User Manual for datatooltk version 0.4b

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1 Introduction

The LATEX datatool package is able to save databases in its own internal format to allow for rapid loading (using \DTLsaverawdb). Files in this format are difficult to edit and only a Texpert should attempt it, but they are by far the fastest way of loading a datatool database in LATEX. This application provides a graphical user interface (GUI) making it easier to edit these files. It can also import data from comma-separated values (CSV) files, from structured query language (SQL) databases and from probsoln databases. This manual assumes the user has some knowledge of the datatool package.

The datatooltk application can run in either batch mode (default) or GUI mode (see chapter 2). Command line invocation:

```
datatooltk [\langle options \rangle]
```

Available options:

--gui (or -g) Invoke datatooltk in GUI mode. (The command line invocation

$$\texttt{datatooltk-gui} \ [\langle \mathit{options} \rangle]$$

is equivalent to

datatooltk --gui
$$[\langle options \rangle]$$

but additionally has a splash screen.)

- --batch (or -b) Invoke datatooltk in batch mode (default).
- --out $\langle filename \rangle$ (or -o $\langle filename \rangle$) Save the database to $\langle filename \rangle$ (batch mode only).
- --in (or -i) $\langle datatool \ file \rangle$ Load $\langle datatool \ file \rangle$. The switch --in (or -i) is optional, so datatooltk $\langle file \rangle$ is equivalent to datatooltk --in $\langle file \rangle$.
- --name (*name*) If used with --in, --csv, --sql or --probsoln, sets the database label to (*name*). (See section 1.2.)
- --version (or -v) Print the version details to STDOUT and exit.
- --help (or -h) Print a brief summary of available options to STDOUT and exit.
- --debug Enable debug mode.

- --nodebug Disable debug mode. (Default.)
- --delete-tmp-files Delete temporary files on exit. (Default.)
- --nodelete-tmp-files Don't delete temporary files on exit.
- --map-tex-specials Map T_EX special characters when importing data from CSV or SQL.
- --nomap-tex-specials Don't map T_EX special characters when importing data from CSV or SQL. (Default.)
- --seed $\langle number \rangle$ Set the random generator seed to $\langle number \rangle$ or clear it if $\langle number \rangle$ is "". (See section 3.2.)
- --shuffle-iterations $\langle number \rangle$ Set the number of iterations to perform in a shuffle to $\langle number \rangle$. (See section 3.2.)
- --shuffle Shuffle the database. (Shuffle is always performed after sort, regardless of the option order.)
- --noshuffle Don't shuffle the database. (Default.)
- --sort $[\langle prefix \rangle] \langle field \rangle$ Sort the database according to the column whose label is $\langle field \rangle$. Optionally, $\langle prefix \rangle$ may be + (ascending order) or (descending order). If $\langle prefix \rangle$ is omitted, ascending is assumed. (See section 3.1.)
- --sort-case-sensitive Use case-sensitive comparison when sorting strings.
- --sort-case-insensitive Use case-insensitive comparison when sorting strings. (Default.)
- --csv (csv file) Import data from the given CSV file. (See section 4.1)
- --sep \(\character \rangle \) Specify the character used to separate values in the CSV file. (Defaults to a comma)
- --delim (*character*) Specify the character used to delimit values in the CSV file. (Defaults to a double quote)
- --csvheader The CSV file has a header row. (Default.)
- --nocsvheader The CSV file doesn't have a header row.
- --sql $\langle statement \rangle$ Import data from an SQL database where $\langle statement \rangle$ is an SQL SELECT statement. (See section 4.2)
- --sqldb $\langle name \rangle$ The SQL database name.

- --sqlprefix \(\rho prefix\)\) The Java SQL prefix. (Default: "jdbc:mysql://".) Currently, only MySQL is supported. Additional libraries will be required for other SQL databases.
- --sqlport (port) The SQL port number. (Default: 3306.)
- --sqlhost (host) The SQL host. (Default: "localhost".)
- --sqluser (*user name*) The SQL user name.
- --sqlpassword (password) The SQL password (insecure). If omitted, you will be prompted for a password if you try to import data from an SQL database.
- --wipepassword For extra security, wipe the password from memory as soon as it has been used to connect to an SQL database. (Default.)
- --nowipepassword Don't wipe the password from memory as soon as it has been used to connect to an SQL database.
- --probsoln (*filename*) Import probsoln data from (*filename*). (See section 4.3.)

You can't combine any of the following options: --in, --csv, --sql, --probsoln.

1.1 What it isn't

The datatooltk application isn't intended to have the full functionality of a spreadsheet. Its purpose is to allow you to edit datatool databases with multilined entries. If your data just consists of numbers or short single-lined text, then you'll probably be better off just using a spreadsheet to input the data and use datatooltk in batch mode to convert from CSV to a datatool file.

1.2 File Extensions

The datatool database files loaded and saved by datatooltk are just LATEX files, so they could simply have the standard .tex extension, but to help differentiate the database files from other files containing T_EX/LAT_EX code (such as picture-drawing code), datatooltk assumes a default extension of .dbtex. If you use this extension, remember to include it in the argument of \input. Note that the database label (as used in commands like \DTLnewdb) is independent of the file name (although when importing data, it defaults to the file base name). The database label can be changed using Edit \rightarrow Edit Database Name... in GUI mode or via the command line option --name $\langle label \rangle$.

Example 1.

Suppose you have a database file called my-data.dbtex and you have set the database label to just "data" (as shown in Figure 1.1). Then you can load and display the data using:



Figure 1.1: Setting the Database Name

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{datatool}% remember to load the datatool package
\input{my-data.dbtex}% load the database from file 'my-data.dbtex'
\begin{document}

\DTLdisplaydb{data}% Display the database identified by the name 'data'
\end{document}
```

1.3 Verbatim

Since the contents of the database are stored in a T_EX token register, and assigned to control sequences via commands like \DTLforeach, verbatim text is not permitted. This is a common problem when attempting to use verbatim text within a command and is covered in the UK List of T_EX Frequently Asked Questions (Why doesn't verbatim work within...?). The datatooltk application checks for verbatim text¹ when you load a database or import data (unless the "map T_EX special characters" property is set for CSV or SQL imports). Also, datatooltk checks for verbatim text when you edit the contents of a cell. If it detects any, it will give a warning. If you ignore the warning, T_EX will give an error if you then attempt to load the database into a document.

If you just have a short fragment of inline verbatim text, consider one of the alternatives listed in the FAQ. If on the other hand you have a block of verbatim text you'll have to put the verbatim text in a separate file and load it using \verbatiminput (from the verbatim package) or \lstinputlisting (from the listings package). For example, in Figure 1.2 I have used \lstinputlisting.

That database requires two files: HelloWorld.java

public class HelloWorld
{

¹More specifically, it checks for any occurrences of \verb, \lstinline or the beginning of the verbatim or lstlisting environments.

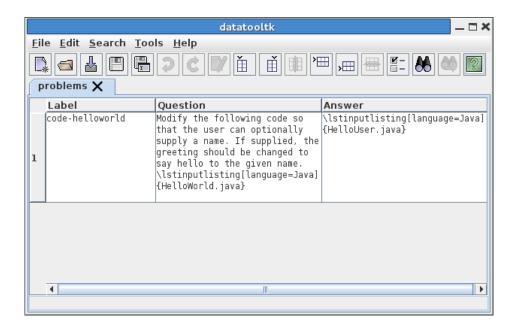


Figure 1.2: Verbatim Blocks Need to be in Separate Files

Assuming that I've saved my database in a file called prob-verb.dbtex with database label "problems", here's a sample document:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{etoolbox}
\usepackage{datatool}
```

```
\usepackage{listings}
\newtoggle{showanswers}
\toggletrue{showanswers}
\input{prob-verb.dbtex}
\begin{document}

\begin{enumerate}
  \DTLforeach*{problems}{\Question=Question, \Answer=Answer}%
  {%
    \item \Question
    \iftoggle{showanswers}{Answer: \Answer}{}
}
\end{enumerate}
\end{document}
```

See also:

- Shuffling the Data
- Sorting and Shuffling
- Import probsoln Data

2 Graphical Mode

To run datatooltk in graphical mode you must invoke it with either datatooltk-gui or datatooltk--gui. The main window is shown in Figure 2.1. Each database is in a tabbed pane, with the name of the database in the tab. Note that the name corresponds to the database's identifying label, as used in commands like \DTLnewdb. This is not necessarily the same as the filename (see section 1.2). Since this name is used as a label, it shouldn't contain any of TEX's special characters or any other active characters that could cause problems. An asterisk * following the label in the tab indicates that the database has been modified. If you move the mouse over the tab, you will see the filename appear in a tooltip, if the database has been saved to a datatool file.

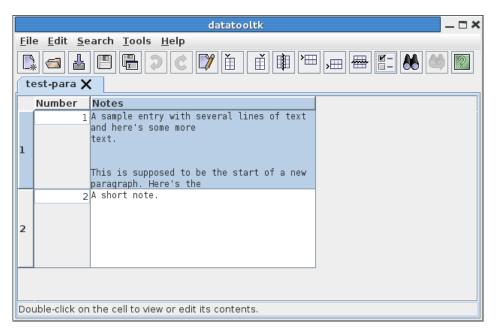


Figure 2.1: Main Window

You can use the File menu to create a new database, load an existing database or import data (see chapter 4). To load an existing database, use File→Open.... These database files contain LATEX code in a specific format. The datatooltk application assumes a .dbtex file extension (see section 1.2). You can load these files into a LATEX document using \input, but remember to specify the .dbtex extension. (Also remember to load the datatool package.)

Each column has a corresponding data type: string, integer, real or currency. The type is automatically detected from the column data, but can be changed, as described in section 2.2.

Non-string entries can be edited by double-clicking on the relevant cell, or you can select the relevant cell and use Edit \rightarrow Edit Cell.... In the first case, a cursor will appear in the cell and you can edit the numerical value and press "Enter" to finish editing. In the second case, the cell editor dialog box will open, see section 2.1.

Only the first few lines of a string entry are visible in the main window. If an entry has more than that number of lines, you will need to use the cell editor dialog box to view the entire contents of that cell. The default row height can be changed in the Preferences dialog box (see chapter 6). Columns set to integer or real data types have single-lined cells with no line wrap. Columns set to currency data type may wrap, but using "Enter" will finish editing the cell (unless you're using the cell editor dialog box). If you insert a newline character in the cell edit dialog box (for any data type), the type for that column will be converted to "string".

To edit or view an entry in a column with the "string" data type, double-click on the relevant cell or select the cell and use Edit→Edit Cell... to open the cell editor dialog box (see section 2.1). You can now scroll through the cell contents.

2.1 Cell Editor

To open the cell editor dialog box (see Figure 2.2) double-click on the required cell, which must be in a column with a string data type. Alternatively, select the cell (of any type) and use Edit→Edit Cell....

Remember that the contents of the cell should be LATEX code, so be careful if you use any of TEX's special characters. Also, see the section on verbatim text (section 1.3) if you haven't already read it. Once you have made your edits, click on **Okay** to update the database. To discard the edits, click **Cancel**.

If you've used datatool, you will probably know that if you want a paragraph break in your cell entries you need to use \DTLpar, but with datatooltk you don't need to worry about it as blank lines in an entry will automatically be converted behind the scenes. Note that redundant blank lines will be removed.

Note: if you use datatool's \DTLsaverawdb command to overwrite your file, you will lose any pretty-printing spaces or comments in your code.

2.2 Header Dialog

Each column has a title, a uniquely identifying label and an associated type. The type can be one of: **String**, **Integer**, **Real** or **Currency**. The type is automatically detected from the column data, but can be changed using the Edit—Column—Edit Header menu item or by double-clicking on the column header which opens the header dialog box (see Figure 2.3). The label corresponds to the label used to identify the column in commands

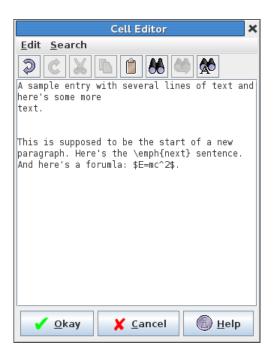


Figure 2.2: Cell Editor Dialog

such as \DTLforeach. The title is used in commands like \DTLdisplaydb. See chapter 6 for currency mappings.

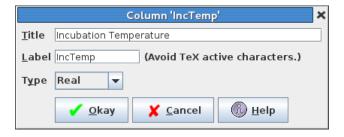


Figure 2.3: Header Dialog

In GUI mode, column headers show the title. If you move the mouse over the column header, you will see the label and type displayed in a tooltip (see Figure 2.4).

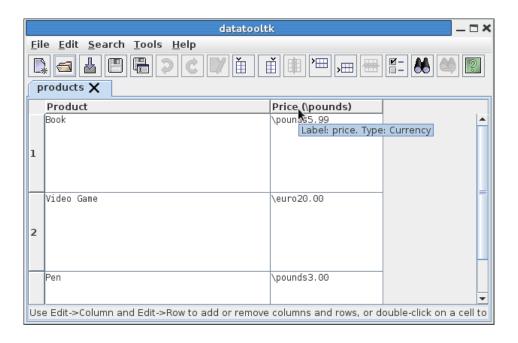


Figure 2.4: Header Details Shown in Tooltip

3 Tools

There are currently two tools available: sort (see section 3.1) and shuffle (see section 3.2). These both reorder the rows of the database and can be invoked either from the Tools menu or from the command line (as long as you have also loaded a database using --in or one of the import options). If you use both --sort and --shuffle in the command line invocation, sort will always be performed first, regardless of the option order.

3.1 Sorting the Data

Although you can sort data in datatool using \DTLsort, it's far more efficient to sort it in datatooltk. So instead of doing, say,

\input{mydata.dbtex}% loads database labelled 'data' from file 'mydata.dbtex' \DTLsortdb{Surname}{data}% sort data on 'Title' field % Later in the document: \DTLdisplaydb{data}% display data in tabular environment

It's better to run, say,

datatooltk --in mydata.dbtex --sort Surname --out mydata-sorted.dbtex

Then in the document, just load mydata-sorted.dbtex:

\input{mydata-sorted.dbtex} % Later in the document:

\DTLdisplaydb{data}% display data in tabular environment

or, if you have shell escape enabled you can used TFX's \write18 mechanism:

\immediate\write18{datatooltk --in mydata.dbtex --sort Surname --out mydata-sorted.dbtex}

\input{mydata-sorted.dbtex}

% Later in the document:

\DTLdisplaydb{data}% display data in tabular environment

¹If the original data is in an SQL database, it's even more efficient to do the sorting in the SELECT statement when you import the data (see section 4.2).

A database can be sorted according to a particular column in either ascending or descending order. In batch mode, this is done with the --sort option, as shown above, where the sort column is identified by the column's unique label. If the label is preceded by - then descending order is used (for example, --sort -Surname). If the label is preceded by + (or has no prefix) then ascending order is used. For alphabetical comparisons you can also use --sort-case-sensitive for case-sensitive comparisons and --sort-case-insensitive for case-insensitive.

In GUI mode, sorting is done using the Tools→Sort... menu item which opens the Sort Database dialog box (see Figure 3.1).



Figure 3.1: Sort Dialog

Select the column you wish to sort by from the drop-down list of column titles, and check the appropriate radio button for ascending or descending sort. If the column has the string data type, you also need to specify whether or not you want to use case-sensitive comparisons by checking or unchecking the **Case sensitive** box. If the column type has a numerical type, the entries will be sorted via a numerical comparison (10 is greater than 2) and the case-sensitive option is ignored. If the column type is a string type, the entries will be sorted via an alphabetical comparison ("10" comes before "2").

Example 2.

Consider the data shown in Figure 3.2 and reproduced in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Original Data

Book		\pounds5.99	
${\tt Video}$	Game	\euro20.00	
Pen		\pounds3.00	

The first column has a string data type and the second has a currency data type. Sorting in ascending order on the second column, will sort numerically on just the number. The currency symbol is ignored (see Table 3.2). If the type of the second column is changed from currency to string, and the sort is redone, the order is now based on a string comparison that includes the currency symbol (see Table 3.3).

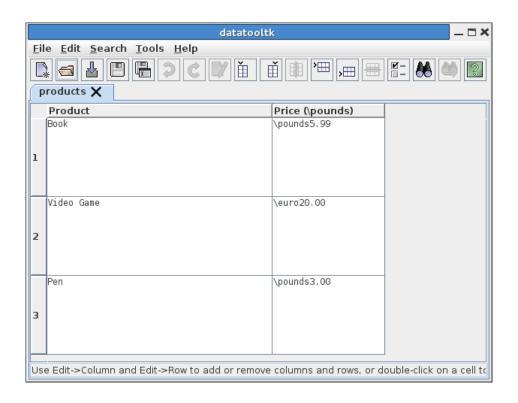


Figure 3.2: Original Data

Table 3.2: Data Sorted on Second Column (Currency Comparison)

Pen	\pounds3.00
Book	\pounds5.99
Video Game	\euro20.00

Table 3.3: Data Sorted on Second Column (String Comparison)

Video Game	\euro20.00
Pen	\pounds3.00
Book	\pounds5.99

3.2 Shuffling the Data

Data can be reordered by randomly swapping pairs of rows. By default, this random row swapping is done 100 times, but this number can be changed via the --shuffle-iterations command line option or the **Shuffle Iterations** field in the Preferences dialog box. Data shuffling can be performed either by the --shuffle command line option or the Tools—Shuffle menu item.

Example 3.

Consider the database shown in Figure 3.3. This database has three columns. The first is a question, the second is the corresponding answer (optional) and the third is a number indicating the question level. For example, 1 could correspond to easy and 2 could correspond to medium difficulty.

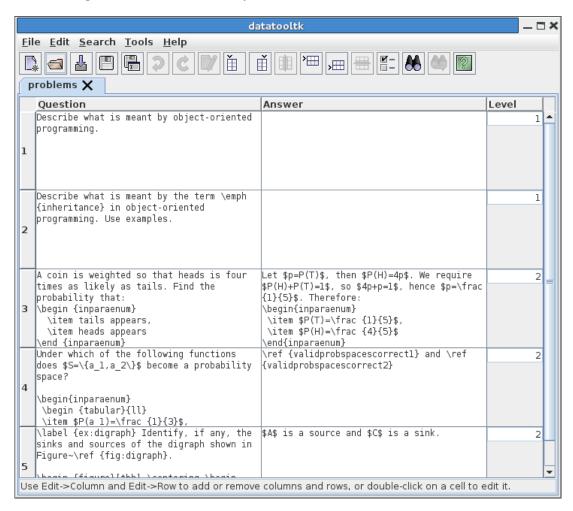


Figure 3.3: Shuffle Example

Now suppose I want to write an assignment sheet that has one randomly selected question of level 1 and two randomly selected questions of level 2. Let's suppose the file name is data.dbtex and the database label is "problems". Then I can run datatooltk in batch mode using:

```
datatooltk --shuffle --in data.dbtex --out data-shuffled.dbtex
```

Remember to use <code>--seed</code> if you don't want a different ordering every time you run that command. For example:

datatooltk --seed 2013 --shuffle --in data.dbtex --out data-shuffled.dbtex

This shuffled database can now be loaded in my document:

\documentclass{article}

\usepackage{etoolbox}
\usepackage{datatool}

% Used by some of the questions:
\usepackage{paralist}
\usepackage{tikz}

\newtoggle{showanswers}
\toggletrue{showanswers}

\input{data-shuffled.dbtex}

% Number to select from level 1
\newcounter{maxleveli}
\setcounter{maxleveli}{1}

% Number to select from level 2
\newcounter{maxlevelii}
\setcounter{maxlevelii}{2}

% Counter to keep track of level 1 questions \newcounter{leveli}

% Counter to keep track of level 2 questions \newcounter{levelii}

\begin{document}

```
\begin{enumerate}
 \DTLforeach*{problems}%
  {\Question=Question,\Answer=Answer,\Level=Level}%
    % Increment counter for this level
    \stepcounter{level\romannumeral\Level}%
    % Have we reached the maximum for this level?
    \ifnumgreater
      {\value{level\romannumeral\Level}}%
      {\value{maxlevel\romannumeral\Level}}%
    {}% reached maximum, do nothing
    {\item \Question
     \ifdefempty\Answer
     {}% no answer
     {% do answer if this is the solution sheet
       \iftoggle{showanswers}{Answer: \Answer}{}%
     }%
    }%
    % do we need to continue or have we got everything?
    \ifboolexpr
    {%
      test{\ifnumgreater{\value{leveli}}}{\value{maxleveli}}}
      test{\ifnumgreater{\value{levelii}}{\value{maxlevelii}}}
    }%
    {\dtlbreak}{}%
\end{enumerate}
\end{document}
 What if I want all the easy questions listed first? This requires some modifications to
the code as shown below:
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{etoolbox}
\usepackage{datatool}
% Used by some of the questions:
\usepackage{paralist}
\usepackage{tikz}
```

```
\newtoggle{showanswers}
\toggletrue{showanswers}
\input{data-shuffled.dbtex}
% Number to select from level 1
\newcounter{maxleveli}
\setcounter{maxleveli}{1}
% Number to select from level 2
\newcounter{maxlevelii}
\setcounter{maxlevelii}{2}
% Counter to keep track of level 1 questions
\newcounter{leveli}
% Counter to keep track of level 2 questions
\newcounter{levelii}
% List of level 1 questions
\newcommand*{\listleveli}{}
% List of level 2 questions
\newcommand*{\listlevelii}{}
\begin{document}
 \DTLforeach*{problems}%
  {\Question=Question,\Answer=Answer,\Level=Level}%
  {%
    % Increment counter for this level
    \stepcounter{level\romannumeral\Level}%
    % Have we reached the maximum for this level?
    \ifnumgreater
      {\value{level\romannumeral\Level}}%
      {\value{maxlevel\romannumeral\Level}}%
    {}% reached maximum, do nothing
    {% Add row number to the appropriate list
      \listcsxadd{listlevel\romannumeral\Level}{\DTLcurrentindex}%
    % do we need to continue or have we got everything?
    \ifboolexpr
    {%
      test{\ifnumgreater{\value{leveli}}}{\value{maxleveli}}}
```

```
and
      test{\ifnumgreater{\value{levelii}}}{\value{maxlevelii}}}
    }%
    {\dtlbreak}{}%
 }
\renewcommand{\do}[1]{%
  \dtlgetrow{problems}{#1}%
  \dtlgetentryfromcurrentrow{\Question}{\dtlcolumnindex{problems}{Question}}%
  \dtlgetentryfromcurrentrow{\Answer}{\dtlcolumnindex{problems}{Answer}}%
  \item \Question
   \ifdefempty\Answer
   {}% no answer
   {% do answer if this is the solution sheet
     \iftoggle{showanswers}{Answer: \Answer}{}%
   }%
}
\begin{enumerate}
% do easy questions
\dolistloop{\listleveli}
% do medium level questions
\dolistloop{\listlevelii}
\end{enumerate}
\end{document}
```

Now, the \DTLforeach loop just stores the row numbers of the required questions in two lists, corresponding to the two different levels. Then each list is iterated through and the corresponding row is fetched using \dtlgetrow. Extending this example to accommodate an arbitrary number of levels is left as an exercise for the reader.

Remember that if you have shell escape enabled when you run LATEX you can invoke datatooltk in your document before you load the database:

```
\immediate\write18{datatooltk --in data.dbtex --seed 2013 --shuffle
--out data-shuffled.dbtex}
\input{data-shuffled.dbtex}
```

3.3 Sorting and Shuffling

As mentioned earlier, if you specify both --sort and --shuffle, the sorting will always be performed first, regardless of the option order, but why would you want to sort the data if you're going to shuffle it? Consider the command invocation:

```
datatooltk --shuffle --in \langle in	ext{-}file \rangle --out \langle out	ext{-}file \rangle
```

Every time you run this command, you will get a different ordering. If, however, you set a seed for the random generator, for example:

```
datatooltk --seed 2013 --shuffle --in \langle in	ext{-}file 
angle --out \langle out	ext{-}file 
angle
```

You will always get the same random ordering provided the original data in $\langle in\text{-file} \rangle$ has remained unchanged. If you want to modify the shuffled data in your document and save it to the original file $\langle in\text{-file} \rangle$ using \DTLsaverawdb, the ordering in that file will change, so the next time you shuffle it, you'll get a different ordering, even if you use the same seed. If you sort first on a unique label, that will ensure the shuffle has the same starting point (unless you add or remove rows).

Example 4.

Suppose you have a database of exam questions and you want to keep track of the year in which each question was last used. (To make life easier, let's identify the academic year "2012/13" as 2013, the academic year "2013/14" as 2014, etc.) Let's further suppose the database of questions is in a file called mth-101.dbtex and the database label is "problems" (see Figure 3.4). The database contains a column with the label "Label", which uniquely identifies an exam question, a column with the label "Question" that contains the exam question, a column with the label "Answer" that contains the answer and an integer column with the label "Year" that contains the exam year in which that question was last used. (A zero entry means the question hasn't been used.)

Now suppose the exam requires five questions to be randomly selected from this database, but must not include any question used in the past three years. So the exam LATEX document needs to load in a shuffled version of mth-101.dbtex, use the first five questions that don't have a year set in the past three year range, set the year for the selected questions to the current exam year, display the questions (and optionally the answers for the solution sheet), and at the end of the document, overwrite mth-101.dbtex so that it now has a record of this year's exam questions.

There are two problems. Firstly, if the process is to be automated with a call to datatooltk --shuffle followed by a LATEX call, a different set of problems will be selected on each run, even with the same seed. To overcome this, a sort on the Label column needs to be done before the shuffle:

```
datatooltk --sort Label --seed 2013 --shuffle --in mth-101.dbtex --out mth-101-shuffled.dbtex
```

(The symbol \leftarrow above indicates a line wrap. Don't insert a line break at that point.) This way the shuffle always starts from the same ordering.

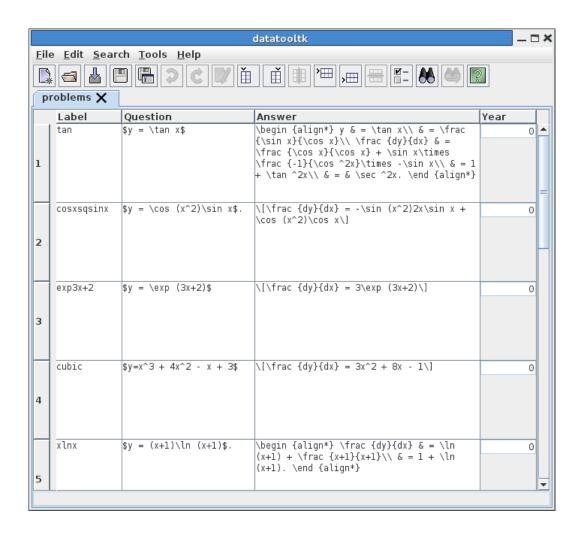


Figure 3.4: Sort and Shuffle Example

The second problem occurs if you edit the database such that you add or remove rows. This will change the initial conditions, even with the sort. If you add or remove rows, you need to accept that the document may well end up with a different selection of questions, which is okay if you haven't finalised the exam, but it means that some of the questions will be identified as having been used in that exam year from a previous run but are now no longer selected. In order to make them available for the next year, if they haven't been selected but have had the year set to this year, the year needs to be cleared.

To solve this, once you have selected the maximum required number of questions, don't break out of the loop, as was done earlier (see section 3.2). Instead, for the rest of the loop, if the exam year is set to the current year, clear it.

```
% arara: pdflatex: {shell: on}
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{etoolbox}
\usepackage{datatool}
\usepackage{listings}
%
\newtoggle{showanswers}
\togglefalse{showanswers}
\newcommand{\examyear}{2013}
\newcommand{\maxquestions}{5}
\newcounter{question}
\immediate\write18{datatooltk --sort Label --seed \examyear\space
--shuffle --in mth-101.dbtex --out mth-101-shuffled.dbtex}
\input{mth-101-shuffled.dbtex}
\begin{document}
\begin{enumerate}
  \DTLforeach{problems}{\Question=Question,\Answer=Answer,\Year=Year}%
     % If year hasn't been specified, set it to 0 to
     % allow numeric comparisons
     \ifdefempty{\Year}{\def\Year{0}}{}%
     \ifnumgreater{\value{question}}{\maxquestions}
        % Finished selecting questions, unset any year
        % equal to this exam year
        \ifnumequal{\Year}{\examyear}
        {%
```

```
% unset year
           \DTLreplaceentryforrow{Year}{0}%
        }%
        {}%
     }%
     {%
        % Still selecting questions.
        % Check the year
        \ifboolexpr
        {%
           test{\ifnumequal{\Year}{\examyear}}
           test{\ifnumless{\Year}{\examyear-3}}
        }
        {% select this question
           \stepcounter{question}%
           \item \Question
           \iftoggle{showanswers}{Answer: \Answer}{}%
           % update year
           \DTLreplaceentryforrow{Year}{\examyear}%
        {% skip this question, it was used in the past 3 years
        }%
     }%
  }
\end{enumerate}
% update database file
\DTLsaverawdb{problems}{mth-101.dbtex}
\end{document}
```

Note: since this overwrites the datatool file, you will lose any pretty-printing spaces or comments you may have done in datatooltk's cell editor dialog.

3.4 Plugins

Plugins are usually associated with a particular template (see chapter 5) and provide a convenient way of adding a row of data to the currently selected database. Typically when a plugin is run it will add a new row of data if no row is selected, otherwise it will allow you to edit the selected row. **Note:** you must have Perl installed to use the plugins (see chapter 6). **Really Important Note:** the plugin is sent the database information when you start each instance of the plugin, so if you change the database in datatooltk while a plugin is running there may be unexpected results. Wait until the plugin has

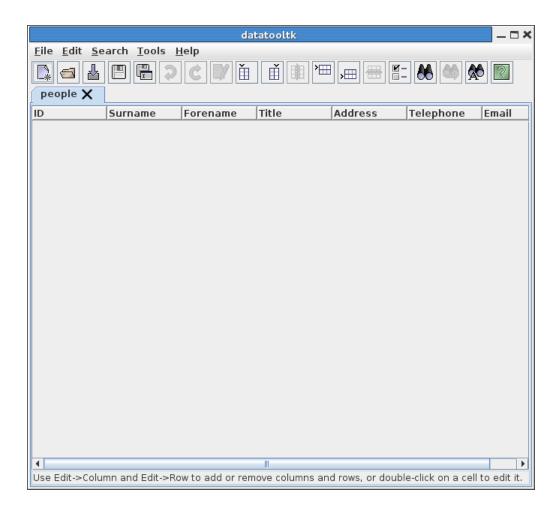


Figure 3.5: Database Created From people Template

finished (usually by clicking on **Okay** or **Cancel**) before you make any further edits to the database.

Example 5.

Suppose you create a new database using the people template. This creates a database with the following fields: ID, Title, Surname, Forename, Address, Telephone and Email, as illustrated in Figure 3.5.

Having created this database, I can just use the Edit \rightarrow Row menu to insert rows and then edit each entry, but suppose I want to automatically increment the associated ID for each person. I can do this using the people plugin that corresponds to this template via the Tools \rightarrow Plugins menu.

If a row is currently selected, this plugin will allow you to edit the data for that row. Otherwise, it will allow you to insert a new row. For a new row of data, the people plugin will open the dialog box shown in Figure 3.6.

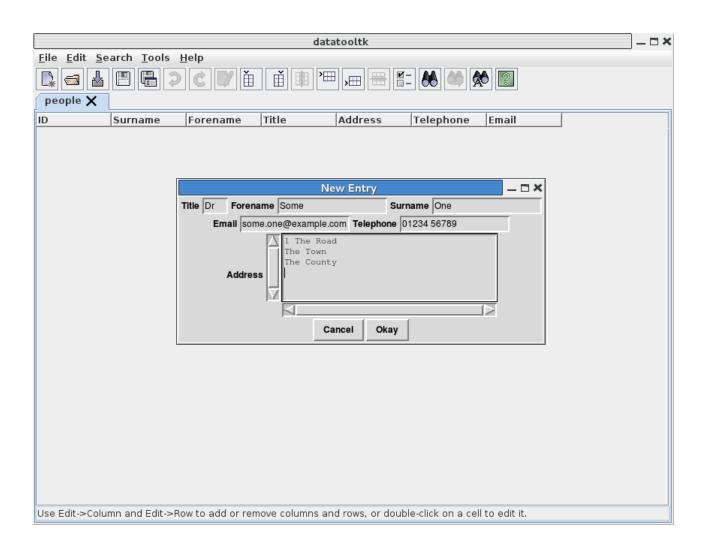


Figure 3.6: The people Plugin Dialog

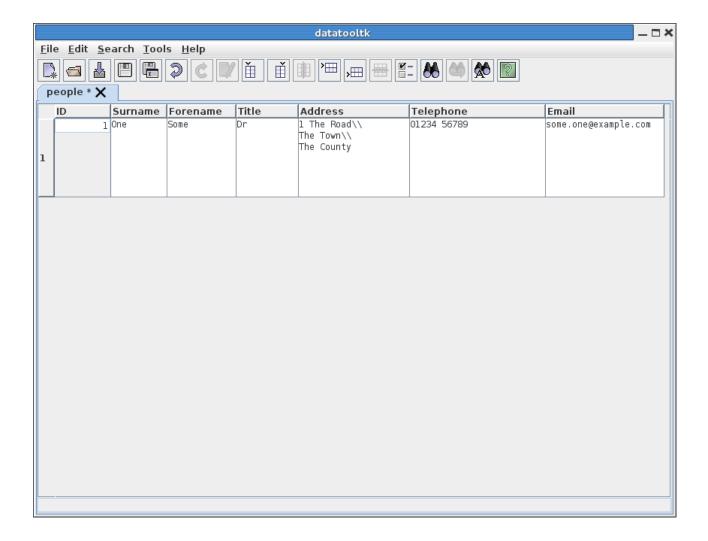


Figure 3.7: A New Row of Data

After entering the data, I can click on **Okay** and a new row of data is added to the database (see Figure 3.7). Note that the plugin has converted newline characters in the address into \\. The ID has automatically been inserted.

Since the people plugin only adds or modifies a single row at a time, if you no longer require an entry, you can delete the unwanted row using Edit—Row—Delete Row.

Example 6.

The datagidx package creates its own custom database to store terms, symbols and acronyms. The datagidx template will create a database that contains datagidx's required fields. There are a lot of fields, some of which are reserved for datagidx's private use. The datagidx plugin, available via the Tools—Plugins menu, provides a convenient interface to add or edit entries. If no row is selected, the plugin will create a new row. If a row

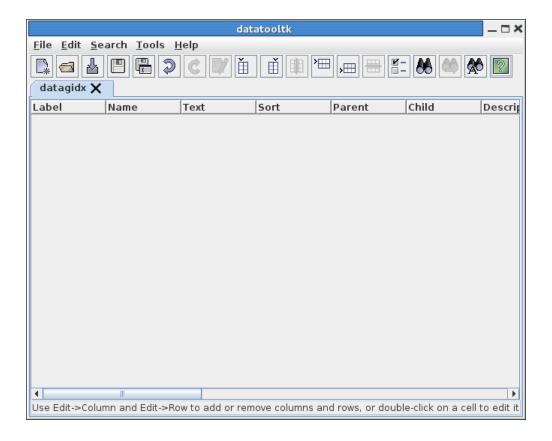


Figure 3.8: A Database Created From the datagidx Template

is selected, the plugin will allow you to edit or remove the row. Since the datagidx plugin can modify other rows at the same time (for example, if you set a parent entry or cross-reference) it's recommended that you use the datagidx plugin to remove an entry (via the Remove Entry button) rather than using Edit \rightarrow Row \rightarrow Delete Row.

The new database (created via File \rightarrow New From Template...) is shown in Figure 3.8. Once this database has been created, the datagidx plugin will open the dialog box shown in Figure 3.9.

Since many of the fields are often duplicated (for example, the Name field is often the same as the Text field) if you first enter the name in the Name field, when you move the focus to another field, default entries will be added to most of the empty fields. For example, in Figure 3.10 I typed "bird" in the Name field and then moved the cursor to the Description field. This automatically filled in default values for the Label, Sort, Text, Short, Long, Plural, Short Plural and Long Plural fields. Since this is the first entry, there are no options for the Parent and See fields.

When I click on **Okay**, a new row is added to the database (see Figure 3.11).

If I use the datagidx plugin to create a new row, there are now options available in the **Parent** and **See** fields (see Figure 3.12).

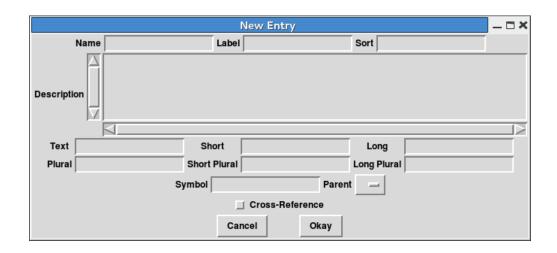


Figure 3.9: The datagidx Plugin Dialog

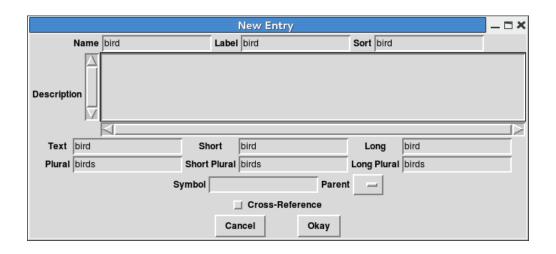


Figure 3.10: Most Fields Are Auto-Filled From the Name Field

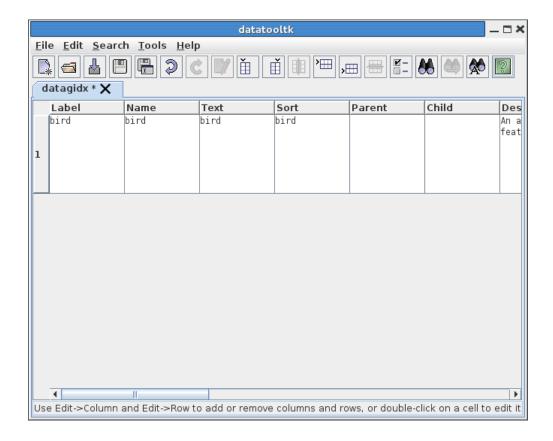


Figure 3.11: New Row Added to the Database

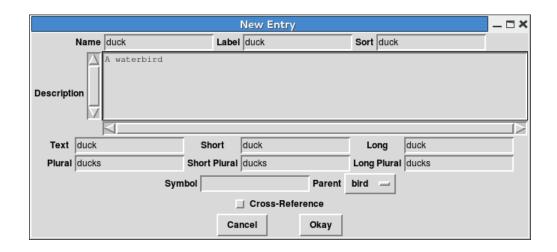


Figure 3.12: Parent Field Lists Other Entry Labels

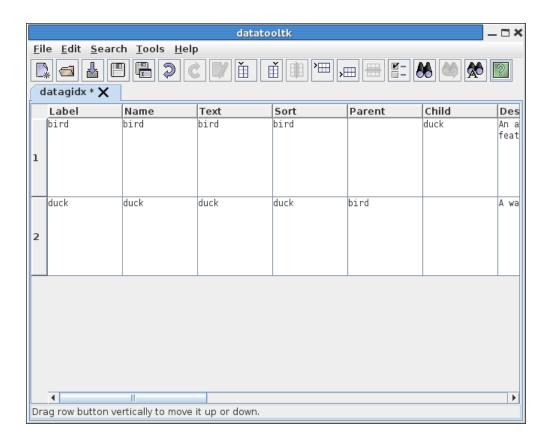


Figure 3.13: Child Entry of Automatically Adjusted

In Figure 3.12 I have set the parent to bird. When the new row is added, the plugin automatically adjusts the bird entry to include the new duck label as one of its children (see Figure 3.13).

It's also possible to cross-reference another entry. There are two ways of cross-referencing an entry: (1) using **See** which redirects the reader to a synonym that has the location list; (2) using **See Also** which in addition to the location list refers the reader to one or more related topics. (See the datagidx section of the datatool user manual for further details.) To enable either form of cross-referencing, make sure the **Cross-Reference** button is selected. This will display extra options, shown in **Figure 3.14**.

Either select the **See** button and choose the synonym from the drop-down box next to it, or select the **See Also** button and select the related cross-reference from the drop-down box to the right and either click on **Add "See Also" Entry** to append it to the **See Also** list or click on **Remove "See Also" Entry** to remove it from the list. For example, in **Figure 3.14** I've added the chicken and turkey entries to the **See Also** list.

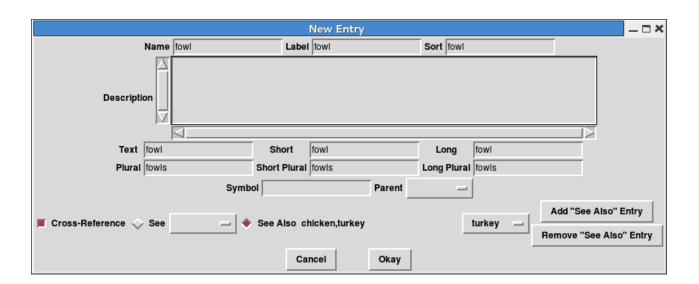


Figure 3.14: Cross-Referencing Entries

4 Importing Data

Data can be imported from CSV files (see section 4.1), SQL databases (see section 4.2) or from files that can be imported with the probsoln package's \loadallproblems command (see section 4.3). In the case of the first two, datatooltk can automatically convert TEX's special characters if the --map-tex-specials command line option is used or the Map TeX characters when importing data from CSV or SQL option has been selected in the Preferences dialog box (see chapter 6).

4.1 Import CSV Data

Data can be imported from a CSV file using the --csv command line option or (in GUI mode) using the File→Import→Import CSV... menu item. The default separator is a comma and the default delimiter is the double-quote character. These can be changed using the --sep and --delim command line options or in the Preferences dialog box (see chapter 6). Unlike datatool's \DTLloaddb command, datatooltk can import data with multilined entries (via the Open CSV library http://opencsv.sourceforge.net/). Multiple blank lines within entries are automatically converted to \DTLpar (although you won't see this in GUI mode).

If the CSV file has a header row, you must make sure the --csvheader option is used or the Has Header Row option is checked in the Preferences dialog box. If the CSV file has no header row, you must make sure the --nocsvheader option is used or the Has Header Row option is unchecked in the Preferences dialog box.

Example 7.

Consider the CSV file shown below:

Number, Notes

1,"A sample entry with several lines of text and here's some more text.

This is supposed to be the start of a new paragraph. Here's the next sentence." $\footnote{\cite{Number 1}}$

2,A short note.

This has a cell with multiple lines. When it's imported into datatooltk, the paragraph break is converted to \DTLpar. However, this isn't visible when you look at the file in GUI mode (see Figure 4.1).

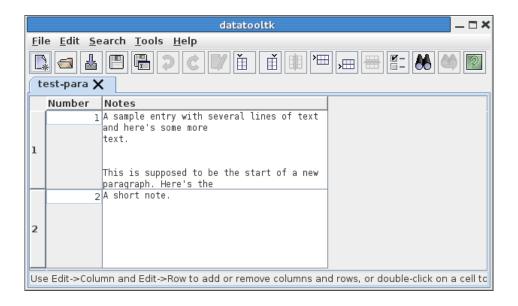


Figure 4.1: Paragraph Breaks Appear as a Single Blank Line

Note that the redundant second blank line in the CSV file has gone as multiple blank lines are replaced by a single \DTLpar.

4.2 Import SQL Data

Data can be imported from an SQL database using the --sql command line option or the File→Import→Import SQL... menu item. You additionally need to supply the database, port, prefix, host, user name and password. In batch mode, you can use the command line options --sqldb, --sqlport, --sqlprefix, --sqlhost and --sqluser. You can specify the password with --sqlpassword, but that isn't secure. If you don't use that, you will be prompted for the password, where the text you enter won't be visible. See chapter 1 for more details about command line options.

In GUI mode, when you use File→Import→Import SQL... the dialog box shown in Figure 4.2 will be displayed, where you can enter the settings. In addition to the above named settings, you must also specify the SQL SELECT statement that identifies the required data to import. (This manual assumes that if you have data in an SQL database, then you have a basic knowledge of SQL syntax.)

For example, in Figure 4.2 I want to import all data from the table called customers in the MySQL database called myshop. (I've created a user called shopadmin with SELECT privileges for this database.) Once I've entered this information, I then click on Okay and the password dialog box will appear (see Figure 4.3).

Alternatively, I can use batch mode to import and save the data from the command prompt:



Figure 4.2: SQL Import Dialog Box



Figure 4.3: Password Dialog Box

```
datatooltk --out customers.dbtex --sql "SELECT * FROM customers"
--sqldb myshop --sqluser shopadmin
Password:
```

(The symbol \leftarrow above indicates a line wrap. Don't insert a line break at that point.) The password should be entered at the **Password** prompt. Remember that it's more efficient to get the SQL database to do any sorting. For example (assuming the table has a column called Surname):

4.3 Import probsoln Data

The probsoln package allows you to define problems (and optionally their solutions) using \newproblem or the defproblem environment. datatooltk can load a file containing these definitions and convert the probsoln data into a datatool database containing three columns with keys: Label, Question and Answer. You can import one of these files using the --probsoln command line option or (in GUI mode) using the File→Import→Import probsoln File... menu item.

TEX is a difficult language to parse, so datatooltk uses LATEX to help gather the data from the imported file. The datatooltk application creates a temporary LATEX file and runs LATEX on it in the background. It assumes that the latex application is on your path. If this isn't the case, you will have to specify the location of the latex executable in the Preferences dialog box (see chapter 6). The temporary files are deleted when you quit datatooltk unless you have used the --nodelete-tmp-files option.

Note: datatooltk doesn't support problems that require arguments. Any instance of $\#\langle n\rangle$ will be replaced with $\#\#\langle n\rangle$, but you will have to replace those with something else. Also, recall from section 1.3 that you can't have verbatim text in a datatool database, but you can use \verbatiminput (from the verbatim package) or \lstinputlisting (from the listings package). Since \LaTeX is used to gather the data, pretty-printing spaces and comments won't be imported.

Example 8.

Consider the file called prob-mixed.tex that contains the following:

```
\newproblem*{oop}{%
 % This is an essay style question.
 Describe what is meant by object-oriented programming.%
}
\begin{defproblem}{inheritance}
 % This is an essay style question.
Describe what is meant by the term \emph{inheritance} in
object-oriented programming. Use examples.
\end{defproblem}
\begin{defproblem}{weightedcoin}%
  \begin{onlyproblem}
   A coin is weighted so that heads is four times as likely
   as tails. Find the probability that:
    \begin{textenum}
      \item tails appears,
      \item heads appears
   \end{textenum}%
  \end{onlyproblem}%
  \begin{onlysolution}
   Let p=P(T), then P(H)=4p. We require P(H)+P(T)=1,
   so 4p+p=1, hence p=\frac{1}{5}. Therefore:
    \begin{textenum}
      \int \ P(T) = \frac{1}{5} 
      \mathbf{P}(H) = \frac{4}{5}
    \end{textenum}
  \end{onlysolution}
```

```
\end{defproblem}
\begin{defproblem}{validprobspaces}
\begin{onlyproblem}%
Under which of the following functions does
S={a_1,a_2} become a probability space?
\par
\begin{textenum}
\begin{tabular}{11}
\item P(a_1)=\frac{1}{3}, P(a_2)=\frac{1}{2}$
\left( \frac{3}{4}\right) 
P(a_2)=\frac{1}{4}
\tilde{P(a_1)=1}, P(a_2)=0
\item P(a_1)=\frac{5}{4}, P(a_2)=-\frac{1}{4}$
\end{tabular}
\end{textenum}
\end{onlyproblem}%
\begin{onlysolution}%
\ref{validprobspacescorrect1} and \ref{validprobspacescorrect2}%
\end{onlysolution}
\end{defproblem}
\begin{defproblem}{digraph}
 % This problem requires the tikz package
 \begin{onlyproblem}\label{ex:digraph}
 Identify, if any, the sinks and sources of the digraph shown
  in Figure~\ref{fig:digraph}.
  \begin{figure}[tbh]
   \centering
     \begin{tikzpicture}[every node/.style={draw,circle}]
        \path (0,0) node (A) {$A$}
              (1,0) node (B) {$B$}
              (0,1) node (C) {$C$};
        \draw[->] (A) -- (B);
        \draw[->] (B) -- (C);
        \draw[->] (A) -- (C);
     \end{tikzpicture}
   \caption{Digraph for Question~\ref{ex:digraph}}
   \label{fig:digraph}
```

```
\end{figure}
\end{onlyproblem}
\begin{onlysolution}
$A$ is a source and $C$ is a sink.
\end{onlysolution}
\end{defproblem}
```

This contains a mixture of \newproblem and defproblem. It also has comments and spaces to make the code more readable. As can be seen in Figure 4.4 these have gone in the import.

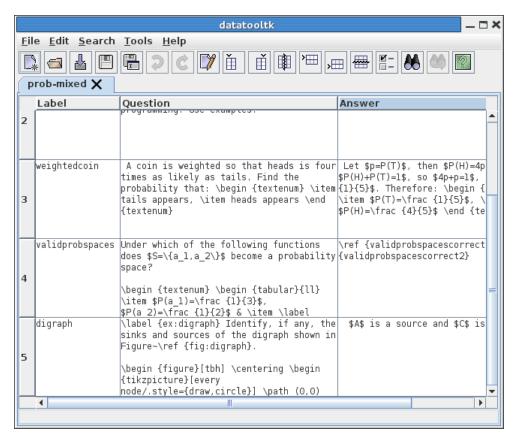


Figure 4.4: Pretty Printing and Comments are Lost When Importing Data from probsoln

See also:

- Shuffling the Data
- Sorting and Shuffling

5 Templates

Templates that come with datatooltk are located in the resources/templates subdirectory of the datatooltk installation directory. You can also write your own templates and store them in the user templates directory (see section 5.1). Each template defines a set of column headers. To create a new database with a particular set of column headers, use the File—New From Template... menu item, which opens the dialog box shown in Figure 5.1.

The datatooltk application comes with the following templates: datagidx (creates a database with the same structure as used by the datagidx package) and people (creates a database suitable for storing records about people, including columns for forenames, a surname, title and address.) For example, Figure 5.2 shows a database created from the people template.

Rows can now be added to this database using the $Edit \rightarrow Row$ menu or via corresponding plugins (see section 3.4).

5.1 Writing a Template File

If you want to write your own template, you need to create an XML file and store it in a subdirectory of the datatooltk user properties directory (see chapter 6) called templates. You will need to create this directory, if it doesn't already exist. For example, on a UNIX-like system, the user template directory will be ~/.datatooltk/templates/. The template file must have the extension .xml for it to be listed in the "New From Template" dialog box. (The base name of the file is used in the list.)

The template file must have one <datatooltktemplate> element. This element may contain one or more <header> elements. Each <header> element must contain one <label> element and optionally one <title> and/or one <type> element.

The <label> element contains the uniquely identifying header label. The <title> element contains the header title. If omitted, the title is set to the label, unless there

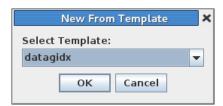


Figure 5.1: New From Template Dialog

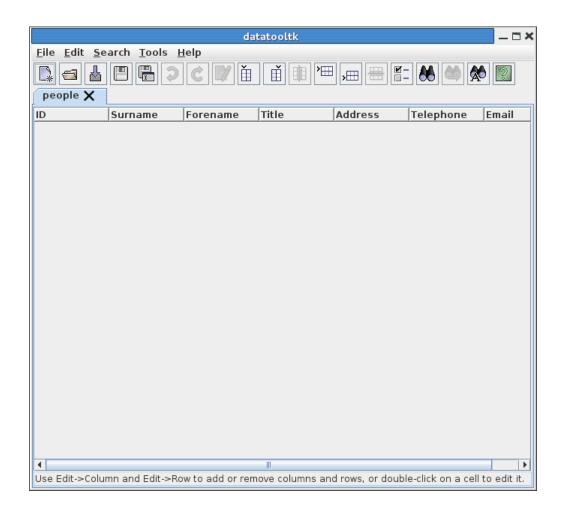


Figure 5.2: New Database Created from people Template

is an entry in the resource dictionary file that matches plugin. \(\text{template name} \). \(\text{label} \), in which case that property is used. The \(\text{type} \) element must be one of: -1 (unknown type), 0 (string type), 1 (integer type), 2 (real type) or 3 (currency type). If omitted the type is set to -1.

Example 9.

Suppose I want to write a template to create a database for a list of products. The database needs three columns: one for the product name, one for the product code and one for the product price. The name should be a string, the price column could either be set to "real" if you don't need to worry about the currency unit or "currency" if you need a currency unit for each product. Let's suppose that the code must be an integer. Here's a template file (the price column is set to "real" rather than "currency"):

6 Application Properties

When datatooltk is run, either in batch or GUI mode, the application settings are read in from the user properties file, if it exists. Any command line options override those settings. If datatooltk is run in GUI mode, the application properties are saved on exit. They are not saved in batch mode.

The user properties directory depends on the operating system. On Windows, it is a folder called datatooltk-settings in the folder given by the Java system property user.home. This is usually the user's home folder but in some versions of Java this can be "userprofile". On other operating systems, the user properties directory is called .datatooltk and is in the user's home directory.

In GUI mode, the settings can be changed using Edit → Edit Preferences.... This opens the Preferences dialog box, which has the following tabs:

General (Figure 6.1)

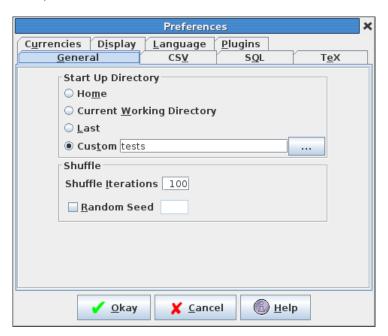


Figure 6.1: General Tab

In this tab you can specify the start up directory. (The default directory when you first load, save or import data via the File menu.) You can set this to your

home directory, the current working directory, the directory you last used on the previous run of datatooltk or you can specify a directory of your choice.

In this tab you can also specify the number of iterations to use in a shuffle operation (equivalent to --shuffle-iterations) and, optionally, a seed for the random number generator (equivalent to --seed).

CSV (Figure 6.2)

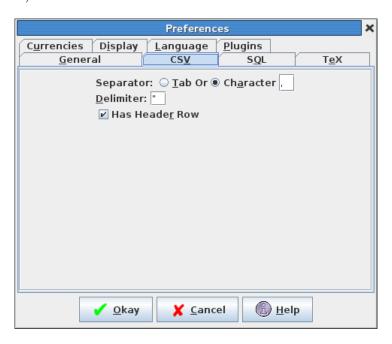


Figure 6.2: CSV Tab

In this tab you can specify the separator character. If the separator is a tab character, select the **Tab** radio button. Otherwise select the **Character** radio button and enter the character in the neighbouring text box. Set the delimiter in the **Delimiter** field. Check the **Has Header Row** button if your CSV files have a header row otherwise uncheck it.

SQL (Figure 6.3)

In this tab, you can specify the SQL connection information. Enter the host name and port number the SQL server is running on in the Host and Port fields. Currently, the only available prefix is "jdbc:mysql://", which is the JDBC driver for MySQL. If you are using another driver or SQL database, you'll have to add the relevant library to the lib directory and add it to the class path used by datatooltk.jar. Enter the name of the database you want to connect to in the Database field and the associated user name in the User Name field. If you want

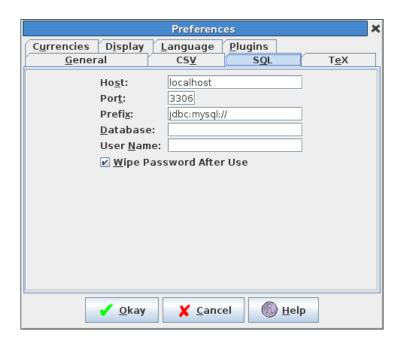


Figure 6.3: SQL Tab

the password wiped from memory as soon as a connection has been made, make sure the **Wipe Password After Use** box has been selected.

TeX (Figure 6.4)

In this tab you can specify whether or not to map TEX special characters when you import data from CSV or SQL. If you want the mapping, make sure the Map TeX characters when importing data from CSV or SQL box is checked. If it is checked, the performed mappings are listed in the table in the tab. To add another mapping, click on the Add button, which opens the dialog box shown in Figure 6.5.

To remove a mapping, select the unwanted mapping and click on **Remove**. To edit a mapping, select the mapping and click on **Edit**.

IATEX is used to help datatooltk import data from a probsoln dataset. If the latex executable isn't on the system path, you will have to specify its full location in the LaTeX Executable field. You can use the ellipsis button next to the field to browse your filing system.

Currencies (Figure 6.6)

If you want to identify a column as a currency type, you must make sure that datatooltk recognises the LATEX command to typeset your currency. Known currency commands are listed in the **Currencies** tab. If you add any currencies to the list, remember to add them in your document as well with \DTLnewcurrencysymbol.

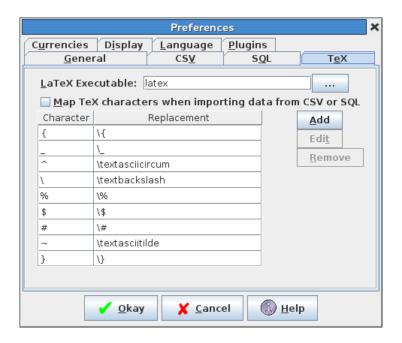


Figure 6.4: TeX Tab



Figure 6.5: Add Mapping Dialog

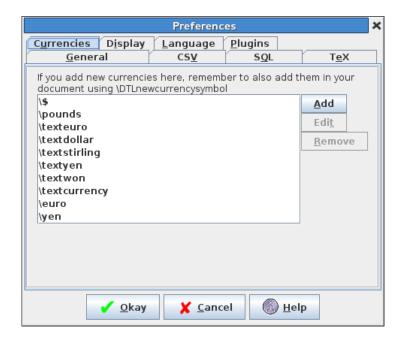


Figure 6.6: Currencies Tab

Display (Figure 6.7)

The default font used in cell entries is a monospaced font. This can be changed using the **Font** drop-down menu. You can also set the font size in the **Font Size** field. By default, each string cell has a maximum of four lines visible in the main window. (Real and integer columns only have a single line visible.) This number can be changed in the **Cell Height** field. Each column has a default width that depends on the data type for that column. The values are listed in the **Cell Widths** area. These can be changed as required.

Language (Figure 6.8)

The language used by the manual accessed via Help→Manual can be set from the Manual Language drop-down list. The language used in the messages, menu items, buttons and GUI labels can be set from the GUI Language drop-down list. Note that you have to restart datatooltk for these changes to take effect.

Plugins (Figure 6.9)

In order to use datatooltk plugins, you must have Perl installed (and the Perl Tk module). If the Perl executable is on your path, you can just specify it as perl in the Perl field of the Plugins tab. If it's not on your path, you will have to specify the full path name in this tab. You can use the ellipsis button to browse your filing system.

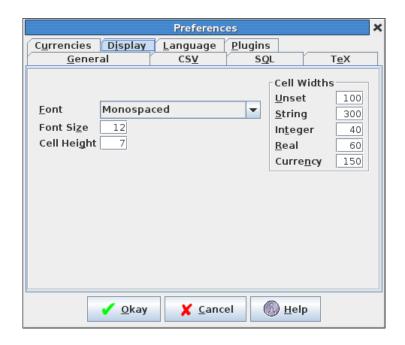


Figure 6.7: Display Tab

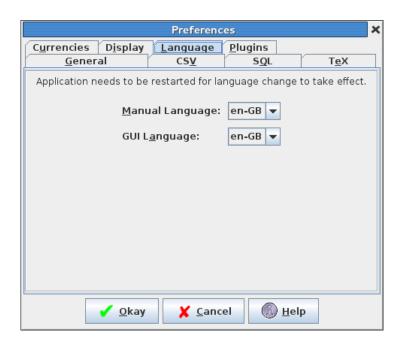


Figure 6.8: Language Tab

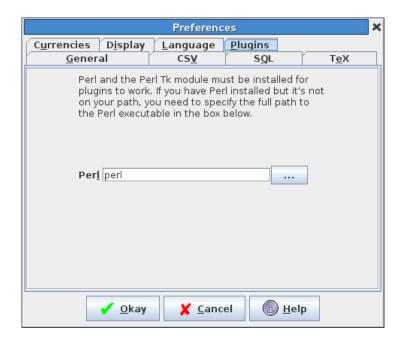


Figure 6.9: Plugins Tab

7 Licence

datatooltk is licensed under the terms of the GNU General Public License. datatooltk depends on the following third party libraries whose jar files are in the lib directory: Java Help (https://javahelp.java.net/), Open CSV (http://opencsv.sourceforge.net/), MySQL connector (http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/connector/j/) and the Java Look and Feel Graphics Repository (http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/index-138612.html).

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Glossary

 $\hbox{\bf current working directory} \ \ {\rm The \ directory \ in \ which \ the \ application \ was \ started.} \ \ {\color{blue} 43}$

 $\mathsf{MySQL}\,$ An open source SQL database. 5, 34, 43

Acronyms

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CSV comma-separated values. 3–6, 33, 34, 43, 44

GUI graphical user interface. 3, 5, 11, 14, 33–35, 42, 46

SQL structured query language. 3–6, 13, 33–35, 43, 44
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