Writing an APA manuscript with Pandoc markdown

Markdown to APA

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Last updated:

This is just an example of using pandoc (with the help of some build systems) to write in pandoc’s markdown syntax for APA manuscripts. The output will be rendered in APA 6 format according to some commands and class options provided by the LaTeX apa6 package. I also make use of a few pandoc filters downloaded as python modules to get cross-referencing to work. Lastly, I provide a .DOCX version of the build system, though a lot may not translate and will require some additional tweaking.

# Quick pandoc overview

The YAML metadata block is at the top of the document and take on key-value pairs like so:

---  
# string field with other characters should be quoted  
title: "Some specials: Characters in the title?!?"  
  
# toggle values  
twogroups: true  
  
# nested fields with text  
joucommands:  
 leftheader: some ascii text  
 journal: other text  
  
# lists  
bibliography:  
 - references.bib  
 - other\_references.bib  
  
# multiline text  
abstract: |  
 lines go here  
 and here.  
---

Words go here, also here is a citation (Lastname & Someone, 2016). According to Burling (2016), something bad happened. See Figure [1](#fig:myplot). This is a bold statement… **WOW!**, and here’s \_some *emphasis for you* too. Sometimes you need some typewrite-like font, like when writing code: my\_answer = 1 + 1. Other types you may need to write blocks of code, like this:

\begin{table}  
\centering  
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}\hline  
Age & Frequency \\ \hline  
18--25 & 15 \\  
26--35 & 33 \\  
36--45 & 22 \\ \hline  
\end{tabular}  
\end{table}



Figure 1: Your figure caption goes here.

See Table [1](#tbl:mytable) for an example on making tables using the default extension. If tables are not referenced, then they are not given table numbers and arranged with other tables. In APA man mode, Tables are sent to the end of the document unless the following is used in the YAML header at the top of this document:

floatsintext: true

Table 1: A table.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Right | Left | Default | Center |
| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

* This is another type of pandoc table ([2](#tbl:anotherone)). It should look the same.[[1]](#footnote-23)

Table 2: Another one

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Right | Left | Default | Center |
| 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

And another multi-line table which is more complicated to make. It may require a pagebreak in two-column (jou) mode because pandoc uses longtable which doesn’t work in two-column mode. It has no reference so it doesn’t start with “Table x.” Some additional latex hacks are added to the template to allow it to work (at the risk of losing content or bleeding off the page. Blame pandoc for using longtable).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fruit | Price | Advantages |
| Bananas | $1.34 | * built-in wrapper * bright color |
| Oranges | $2.10 | * cures scurvy * tasty |

Here’s some raw latex code. It won’t be recognized unless the output is LaTeX/pdf and you have to proper parse-raw option set. It’s the same LaTeX code block from above rendered as an actual Table . The position may shift because it’s a floating environment.

Checking rendering of Table [3](#tbl:tbllong).

Table 3: Testing a longtable.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| id | sess | cond | rep | trial | age | demographic | gender | maturation |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -B | -0.2317 | -0.3189 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -A | -0.2317 | -0.2226 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -C | -0.2317 | -0.1262 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.061 | -0.02987 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.061 | 0.06647 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.3537 | 0.1628 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.3537 | 0.2591 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.061 | 0.3555 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.3537 | 0.4518 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.6463 | 0.5482 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.939 | 0.6445 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.6463 | 0.7409 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.6463 | 0.8372 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.939 | 0.9335 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -B | 1.232 | 1.03 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.939 | 1.126 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -A | 1.232 | 1.223 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S01 | -0.1706 | -C | 1.232 | 1.319 | -0.004132 | 1.103 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -B | -0.2317 | -0.3189 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -A | -0.2317 | -0.2226 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -C | -0.2317 | -0.1262 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.061 | -0.02987 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.3537 | 0.06647 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.061 | 0.1628 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.3537 | 0.2591 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.6463 | 0.3555 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.061 | 0.4518 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.3537 | 0.5482 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.6463 | 0.6445 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.939 | 0.7409 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -A | 1.232 | 0.8372 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.6463 | 0.9335 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.939 | 1.03 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.939 | 1.126 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -C | 1.232 | 1.223 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S02 | -0.1706 | -B | 1.232 | 1.319 | 0.01387 | 0.2929 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -A | -0.2317 | -0.3189 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -B | -0.2317 | -0.2226 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.061 | -0.1262 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -C | -0.2317 | -0.02987 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.061 | 0.06647 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.3537 | 0.1628 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.6463 | 0.2591 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.3537 | 0.3555 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.061 | 0.4518 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.3537 | 0.5482 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -A | 0.939 | 0.6445 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.6463 | 0.7409 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -B | 0.6463 | 0.8372 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |
| S03 | -0.1706 | -C | 0.939 | 0.9335 | -0.2321 | 1.464 | -m | -pre |

* Here’s an example of inline LaTeX math, .
* Here’s a an example of using LaTeX syntax for displaying equations.

Pandoc doesn’t know how to make inline headings when converting to Word. If you put the cursor at the end of the heading, press Ctrl+Alt+Enter and it will move it down.

## Subsection heading

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nulla et magna vitae ipsum rhoncus congue eu vehicula sem. Vestibulum venenatis mauris ac urna porta placerat. Ut ante neque, malesuada ut lobortis ullamcorper, consectetur vitae ipsum. Morbi sodales, justo eu pretium venenatis, sem libero dapibus sem, at molestie lectus felis ut nunc. Praesent ultrices sagittis porta. Curabitur diam elit, lacinia nec egestas sit amet, convallis a felis. Praesent dictum nec mauris quis molestie. Proin ullamcorper, mauris sed molestie aliquet, nisi sapien tempor risus, quis congue sapien turpis et justo. Suspendisse potenti.

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### Subsubsection heading

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#### Paragraph heading

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###### Getting silly with the amount of subheadings

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Heading 7

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Heading 8

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

# References

Burling, J. M. (2016). Hi: A title about stuff. *Bottom Tier*, *1*, 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2013.10.001>

Lastname, F., & Someone, E. (2016). Article title. *Journal Name*, *1*, 1–50.

1. Sometimes docx files will have tables that are squished. Autofit the document width to fix. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)