Importing Data from Excel into R

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Outline

Exporting from Excel to Text File
save, copy, txt, csv

R Packages to Read Directly from Excel
openxlsx, readxl, tidyxl, XLConnect, xlsx

Issues
multiple tables, sheets, formulas, table location, table layout

Exporting from Excel to Text File

Save

Export from Excel to text file

Works if the Excel data has a simple format

Open the file in text editor to see how it looks

Copy

Clean up in text editor, then save as text file

Sometimes necessary when exporting directly does not work

Text file format

CSV (comma-separated values) is often the best text file format

R Packages to Read Directly from Excel

Package	Dependencies	Downloads	Commentary
openxlsx	3	375	minimal dependencies
readxl	18	726	many dependencies, tibble
tidyxl	2	1431	cumbersome for rectangular
XLConnect	Java + 1	4	recognizes table object
xlsx	Java + 2	29	intermediate functionality

Downloads = thousands of downloads per month

Issues

multiple tables

sheets

formulas

table location

table layout