## Iterative approach to merging cells

Use an HTML editor to code the table below. Save your file as **merge\_cells**.

1. Create the 4 by 3 table (r by c, rows by columns) pictured below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |

2. Insert *colspan=”2”* into the first cell, that is into the first <td> tag, where “1” is. Result:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |

3. In the table above, notice the 1st row has a cell protruding to the right. “ Fix” the table to make it rectangular again. Delete this cell with the “3” in it. Delete *<td>3</td>.* Result:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | | 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |

4. Insert *rowspan=”3”* into the first cell of the 2nd row, that is, into its <td> tag, where the “4” is. Result:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | | 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 |

5. In the table above, notice the 3rd and 4th rows each have a cell protruding to the right. “ Fix” the table to make it rectangular again. Delete these cells with the “9” and the “12”. Delete *<td>9</td> and <td>12</td>.* Result:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | | 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 |
| 10 | 11 |

6. Save.

My formulas:

original number of columns = value of colspan for merged cells + any other remaining columns

original number of rows = value of rowspan for merged cells + any other remaining rows