ViLaTaC, a very flexible, easy to use table creator

Try out the following examples. Mark the lines between BEGIN TABLE and END TABLE in visual mode. Change to normal mode and type :TAB. See what happens. Write a caption, change to the label field typing <C-j> and give it a label name. You must convert all tables before running LaTeX.

One header line, continuous midrule, three body lines, three columns The first line defines the header. The font is fixed in the vilatac script. It can be changed there. The columns are separated by "&" signs. The second line is a midrule. It is defined by the "-" sign and goes from the first to the third column. The lines below the midrule are table body lines. Their font is also fixed in the vilatac script.

Table 1: Example 1

animal	weight	appetite
dog	25	hoggish
cat	303	gourmet
pig	80	eats everything

Two header lines, midrules for each column, two columns in math mode Now there are two header lines. The second line has a multicolumn definition. The ":2" tells, that it should cover the next two columns. They are in math mode, see the "$" sign at the end. **The column formati must be defined in the first line.** The last two columns of the second header line are defined as multicolumns as well in order to protect them from math mode. This is important to know. **If a header is in math mode it must be protected by a multicolumn.** Columns in math mode are right aligned, while text columns are left aligned. Header lines are always left aligned. The midrule is interrupted between the first and the second column.

Table 2: Example 2

animal	characteristics	
	weight	appetite
dog	25	∞
cat	303	$\lim_{\text{delicious}\to\text{saturated}}$
pig	80	$\int$ food

Individual column formatting You can define other column types with the dcolumn package, see the
newcolumn commands above. Each column can be formatted individually independend of the first header line. E.g. in the example above the first two columns are formatted in

math mode. In the following table the columns are defined before the first header line. If the first line starts with a colon, ViLaTaC recognizes it as command line to format the columns. In this case the first column uses the decimal point separator while the last two lines use a comma separator.

Table 3: Example 3

Decimal separators		**Decimal separator**
point	**comma**	**comma**
1	2	3
1.1	,2	3,3
1.11	,22	3,33

Conclusion That was easy! Wasn't it? You see, ViLaTaC is very flexible although its syntax is absolutely minimalistic. Of course, this minimalism has some constraints. Nevertheless, ViLaTaC can be used in many cases, even for tables that exceed ViLaTaC's limitations. Let's look at the table 4.

Table 4: Example 4

First headerline		
Subheader 1	Subheader 2	Subheader 3
1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3

The subheaders are recognized as body lines, although they are headerlines. ViLaTaC does not know that. But you use define the midrules like in table 5 and move the cmidrule line after conversion. This is still a big simplification.

Table 5: Example 5

First headerline		
Subheader 1	**Subheader 2**	**Subheader 3**
1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3