

# luatbls

## Create, modify, and use Lua tables from within LaTeX

Kale Ewasiuk (kalekje@gmail.com)

2024-12-31

### Introduction

This package provides a Lua-table interface based on the `luakeys` package:

<https://mirror.quantum5.ca/CTAN/macros/luatex/generic/luakeys/luakeys.pdf>

A global table called `luatbls` is created by loading this package. This table contains all user-defined tables as well as internal package functions and settings. User tables are stored directly under the module's table, so you can access a table within Lua by using: `luatbls['mytable']` or `luatbls.mytable`. Further, `luatbls` can be called directly to obtain a table item by `luatbls'i'`, where `i` is a “flexible” indexing system discussed in the next paragraphs.

If you want to change the `luakeys` global parser options, you can adjust them by:

```
\directlua {luatbls._luakeys.opts.OPTION = VALUE}
```

For debugging, set `\directlua {luatbls._debug = true}`

In this documentation, arguments are represented as follows:

`t` : table name. If none provided, the most recent is used.

`k` : a string key.

`n` : an integer index.

`v` : a value.

`i` : the flexible indexer to get a single item.

`I` : the flexible indexer to get a single or multiple items.

`keyval` : a key-value string for the table. Standalone values are set to boolean.

`csv` : a key-value string where standalone values are parsed as array-like.

There are a few ways to use the index (placeholder `i`).

`t.k` where `t` is the table name and `k` is a string key (i.e. uses `luatbls.t.k`),

`t/n` where `n` is an integer index (i.e. uses `t.k[n]`); note that negative indexes are allowed where `-1` is the last element. Alternatively, `t` and the symbol can be omitted, and simply pass the element without the table name as a prefix, where the assumed table is the last one that was created or changed to (i.e. the most ‘recent’ table). In this case, passing a number will assume an integer index.

To use a `I`, you can explicitly select tables and groups of keys by `t|seq`, or `t.k`, or `t/n`. If no `|./` is provided, the recent table is used and the argument is assumed to be a sequence of keys. `penlightplus`'s command `penlight.seq.tbltrain()` syntax is used for `sequences`. To summarize what `seq` can be, a comma-separated list of numbers or keys are used to specify which elements are iterated over. NumPy-like slicing is possibly with `:` to choose integer ranges. If `*` is provided, all string keys are iterated. If `I` is entirely blank, all elements of the recent table are used, which is equivalent to `t|*,:.`

Note: nested tables are currently not fully supported. Some variations of commands have an E suffix which indicates that nested elements can be explicitly indexed. The table name must be specified, and the validity of table names and keys are not checked.

The `tbl` commands fully expand the `t`, `k`, `n`, `i`, and `I` arguments. However a variation with an `N`-appended is usually provided which will not expand the `v`, `keyval`, or `csv` args.

## Creating Tables

`\tblnew {t}` declares a new table with name `t`

`\tblchg {t}` changes the 'recent' table

`\tblfrkv {t}{keyval}[opts]` new table from key-vals using `luakeys`

`\tblfrkvN {t}{keyval}[opts]` does not expand key-val string `luakeys`

`\tblkvundefcheck` will throw an error if you use define a table from key-values and use a key that was not specified in the `luakeys` parse options via `opts.defaults` or `opts.defs`.

`\tblfrcsv {t}{csv}[opts]` a shorthand `\tblfrkv {t}{csv}[naked_as_value=true,opts]`, a good way to convert a comma-separated list to an array

`\tblfrcsvN {t}{csv}[opts]` same as above, but the `csv` is not expanded.

## Setting, getting, and modifying

`\tblset {i}{v}` sets a value of the table/index `i` to `v`

`\tblsetN {i}{v}` same as above, but the value is not expanded.

`\tblget {i}` gets the value and `tex.sprint()`s it

`\tblgetE {t.k}` An 'explicit' version of `tbl` get. Use this for nested tables. The `tbl` name must be specified. The validity of table names and keys are not checked.

```

1  \tblfrkv{my}{a,b,c,first=john,last=←
    smith}%
2      [defaults={x=0,i=one,n=false,y=yes←      true
    }]                                          tRuE!!
3  \tblget{my.a}\\                             0
4  \tblset{a}{tRuE!!}                         0
5  \tblget{a}\\                               val
6  \tblget{my.x}\\                             VAL
7  \tblget{.x}\\
8  \tbladd{my.newkey}{val}\tblget{newkey}←
    }\\
9  \tbladd{nk}{VAL}\tblget{nk}\\

1  \tblfrcsv{EX}{x={1,2,{1,2,3}},name=me}      1
2  \tblgetE{EX.x[1]}\\                         3
3  \tblgetE{EX.x[3][3]}\\                     me
4  \tblgetE{EX.name}\\

```

`\tbladd {i}{v}` add a new value to a table using index method

`\tbladdN {i}{v}` above, but don't expand the value argument

`\tblapp {t}{v}` append a value (integer-wise) to a table

`\tblappN {t}{v}`

`\tblupd {t}{keyval}` update a table with more `keyvals`

`\tblupdN {t}{keyval}`

`\tblcon {t}{csv}` concatenate array-style `csv` at the end of `t`

`\tblconN {t}{csv}`

## Conditionals

`\tblif {i}{tr}[fa]` runs code `tr` if the item is true else `fa`

`\tblifv {i}{tr}[fa]` runs code `tr` if the item is truth-y (using `pl.hasval`) else `fa`

`\tblifeq {i}{v}{tr}[fa]` checks the equivalency of `i` to a user-specified value. Quotes must be used to indicate strings.

```
1 \tblfrcsv{x}{n=false,y=true,          FA
2   k0="",kv=val,k2=6}                  TR
3 \tblif{n}{tr}[FA]\\                   FA
4 \tblif{k0}{TR}[fa]\\                   TR
5 \tblifv{k0}{tr}[FA]\\                 TR
6 \tblifeq{kv}{'val'}{TR}[fa]\\         TR
7 \tblifeq{k2}{6}{TR}[fa]\\
```

## Iterating

`\tblfor {I}{template}` and `\tblforN` By default, iterates over all elements (`seq = *,:`), but arbitrary indices/keys can be iterated over as per `penlight.seq.tbltrain` syntax. `<k>` and `<v>` are placeholders in the template that are replaced by the keys and vals and can be changed by: `\luadirect {luatbls._tblv = '<v>'}`

If you want to iterate over a second-level tabel, you must use:

`\tblforE` and `\tblforEN` , and explicitly provide the table and element.

```
1 \tblfrcsv{x}{n1,k1=v1,n2,n3,n4,      1> 1 = n1; 2 = n2; 3 = n3; 4 = n4; 5 = n5; 6 = n6;
2   k2=v2,k3=v3,n5,n6}                 2> k2 = v2; k1 = v1; k3 = v3;
3 1> \tblfor{:}{<k> = <v>; }\\          3> 1 = n1; k2 = v2; k1 = v1; k3 = v3; 2 = n2; 4 = n4;
4 2> \tblfor*}{<k> = <v>; }\\          6 = n6;
5 3> \tblfor{1,*,2::2}{<k> = <v>; }\\   4> 1 = n1; k2 = v2; k1 = v1; k3 = v3; 2 = n2; 4 = n4;
6 4> \tblfor{ x | 1,*,2::2}{<k> = <v>; 6 = n6;
   }\\                                  5> 1 = a; 2 = b; 3 = c;
7 \tblfrcsv{x}{a,{a,b,c}}
8 5> \tblforE{x[2]}{<k> = <v>; }
```

## Definitions

`\tbldef {i}[cs]` pushes the value to macro `\cs`. If `cs` is not provided, a default `cs` name of `dtbl<t><k>` is used.

`\tblgdef {i}[cs]` like above but global definition is used.

`\tbldefs {I}[cspfx]` and `\tblgdefs {I}[cspfx]` defines items in table `t` (use recent if blank) with format `<cspfx><key>` where `cspfx` is a command sequence prefix. If `cspfx` is blank, keys will be defined as `dtbl<t><k>`. The default `cspfx` is changed by:

`\luadirect {luatbls._cspfx = 'dtbl'}`

Numerical keys are converted to capital letters: 1->A, 2->B. It is recommended that tables and keys contain letters only for predictable behaviour when using this feature.

If the value of a `tbl`'s key is a table, every element in that table is defined, and the keys of that nested table is appended to the `cs`: `dtbl<t><k1><k2>` (noting that numbers are converted to letters).

```
1 \tblfrcsv{EX}{n1,kA=v1,n2,n3,n4,
2         kB=v2,kC=v3,n5,n6}
3 1>\tbldef{kA}{mycs}\mycs\tbldef{kA}{}\leftrightarrow 1>v1v1
         dtblEXkA\ \                                2>n1
4 2> \tbldef{EX/1}{}\dtblEXA
```

```
1 \tblfrcsv{EX}{x={1,2,3}}
2 1>\tbldef{x}{mycs}\mycsA, \mycsB \ \              1>1, 2
3 2>\tbldefs{}\dtblEXxA, \dtblEXxB                  2>1, 2
```

`\tbldefxy {i}[cspfx]` splits the value of item by space, and creates two definitions `<cspfx>x` and `<cspfx>y`. This might be useful for passing and using `tikz` coordinates, for example `xy=0 5`. An error is thrown if the values are non-numeric.

```
1 \tblfrkv{EX}{coords=12 34,other}
2 \tbldefxy{coords}[d]\dx, \dy \ \                  12, 34
3 \tbldefxy{coords}\dtblEXcoordsx, \leftrightarrow 12, 34
         dtblEXcoordsy \ \
```

## Utilities

`\tblapply {I}{func1(<v>,x,y)|:func2}[newtable]` apply a Lua function(s).

If `newtable` is provided, a new table is created (and made the recent table) and the original table is preserved.

The `.`, `/` or `|` indexer may be used to apply a function to a single value or group of keys. Multiple functions can be applied sequentially, separated by `|`.

An arbitrary global function (including additional arguments) can be used, but if a function is prefixed with a `:`, the class method will be called. The `stringx` and `tablex` methods from `penlight` are used depending on the value's type. See:

<https://lunarmodules.github.io/Penlight/>

Arguments can be specified with round brackets, where `<v>` and `<k>` are used as a placeholder for the values and keys. If no arguments are passed, it is assumed that the value is the only argument. Note that `luakeys` parses the args, so quotes are not needed around strings for the args.

```

1 \tblfrcsv{ex}{{a, b, c}}
2 \tblapply{}{:concat(<v>,-) | :upper}[←
  new]
3 1> \tblgetE{ex}[1][1]]\\
4 2> \tblget{new/1}\\
5 \tblfrcsv{ex}{HelloWorld}
6 \tblapply{}{string.sub(<v>,2,-5)}[new]
7 3> \tblget{new/1}

```

```

1> a
2> A-B-C
3> elloW

```

`\tblprt {t}` pretty-print the table in console. Using `\tblprt *{}` will terminate the LaTeX program immediately after and issue an error, which could be useful for debugging.

## An Example

```

1 \NewDocumentCommand{\Exampletbl}{m}{
2   \tblfrcsv{ex}{{#1}[defaults={sal=←
  Hello}]}
3   %\tblkvundefcheck
4   \tblapply{ex.auth}{:list2comma}
5   \tblget{sal}, \tblget{auth}! Thank←
  you for writing such a great ←
  novel.
6   My favorite parts were:
7   \begin{description}
8     \tblforEN{ex.chaps}{\item[<k>]←
  <v> }
9   \end{description}
10  It was also very cool to learn ←
  that
11  \tblgetE{ex.num[1]}*\tblgetE{ex.←
  num[2]}=
12  \luadirect{tex.sprint(tostring(←
  luatbls.ex.num[1]*luatbls.ex.←
  num[2]))}
13 }
14 \Exampletbl{auth={You,Me,Dupree},
15   chaps={intro=very enticing, climax←
  =thrilling, finale=what a ←
  twist!}}
16   num={12,13}
17 }

```

Hello, You, Me, and Dupree! Thank you for writing such a great novel. My favorite parts were:

**climax** thrilling

**finale** what a twist!

**intro** very enticing

It was also very cool to learn that  $12*13= 156$