

User Manual for datatooltk version 0.1a

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2013-06-28

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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 \TeX pert 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 [<options>]
```

Available options:

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

```
datatooltk-gui [<options>]
```

is equivalent to

```
datatooltk --gui [<options>]
```

but additionally has a splash screen.)

--batch (or -b) Invoke `datatooltk` in batch mode (default).

--out *<filename>* (or -o *<filename>*) Save the database to *<filename>* (batch mode only).

--in (or -i) *<datatool file>* Load *<datatool file>*. The switch **--in** (or **-i**) is optional, so `datatooltk <file>` is equivalent to `datatooltk --in <file>`.

--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 TeX special characters when importing data from **CSV** or **SQL**.
`--nomap-tex-specials` Don't map TeX special characters when importing data from **CSV** or **SQL**. (Default.)
`--seed` *<number>* Set the random generator seed to *<number>* or clear it if *<number>* is `""`. (See [section 3.2](#).)
`--shuffle-iterations` *<number>* Set the number of iterations to perform in a shuffle to *<number>*. (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` [*<prefix>*]*<field>* Sort the database according to the column whose label is *<field>*. Optionally, *<prefix>* may be `+` (ascending order) or `-` (descending order). If *<prefix>* 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>* 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` *<statement>* Import data from an **SQL** database where *<statement>* is an **SQL** SELECT statement. (See [section 4.2](#))
`--sqldb` *<name>* The **SQL** database name.

`--sqlprefix` *<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 **L^AT_EX** files, so they could simply have the standard `.tex` extension, but to help differentiate the database files from other files containing **T_EX**/**L^AT_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**→**Edit Database Name...** in **GUI** mode or via the command line option `--name` *<label>*.

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:

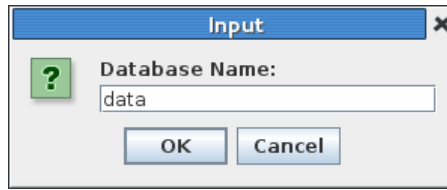


Figure 1.1: Setting the Database Name

```
\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 `datatool` 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, `datatool` 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.

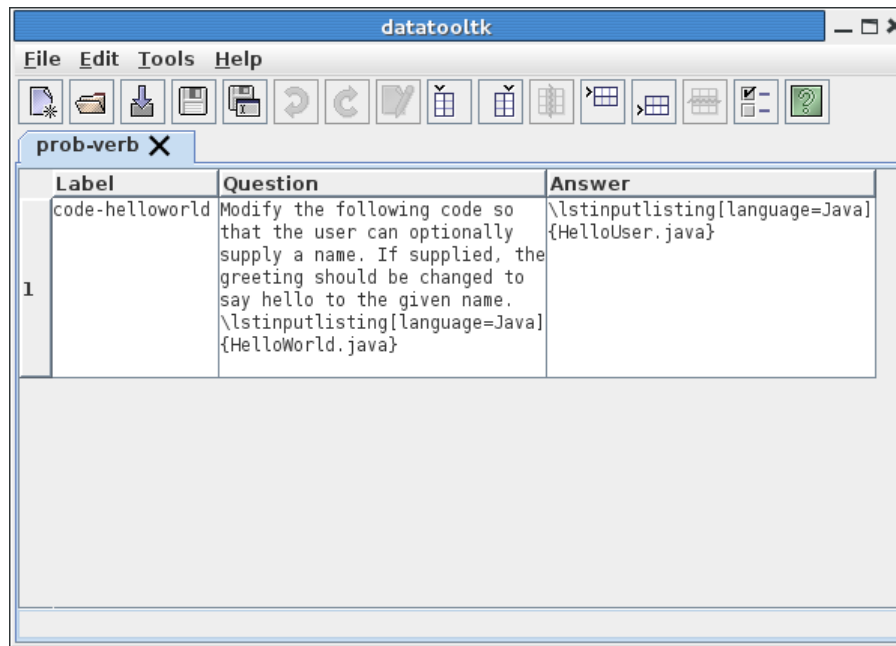


Figure 1.2: Verbatim Blocks Need to be in Separate Files

```
public static void main(String[] args)
{
    System.out.println("Hello World!");
}
```

and HelloUser.java:

```
public class HelloUser
{
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        System.out.println("Hello "
            + (args.length==0 ? "anon" : args[0])+"!");
    }
}
```

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}

```

Related topics: [shuffling a database](#), [sorting and shuffling a database](#) and [importing probsoln datasets](#).

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.

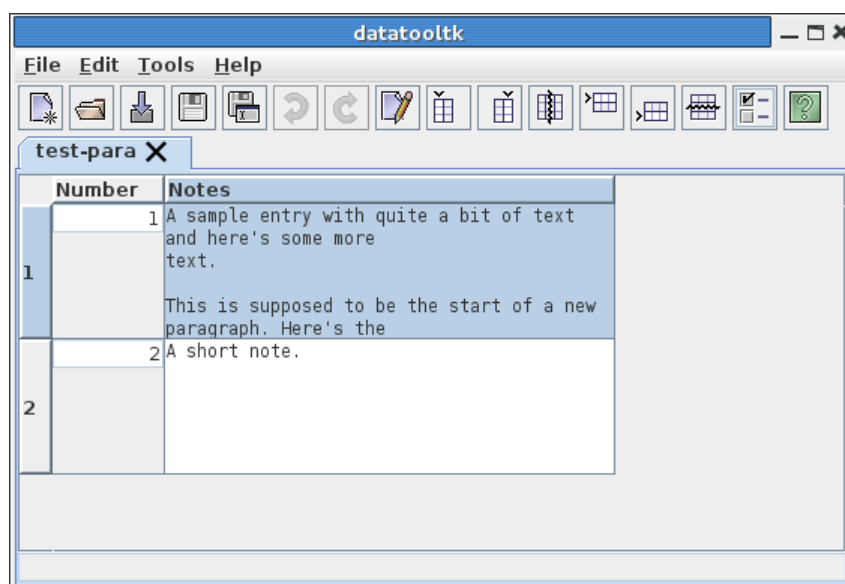


Figure 2.1: Main Window

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→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 5](#)). 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 such as `\DTLforeach`. The title is used in commands like `\DTLdisplaydb`. See [chapter 5](#) for currency mappings.

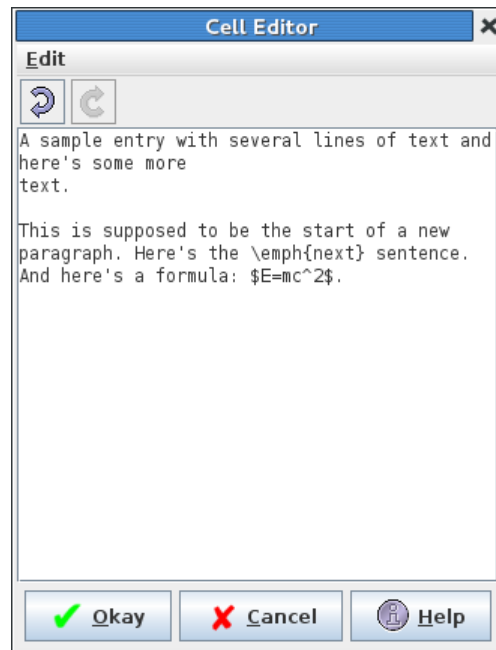


Figure 2.2: Cell Editor Dialog

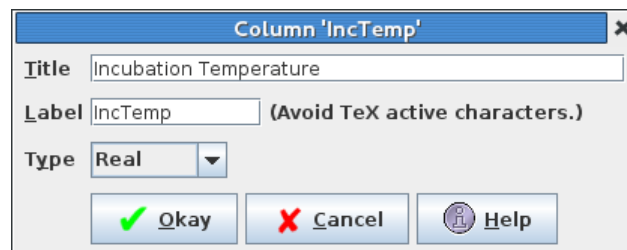


Figure 2.3: Header Dialog

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**).

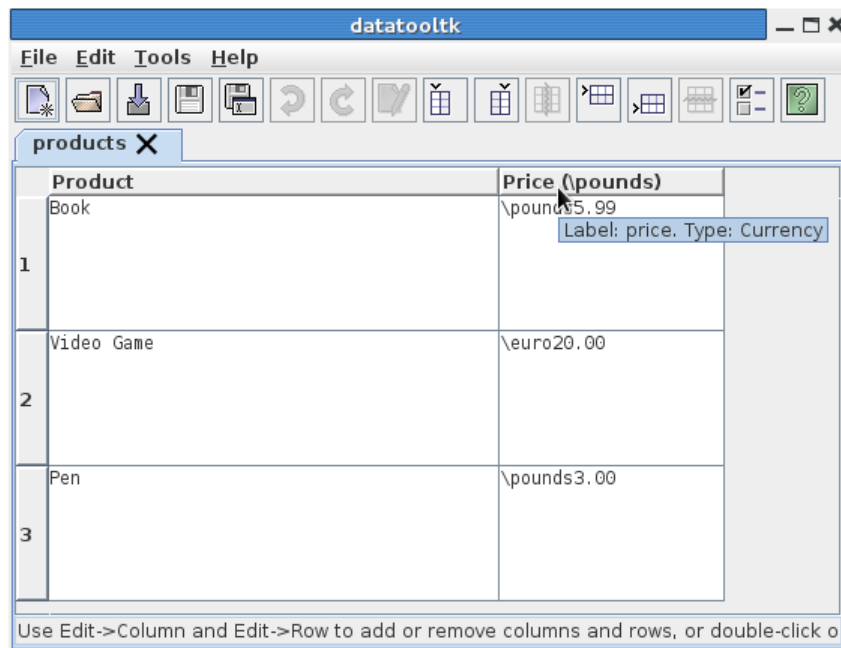


Figure 2.4: Header Details Shown in Tooltip

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`.¹ So instead of doing, say,

```
\input{mydata.dbtex}% loads database labelled 'data' from file 'mydata.dbtex'
\DTLsortdb{Surname}{data}% sort data on 'Surname' 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 use `TeX`'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 comparisons. The default is 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**).

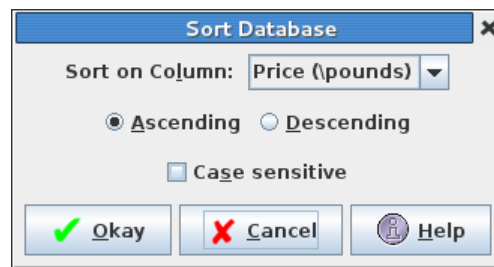


Figure 3.1: Sort Dialog

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
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**).

The screenshot shows a window titled 'datatooltk' with a menu bar (File, Edit, Tools, Help) and a toolbar. Below the toolbar are two tabs: 'test-para' and 'products'. The 'products' tab is active, displaying a table with the following data:

	Product	Price (\pounds)
1	Book	\pounds5.99
2	Video Game	\euro20.00
3	Pen	\pounds3.00

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)

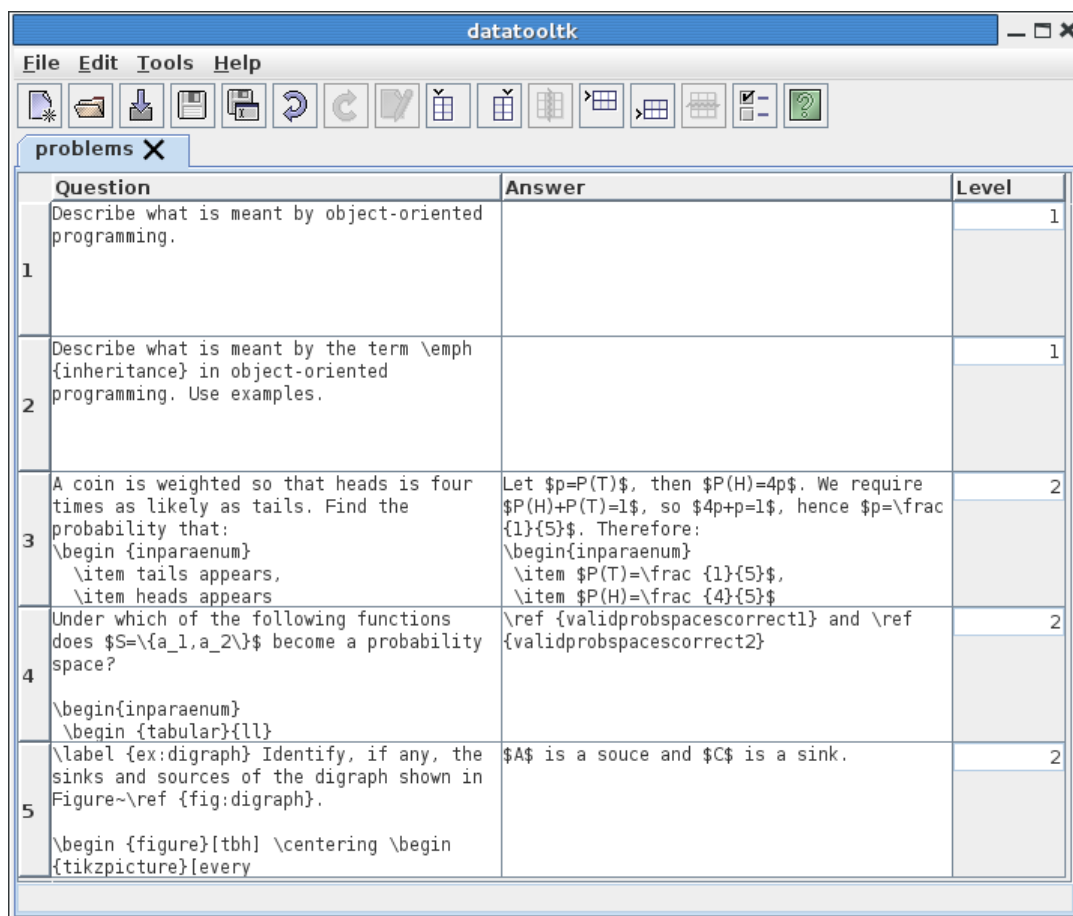
Video Game	\euro20.00
Pen	\pounds3.00
Book	\pounds5.99

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.



The screenshot shows the 'datatooltk' application window. It has a menu bar (File, Edit, Tools, Help) and a toolbar with various icons. Below the toolbar is a tab labeled 'problems'. The main area contains a table with three columns: 'Question', 'Answer', and 'Level'. The table has five rows of data, each with a small number in the left margin (1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

	Question	Answer	Level
1	Describe what is meant by object-oriented programming.		1
2	Describe what is meant by the term <code>\emph{inheritance}</code> in object-oriented programming. Use examples.		1
3	A coin is weighted so that heads is four times as likely as tails. Find the probability that: $\begin{array}{l} \text{\texttt{\textbackslashbegin{inparaenum}}} \\ \text{\texttt{\textbackslashitem tails appears,}} \\ \text{\texttt{\textbackslashitem heads appears}} \end{array}$	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: $\begin{array}{l} \text{\texttt{\textbackslashbegin{inparaenum}}} \\ \text{\texttt{\textbackslashitem } }P(T)=\frac{1}{5}, \\ \text{\texttt{\textbackslashitem } }P(H)=\frac{4}{5} \end{array}$	2
4	Under which of the following functions does $S=\{a_1, a_2\}$ become a probability space? $\begin{array}{l} \text{\texttt{\textbackslashbegin{inparaenum}}} \\ \text{\texttt{\textbackslashbegin{tabular}{ll}}} \end{array}$	$\text{\texttt{\textbackslashref{validprobspacescorrect1}}}$ and $\text{\texttt{\textbackslashref{validprobspacescorrect2}}}$	2
5	$\text{\texttt{\textbackslashlabel{ex:digraph}}}$ Identify, if any, the sinks and sources of the digraph shown in Figure- $\text{\texttt{\textbackslashref{fig:digraph}}}$. $\begin{array}{l} \text{\texttt{\textbackslashbegin{figure}[tbh] \centering \begin{tikzpicture}\every}} \end{array}$	A is a source and C is a sink.	2

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 `--seed` 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}}}
      and
      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{leveliii}}{\value{maxleveliii}}}
    }%
    {\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{\listleveliii}

\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 <in-file> --out <out-file>
```

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 <in-file> --out <out-file>
```

You will always get the same random ordering *provided the original data in <in-file> has remained unchanged*. If you want to modify the shuffled data in your document and save it to the original file <in-file> 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 \leftrightarrow above indicates a line wrap. Don't insert a line break at that point.) This way the shuffle always starts from the same ordering.

datatooltk				
File Edit Tools Help				
problems X				
	Label	Question	Answer	Year
1	gpowh	$f(x) = g(x)^{h(x)}$.	$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= e^{\ln g(x)^{h(x)}} \\ &= e^{h(x) \ln g(x)} \\ f'(x) &= e^{h(x) \ln g(x)} (h'(x) \ln g(x) \\ &+ h(x) \frac{g'(x)}{g(x)}) \\ &= g(x)^{h(x)} (h'(x) \ln g(x) + \frac{h(x) g'(x)}{g(x)}) \end{aligned}$	0
2	arcsin	$y = \arcsin(x)$	$\begin{aligned} \sin(y) &= x \text{ diff. w.r.t. } x: \\ \cos y \frac{dy}{dx} &= 1 \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{1}{\cos y} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \sin^2 y}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}} \end{aligned}$	0
3	arccos	$y = \arccos(x)$	$\begin{aligned} \cos y &= x \text{ diff. w.r.t. } x: \\ -\sin y \frac{dy}{dx} &= 1 \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{-1}{\sin y} \\ &= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1 - \cos^2 y}} \\ &= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}} \end{aligned}$	0
4	tan	$y = \tan(x)$	$\begin{aligned} y &= \tan x \\ &= \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\cos x \cdot \cos x - \sin x \cdot (-\sin x)}{\cos^2 x} \\ &= \frac{\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos^2 x} = \sec^2 x \end{aligned}$	0
5	arctan	$y = \arctan(x) = \tan^{-1}(x)$	$\begin{aligned} \tan y &= x \text{ diff w.r.t. } x: \\ \sec^2 y \frac{dy}{dx} &= 1 \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{1}{\sec^2 y} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 + \tan^2 y} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 + x^2} \end{aligned}$	0

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{\examyyear}{2013}
\newcommand{\maxquestions}{5}
\newcounter{question}

\immediate\write18{datatooltk --sort Label --seed \examyyear\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}{\examyyear}
{%
```

```

        % unset year
        \DTLreplaceentryforrow{Year}{0}%
    }%
    {}%
}%
{%
    % Still selecting questions.
    % Check the year
    \ifboolexpr
    {%
        test{\ifnumequal{\Year}{\examyyear}}
        or
        test{\ifnumless{\Year}{\examyyear-3}}
    }
    {% select this question
        \stepcounter{question}%
        \item \Question

        \iftoggle{showanswers}{Answer: \Answer}{}%
        % update year
        \DTLreplaceentryforrow{Year}{\examyyear}%
    }%
    {% 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.

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 **T_EX**'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 5](#)).

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 5](#)). 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 5.

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."
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](#)).

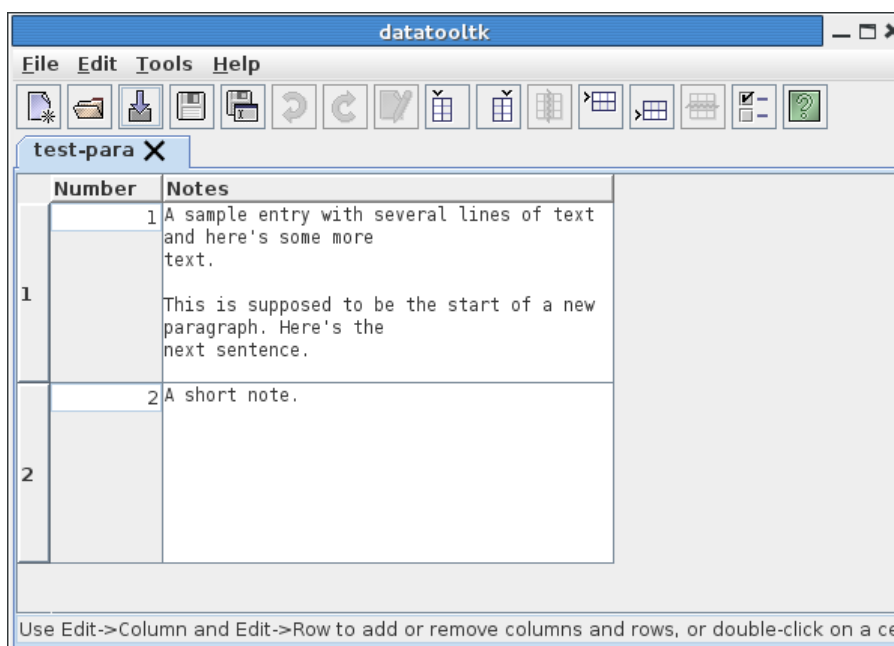


Figure 4.1: Paragraph Breaks Appear as a Single Blank Line

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](#)).

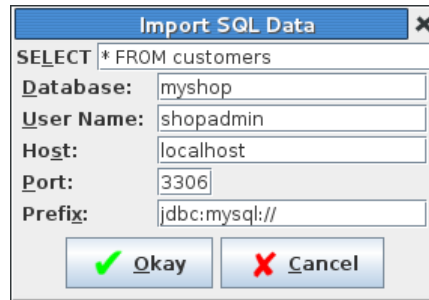


Figure 4.2: SQL Import Dialog Box

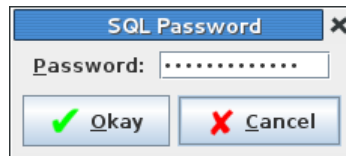


Figure 4.3: Password Dialog Box

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

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

(The symbol ↵ 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**):

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

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.

\LaTeX 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 5**). 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 `#<n>` will be replaced with `##<n>`, 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 6.

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}
      \item  $P(T)=\frac{1}{5}$ ,
      \item  $P(H)=\frac{4}{5}$ 
```

```

\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}{ll}
\item  $P(a_1)=\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $P(a_2)=\frac{1}{2}$ 
&
\item \label{validprobspacescorrect1}  $P(a_1)=\frac{3}{4}$ ,
 $P(a_2)=\frac{1}{4}$ 
\\
\item \label{validprobspacescorrect2}  $P(a_1)=1$ ,  $P(a_2)=0$ 
&
\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}
\end{figure}
\par

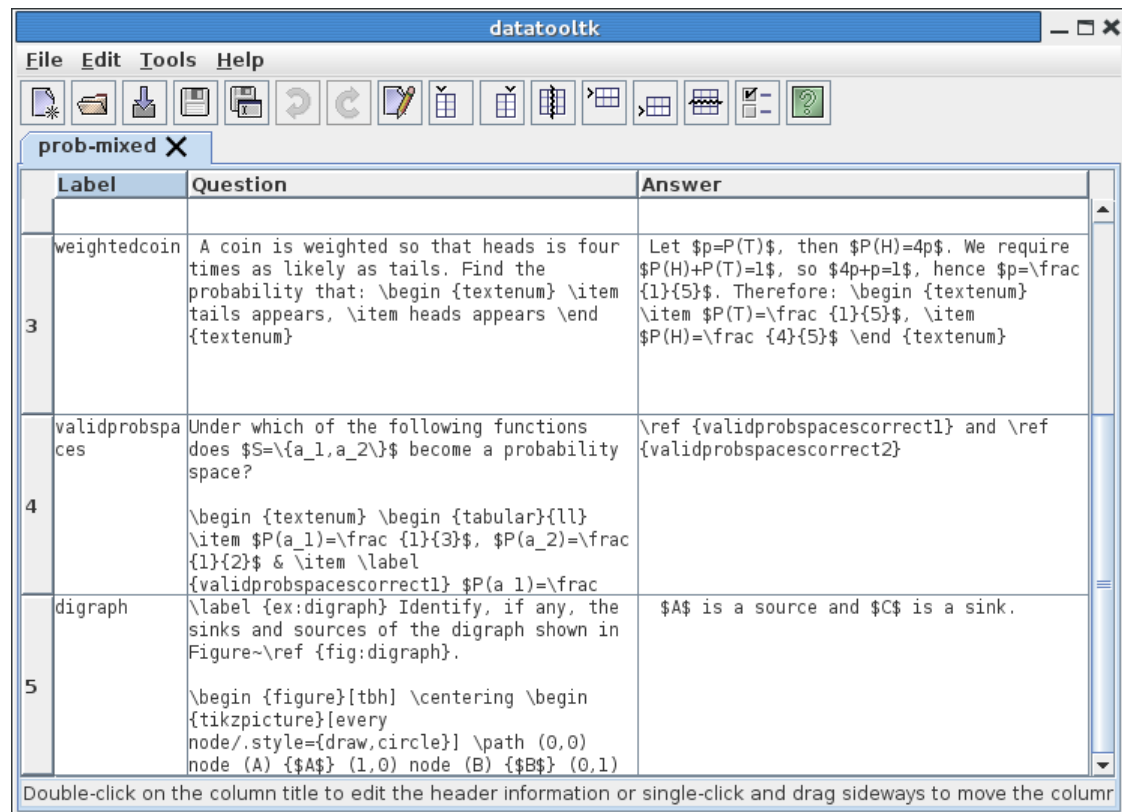
```

```

\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.



	Label	Question	Answer
3	weightedcoin	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}	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} \item $P(T)=\frac{1}{5}$, \item $P(H)=\frac{4}{5}$ \end {textenum}
4	validprobspaces	Under which of the following functions does $S=\{a_1,a_2\}$ become a probability space? \begin {textenum} \begin {tabular}{ll} \item $P(a_1)=\frac{1}{3}$, $P(a_2)=\frac{1}{2}$ & \item \label {validprobspacescorrect1} $P(a_1)=\frac{1}{3}$ \end {tabular} \end {textenum}	\ref {validprobspacescorrect1} and \ref {validprobspacescorrect2}
5	digraph	\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) {\math A} (1,0) node (B) {\math B} (0,1)	A is a source and C is a sink.

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

Related topics: [shuffling a database](#) and [sorting and shuffling a database](#).

5 Application Properties

When `datatooltk` is run, either in batch or **GUI** mode, the application settings are read in from the 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 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 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 5.1)

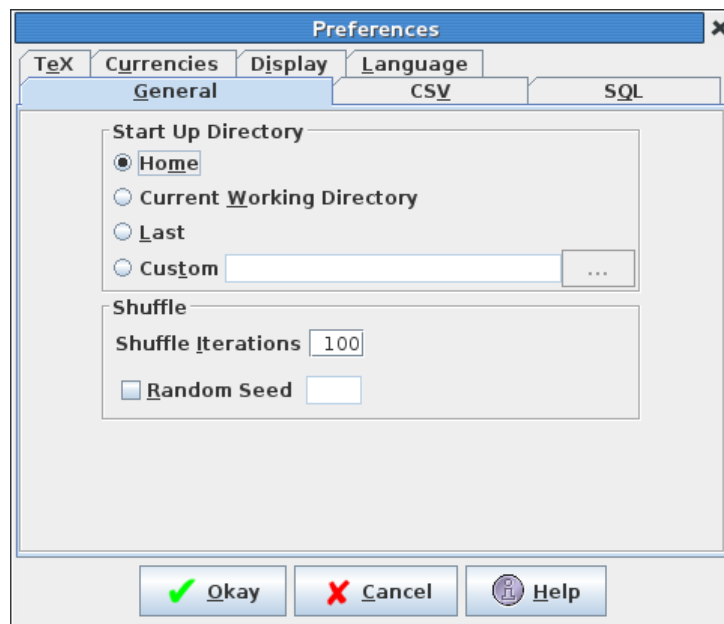


Figure 5.1: General Tab

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 5.2)

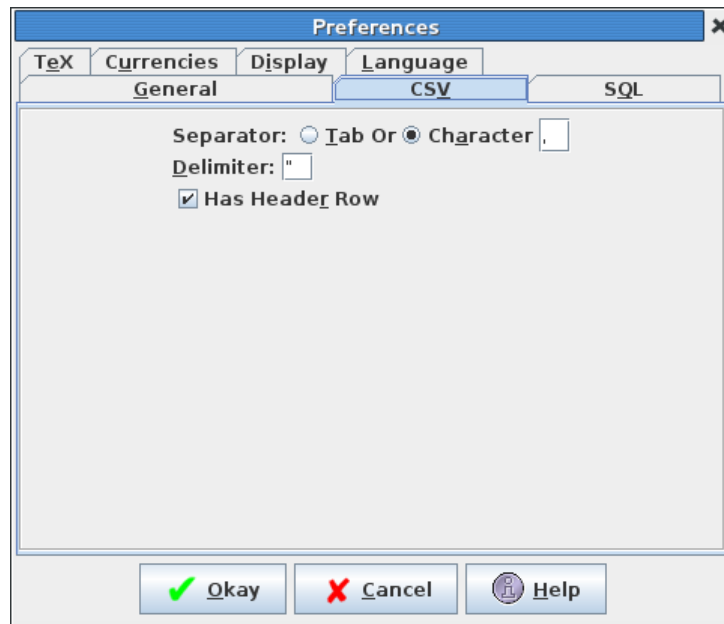


Figure 5.2: CSV Tab

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 5.3)

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

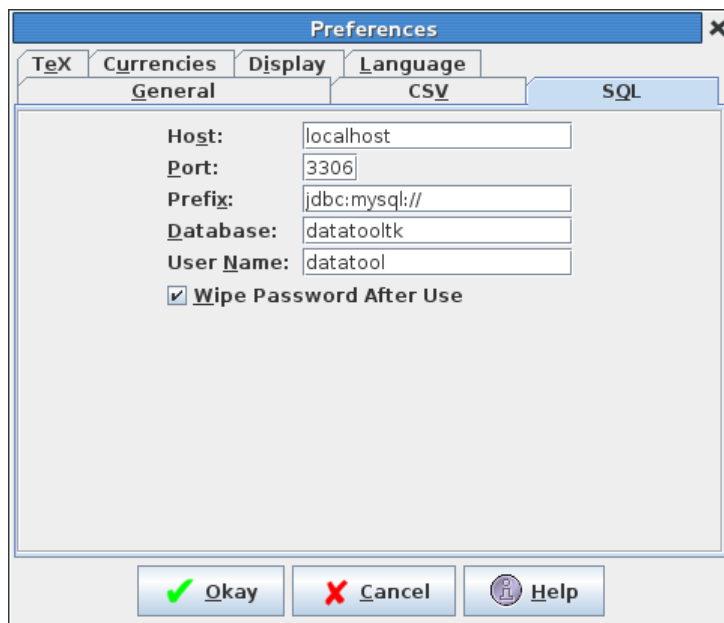


Figure 5.3: SQL Tab

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 5.4)

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 5.5.

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

\LaTeX 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 5.6)

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`.

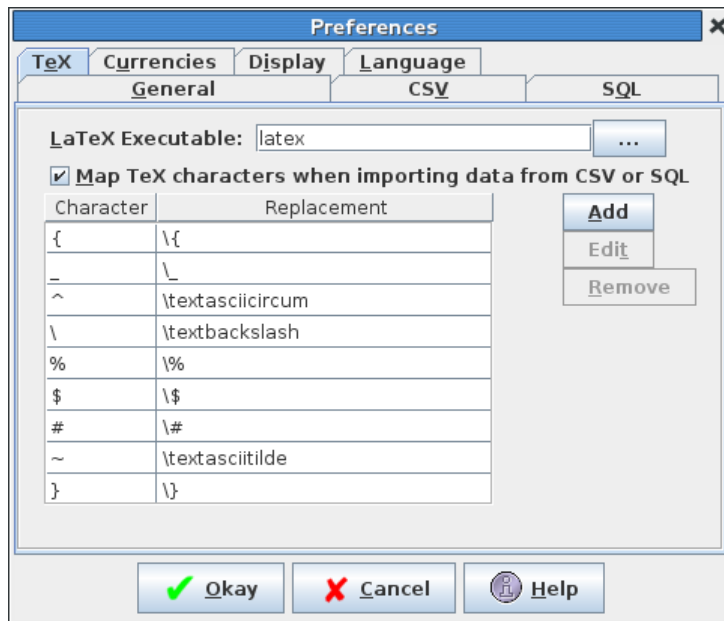


Figure 5.4: TeX Tab

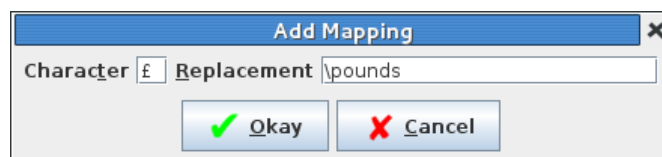


Figure 5.5: Add Mapping Dialog

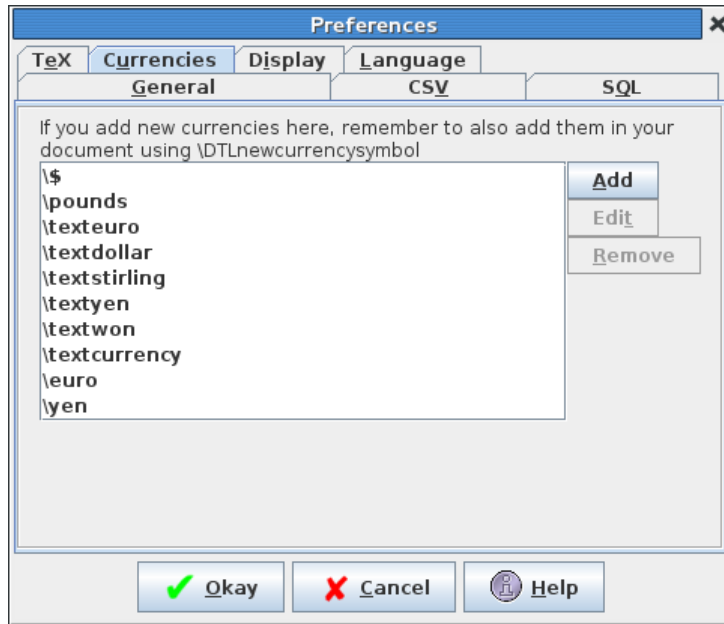


Figure 5.6: Currencies Tab

Display (Figure 5.7)

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 5.8)

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.

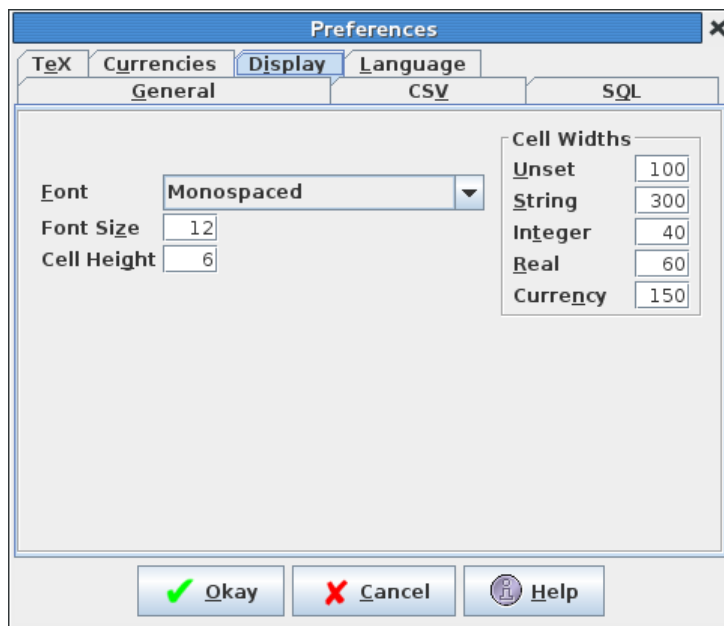


Figure 5.7: Display Tab



Figure 5.8: Language Tab

6 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

current working directory The directory in which the application was started. [32](#)

MySQL An open source SQL database. [5](#), [26](#), [32](#)

Acronyms

CSV comma-separated values. 3–6, 25, 26, 32, 33

GUI graphical user interface. 3, 5, 12, 14, 25, 26, 28, 31, 35

SQL structured query language. 3–6, 13, 25–27, 32, 33

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