140.8	95	3.92	3.15	22.9	1

As above, we can pass additional styling options to the style\_tt() function automatically via .... This means that all the arguments like italic, bold, color and friends can be used to style spanning column headers:

T.	Hambur	gers	Hali	loumi		Tofu	
mpg	g cyl	disp	hp	drat	wt	qsec	vs
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.62	16.46	0
21	6	160	110	3.9	2.875	17.02	0
	I like (fake) hamburgers						
22.8	4	108	93	3.85	2.32	18.61	1
		She p	refers	s hallo	umi		
21.4	6	258	110	3.08	3.215	19.44	1
18.7	8	360	175	3.15	3.44	17.02	0
18.1	6	225	105	2.76	3.46	20.22	1
They love tofu							
14.3	8	360	245	3.21	3.57	15.84	0
24.4	4	146.7	62	3.69	3.19	20	1
22.8	4	140.8	95	3.92	3.15	22.9	1

## 4 HTML customization

The HTML customization options described in this section are not available for LaTeX (or PDF) documents. Please refer to the web documentation to read this part of the tutorial.

#### 4.1 Themes

#### 4.2 CSS declarations

#### 4.3 CSS rules

## 5 LaTeX / PDF customization

#### 5.1 Preamble

In Rmarkdown and Quarto documents, tinytable will automatically populate your LaTeX preamble with the necessary packages and commands. When creating your own LaTeX documents, you should insert these commands in the preamble:

```
\usepackage{float}
\usepackage{codehigh}
\usepackage{tabularray}
\UseTblrLibrary{booktabs}
\NewTableCommand{\tinytableDefineColor}[3]{\definecolor{#1}{#2}{#3}}
```

#### 5.2 Introduction to tabularray

tabularray offers a robust solution for creating and managing tables in LaTeX, standing out for its flexibility and ease of use. It excels in handling complex table layouts and offers enhanced functionality compared to traditional LaTeX table environments. This package is particularly useful for users requiring advanced table features, such as complex cell formatting, color management, and versatile table structures.

A key feature of Tabularray is its separation of style from content. This approach allows users to define the look and feel of their tables (such as color, borders, and text alignment) independently from the actual data within the table. This separation simplifies the process of formatting tables and enhances the clarity and maintainability of LaTeX code. The tabularray documentation is fantastic. It will teach you how to customize virtually every aspect of your tables: https://ctan.org/pkg/tabularray?lang=en

Tabularray introduces a streamlined interface for specifying table settings. It employs two types of settings blocks: Inner and Outer. The Outer block is used for settings that apply to the entire table, like overall alignment, while the Inner block handles settings for specific elements like columns, rows, and cells. The style\_tt() function includes tabularray\_inner and tabularray outer arguments to set these respective features.

Consider this tabularray example, which illustrates the use of inner settings:

```
%% tabularray inner close
mpg & cyl & disp & hp \\
21 & 6 & 160 & 110 \\
21 & 6 & 160 & 110 \\
22.8 & 4 & 108 & 93 \\
21.4 & 6 & 258 & 110 \\
18.7 & 8 & 360 & 175 \\
\end{tblr}
\end{table}
```

The Inner block, enclosed in {}, defines specific styles like column formats (column{1-4}={halign=c}), horizontal and vertical line colors (hlines={fg=white}, vlines={fg=white}), and cell colorations (cell{1,6}{odd}={bg=teal7}, etc.). The last line of the inner block also species that the second cell of row 2 (cell{2}{2}) should span 4 rows and 2 columns ({r=4,c=3}), be centered (halign=c), and with a background color with the 7th luminance level of the azure color (bg=azure7).

We can create this code easily by passing a string to the tabularray\_inner argument of the style\_tt() function:

```
inner <- "
column{1-4}={halign=c},
hlines = {fg=white},
vlines = {fg=white},
cell{1,6}{odd} = {bg=teal7},
cell{1,6}{even} = {bg=green7},
cell{2,4}{1,4} = {bg=red7},
cell{2,4}{1,4} = {bg=purple7},
cell{2}{2} = {r=4,c=2}{bg=azure7},
"
mtcars[1:5, 1:4] |>
 tt(output = "latex", theme = "void") |>
 style_tt(tabularray_inner = inner)
```

mpg	cyl	disp	hp
21			110
21		110	
22.8	6		93
21.4			110
18.7	8	360	175

## 5.3 tabularray keys

## Inner specifications:

Key	Description and Values	Initial Value
rulesep	space between two hlines or vlines	2pt
stretch	stretch ratio for struts added to cell text	1
abovesep	set vertical space above every row	2pt
belowsep	set vertical space below every row	2pt
rowsep	set vertical space above and below every row	2pt
leftsep	set horizontal space to the left of every column	6pt
rightsep	set horizontal space to the right of every column	6pt
colsep	set horizontal space to both sides of every column	6pt
hspan	horizontal span algorithm: default, even, or minimal	default
vspan	vertical span algorithm: default or even	default
baseline	set the baseline of the table	m

## Outer specifications:

Key	Description and Values	Initial Value
baseline	set the baseline of the table	m
long	change the table to a long table	None
tall	change the table to a tall table	None
expand	you need this key to use verb commands	None

## Cells:

Key	Description and Values	Initial Value
halign	horizontal alignment: 1 (left), c (center), r (right) or j (justify)	j
valign	vertical alignment: t (top), m (middle), b (bottom), h (head) or f	t
	(foot)	
wd	width dimension	None
bg	background color name	None
fg	foreground color name	None
font	font commands	None
mode	set cell mode: math, imath, dmath or text	None
cmd	execute command for the cell text	None
preto	prepend text to the cell	None
appto	append text to the cell	None
r	number of rows the cell spans	1

Key	Description and Values	Initial Value
С	number of columns the cell spans	1

## Rows:

17		Initial
Key	Description and Values	Value
halign	horizontal alignment: 1 (left), c (center), r (right) or j (justify)	j
valign	vertical alignment: t (top), m (middle), b (bottom), h (head) or f	t
	(foot)	
ht	height dimension	None
bg	background color name	None
fg	foreground color name	None
font	font commands	None
mode	set mode for row cells: math, imath, dmath or text	None
cmd	execute command for every cell text	None
abovesep	set vertical space above the row	2pt
belowsep	set vertical space below the row	2pt
rowsep	set vertical space above and below the row	2pt
preto	prepend text to every cell (like > specifier in rowspec)	None
appto	append text to every cell (like < specifier in rowspec)	None

## Columns:

		Initial
Key	Description and Values	Value
halign	horizontal alignment: 1 (left), c (center), r (right) or j (justify)	 j
valign	vertical alignment: t (top), m (middle), b (bottom), h (head) or f	t
	(foot)	
wd	width dimension	None
со	coefficient for the extendable column (X column)	None
bg	background color name	None
fg	foreground color name	None
font	font commands	None
mode	set mode for column cells: math, imath, dmath or text	None
cmd	execute command for every cell text	None
leftsep	set horizontal space to the left of the column	6pt
rightsep	set horizontal space to the right of the column	6pt
colsep	set horizontal space to both sides of the column	6pt
preto	prepend text to every cell (like > specifier in colspec)	None

Key	Description and Values	Initial Value
appto	append text to every cell (like < specifier in colspec)	None

## hlines:

Key	Description and Values	Initial Value
dash	dash style: solid, dashed or dotted	solid
text	replace hline with text (like! specifier in rowspec)	None
wd	rule width dimension	0.4pt
fg	rule color name	None
leftpos	crossing or trimming position at the left side	1
rightpos	crossing or trimming position at the right side	1
endpos	adjust leftpos/rightpos for only the leftmost/rightmost column	false

### vlines:

Key	Description and Values	Initial Value
dash	dash style: solid, dashed or dotted	solid
text	replace vline with text (like! specifier in colspec)	None
wd	rule width dimension	0.4pt
fg	rule color name	None
abovepos	crossing or trimming position at the above side	0
belowpos	crossing or trimming position at the below side	0