

# rowmantic

A Typst package for row-wise table editing

**version** 0.4.0  
**import as** `#import "preview/rowmantic:0.4.0"`  
**typst universe** <https://typst.app/universe/package/rowmantic>  
**repository** <https://github.com/typst-community/rowmantic>

## 1 Introduction

The idea is a row-oriented way to input tables, with just a little less syntactical overhead than the usual `table` function in Typst.

The `rowtable` function takes a markup block [...] per row, and the markup is split internally<sup>1</sup> on a delimiter which is `&` by default. In all other aspects it works like the usual `table` function, with `stroke`, `fill`, `hline` and so on.

Input:	<code>rowtable(   [A &amp; B],   [C &amp; D &amp; E])</code>	<table><tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td></tr></table>	A	B		C	D	E
A	B							
C	D	E						
Equivalent table:	<code>table(columns: 3,   [A], [B], [],   [C], [D], [E])</code>							

For improved table ergonomics, the longest row determines the number of columns, and all rows are effectively completed so that they are of full length. This creates a better editing experience, as rows and columns can be filled out gradually.

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<sup>1</sup>But shallowly - not looking into styled or nested content

## 2 Examples

### 2.1 Introductory Examples

#### Document Result

goá	iáu-boē	koat-tēng	tang-sî	boeh	tng-khi
goa <sup>1</sup>	iau <sup>1</sup> -boe <sup>3</sup>	koat <sup>2</sup> -teng <sup>3</sup>	tang <sup>7</sup> -si <sup>5</sup>	boeh <sup>2</sup>	tng <sup>1</sup> -khi <sup>3</sup>
goa <sup>2</sup>	iau <sup>2</sup> -boe <sup>7</sup>	koat <sup>4</sup> -teng <sup>7</sup>	tang <sup>1</sup> -si <sup>5</sup>	boeh <sup>4</sup>	tng <sup>2</sup> -khi <sup>3</sup>
I	not-yet	decide	when	want	return.

"I have not yet decided when I shall return."

#### Input

```
#import "@preview/rowmantic:0.4.0": rowtable, expandcell
#{
  show regex("\d"): super.with(size: 0.8em, typographic: false)
  show table.cell: it => { set text(size: 0.9em) if it.y >= 1; it }
  show table.cell.where(y: 0): emph
  rowtable(
    separator: ",", // configurable separator
    stroke: none, // pass through table arguments, hlines, cells et.c.
    inset: (x: 0em),
    column-gutter: 0.9em,
    // rows are filled to be equal length after collecting cells
    [goá, iáu-boē, koat-tēng, tang-sî, boeh, tng-khi ],
    [goa1, iau1-boe3, koat2-teng3, tang7-si5, boeh2, tng1-khi3 ],
    [goa2, iau2-boe7, koat4-teng7, tang1-si5, boeh4, tng2-khi3 ],
    [I, not-yet, decide, when, want, return. ],
    table.hline(),
    // cell that fills remainder of row
    expandcell["I have not yet decided when I shall return."],
  )
}
```

Example from Wikipedia<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interlinear\\_gloss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interlinear_gloss)

## Document Result

Term	Explanation	Assumptions
X	Explanatory variables	Non-random
Y	$Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ observations	<b>Pairwise independent</b>
$\beta$	Model parameters	

## Input

```
#import "@preview/rowmantic:0.4.0": rowtable
#{
  set table(stroke: none, inset: 0.8em)
  set table.hline(stroke: 0.5pt)
  show table.cell.where(y: 0): strong
  show table.cell.where(x: 0): x => math.bold(math.uptight(x))
  rowtable(
    table.hline(),
    table.header([Term & Explanation & Assumptions ]),
    table.hline(),
    [$X$ & Explanatory variables & Non-random ],
    [$Y$ & $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ observations & *Pairwise independent*],
    [$beta$ & Model parameters & ],
    table.hline(),
  )
}
```

## 2.2 Escaping and Various Examples

Document Result

Emphasis &	Strong &	Literal &	Escape the separator with \&
$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx$	$\int_0^{\infty} f(t) e^{-st} dt$	$X\&Y$	Display equations as a row
Figure 1: Top <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">A</div>	See Figure 1 & Figure 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">B</div> Figure 2: Bot	<b>set</b> rules need to be enclosed so that they don't try to style the separator itself.
1. A 2. B	<b>A</b> a <b>B</b> b	<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">A</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">B</div>	Lists and other larger elements can be embedded as usual.
A	B	C	Colorfully filled cells

Input

```
#rowtable(
  align: horizon,
  column-width: 1fr,
  row-filler: [N/A],
  stroke: (x, y) => if x == 3 { none } else { 0.5pt },
  [_Emphasis & & *Strong &* & Literal \& & Escape the separator with `\"&`],
  $ integral_{-oo}^oo f(x) thin d x & integral_0^oo f(t) thin e^{(-s t)} thin d t
  & X \& Y & "Display equations" \ "as a row" $,
  [
    #{
      set figure.caption(position: top)
      [#figure(rect[A], caption: "Top")<fig1>]
    }
    &
    See @fig1 \& @fig2
    &
    [#figure(rect[B], caption: "Bot")<fig2>]
    &
    ````typc set```` rules need to be enclosed so that they don't try
    to style the separator itself.
  ],
  [
    + A
    + B
    &
    / A: a
    / B: b
    & #rowtable([A & B])
    & Lists and other larger elements can be embedded as usual.
  ],
  [ #table.cell(fill: yellow)[A] & #table.cell(fill: orange)[B] &
    #table.cell(fill: red)[C] & Colorfully filled cells ],
)
```

## 2.3 Other Separators

The cell separator is specified as a string with the `separator` argument. it can be more than a single character, like in this example with double semicolon:

*Document Result*

First	Second; Third
Fourth	This is a literal ;; and ; and , and &

*Input*

```
#rowtable(  
  separator: ";;",  
  stroke: 0.5pt,  
  [First    ;; Second; Third ],  
  [Fourth   ;; This is a literal \;;\; and ; and , and & ],  
)
```

Using a space as a separator has special behaviour – because of how spaces are treated in Typst markup: multiple spaces, tabs, newlines are all collapsed into just whitespace. Using a space as separator splits on any such whitespace:

*Document Result*

First	Second	Third (3rd)
Fourth	Fifth	Sixth (6th)

*Input*

```
#rowtable(  
  separator: " ",  
  stroke: 0.5pt,  
  [First Second Third~(3rd)],  
  [Fourth Fifth Sixth~(6th)],  
)
```

The recommended way to insert a literal space in this case is to use `~`.

## 2.4 Using Other Table Functions

Use the `table` argument to let `rowtable` pass its result to a different table function rather than the standard one, for example `pillar.table` (shown below) or `zero.ztable`.

*Document Result*

Isotope	Z	N	Half-life	Mass (Da)	Abundance (%)
<sup>107</sup> Ag	47	60	Stable	106.905 091 5(26)	51.839 ± 0.008
<sup>109</sup> Ag	47	62	Stable	108.904 755 8(14)	48.161 ± 0.008

*Input*

```
#import "@preview/pillar:0.3.3"
#set text(font: "Libertinus Serif")
#show table.cell.where(y: 0): strong
#rowtable(
  separator: ",",
  table: pillar.table,
  cols: "rCCCCC",
  format: (auto, ) * 4 + ((uncertainty-mode: "compact"), auto),
  column-gutter: (0.5em, 0pt),
  stroke: (x, y) => if y == 0 { (bottom: 0.75pt) },
  table.header(
    [Isotope,      Z,  N,  Half-life,  Mass (Da),      Abundance (%) ]),
  [#super[107]Ag, 47, 60, Stable,      106.9050915(26), 51.839(8) ],
  [#super[109]Ag, 47, 62, Stable,      108.9047558(14), 48.161(8) ],
)
```

## 2.5 Table Cells, rowspan and colspan

- colspan: a cell spans multiple columns
- rowspan: a cell spans multiple rows

Table cells can be customized with the usual properties (stroke, fill, etc.) but also with colspan and rowspan. It's important to include the cells inline inside the rows, i.e like this:

*Document Result*

1	2	3	4
A	B	Extra Wide	

*Input*

```
#let cell = table.cell
#rowtable(
  separator: ",",
  column-width: 3em, rows: 3em,
  [1, 2, 3, #cell(fill: yellow)[4]],
  [A, B, #cell(colspan: 2, stroke: 2pt)[Extra Wide]],
)
```

where [...] is the markup for the whole row. Then automatic row length computations will continue to work correctly.

The column span is straightforward, because it's contained in the row, but there is also support for rowspan, seen below. The rows that follow take the rowspan-reserved space into account when computing their effective length.

*Document Result*

Rs2, Cs2		1	2	Rs3	4
		expandc.			Rs3
e	f	g	h		
expandcell				ijk	

*Input*

```
#show table.cell: it => if it.colspan + it.rowspan > 2 { strong(it) } else { it }
#let cell = table.cell
#rowtable(
  separator: ",",
  column-width: 2.5em, rows: 2.5em,
  inset: 0.25em,
  [#cell(rowspan: 2, colspan: 2)[Rs2, Cs2], 1, 2, #cell(rowspan: 3)[Rs3], 4],
  [#expandcell[expandc.], #cell(rowspan: 3)[Rs3]],
  [e, f, g, h],
  [#expandcell[expandcell], ijk],
)
```

## 2.6 The row Function

The `row` function can be used to transform or style a whole row at a time. For example, `row([a & b & c], map: strong)` styles the row using **strong**. The row function is entirely optional. It has three optional arguments:

- `map` - apply a function to each element
- `imap` - apply a function to each element, and also receive its index
- `cell` - set a dictionary of cell properties, e.g. `fill` and `stroke` on the whole row.

It is recommended to use the style `row([...], map: ..)` with the row markup as the first argument so that rows align well to each other.

**Example:** Use `map` or `imap` to transform or style the cells of a row.

*Document Result*

0	1	2	3	4	5
$\alpha^0$	$\beta^1$	$\gamma^2$	$\delta^3$	$\epsilon^4$	$\zeta^5$
a	b	c	d	e	f

*Input*

```
#import "@preview/rowmantic:0.4.0": rowtable, row
/// Draw cell with a color between `from` and `to`
#let colorcells(index, elt, from: yellow, to: red, step: 20%) = {
  let fr = index * step
  let fill = color.mix((to, fr), (from, 100% - fr)).lighten(50%)
  table.cell(fill: fill, elt)
}
#rowtable(
  separator: ",", align: center, inset: 0.7em,
  row([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5], map: strong),
  row($alpha, beta, gamma, delta, epsilon, zeta$, imap: (idx, elt) => $elt^idx$),
  row([a, b, c, d, e, f], imap: colorcells),
)
```

**Example:** Use `map` to highlight empty entries, and `cell` to set background color.

*Document Result*

A		C		E	F
G	H		J	K	

*Input*

```
/// Draw cell with thick stroke if not empty, and red background if empty
#let markempty(elt) = {
  if elt != [] and elt != none {
    table.cell(stroke: 2pt, elt)
  } else {
    table.cell(fill: red.lighten(80%), elt)
  }
}
#rowtable(
  separator: "&", align: center, inset: 0.7em,
  row([ A & & C & & E & F ], map: markempty),
  row([ G & H & & J & K & ], map: markempty),
  row([ ~ & ], cell: (fill: gray)),
)
```



## 2.7 Equations

Equations can be treated as rows by themselves, and they split on & by default (but it is configurable). Note that & can be escaped in equations, but other separator symbols are not as easy to escape<sup>3</sup>.

*Document Result*

A	B	C	D	E
1	$x$	$x^2$	$\sum_i^n$	inline equation row
1	$x$	$x^2$	$\sum_i^n$	block equation row
1	$x$	$x^2$	$\sum_i^n$	markup with embedded equations row

*Input*

```
#rowtable(
  align: center + horizon,
  stroke: (x, y) => (bottom: int(y == 0) * 1pt),
  separator: ",", // regular sep
  separator-eq: &$, // equation sep
  [A, B, C, D, E],
  $1 & x & x^2 & sum_i^n & #[inline equation row]$,
  $ 1 & x & x^2 & sum_i^n & #[block equation row] $,
  [$1$, $x$, $x^2$, $ sum_i^n $, markup with embedded \ equations row],
)
```

### 2.7.1 Long Division

This example shows one way to set up long division. In this case it's polynomial division, computing the result  $x^3 + x + 1 = (x^2 - x + 2)(x + 1) - 1$ . For this example, the colorful annotations add the most of the complexity. `rowtable` contributes to the example by splitting equations on the separator and filling rows to be equal length.

*Document Result*

Quotient →  $x^2 - x + 2$

Numerator  $x^3 + 0x^2 + x + 1$

Denominator  $x + 1$

Division steps:

$$\begin{array}{r}
x^2 - x + 2 \\
x^3 + 0x^2 + x + 1 \\
\hline
(-) x^3 - x^2 \\
\hline
-x^2 + x + 1 \\
(-) -x^2 + x \\
\hline
2x + 1 \\
(-) 2x + 2 \\
\hline
-1
\end{array}$$

Remainder  $-1$

<sup>3</sup>The escape for & is just \&, for other separators like for example the comma a box or ", " is used to escape them.

## Input

```
#import "@preview/mannot:0.3.0": annot, mark

/// Set up strokes and gutter for long division table
#let longdiv(..args, table: std.table) = {
  let cols = args.at("columns")
  let st = std.stroke(args.at("stroke", default: black))
  let stroke = (x, y) => (
    left: if x == cols - 1 and y == 1 { st },
    bottom: if (
      // Add top and bottom stroke to denominator cell
      y == 1 and x == cols - 1
      // Add bottom stroke every two rows (calc.even check),
      // but for one less column each time
      or y >= 1 and x < cols - 1 and calc.even(y) and x + 1 >= y / 2
    ) {
      st
    }
  )
  table(..args,
    column-gutter: (0pt,) * (cols - 2) + (1.5em, ),
    stroke: stroke,
    std.table.hline(y: 1, stroke: st))
}

// Set up marking functions and table cell backgrounds
#let mark = mark.with(outset: (top: 0em, rest: 0.50em))
#let mkq(..args) = table.cell(fill: luma(70%), mark(..args))
#let mkn(..args) = table.cell(fill: orange.lighten(50%), mark(..args))
#let mkdenom(it) = table.cell(fill: blue.lighten(70%), mark(tag: <denom>, it))
#let mkrem(it) = table.cell(fill: red.lighten(50%), mark(tag: <rem>, it))

#let um = math.class("unary", math.minus) // unary minus
#let leftset(x) = box(place(dx: -0.3em, right + bottom, $x$))
#let rm = math.class("unary", leftset($(-)$)) // row minus

#show: block.with(breakable: false)
#rowtable(
  align: right,
  table: longdiv.with(stroke: 1.5pt),
  inset: 0.55em,
  $mkq(x^2, tag: #<ans>) & mkq(um x) & mkq(2) & $,
  $mkn(x^3) & mkn(.) & mkn(x) & mkn(1, tag: #<num>) & mkdenom(x + 1)$,
  $rm x^3 & x^2$,

  $ & -x^2 & & x$,
  $ & rm -x^2 & & -x$,

  $ & & 2x & 1$,
  $ & & rm 2x & 2$,

  $ & & & mkrem(um 1)$,
)
#annot(<ans>, pos: left + horizon, dx: -2em, dy: -0em, annot-text-props: (fill:
black, size: 0.75em))[Quotient]
#annot(<denom>, pos: right + bottom, dy: 1.5em, dx: -1.0em)[Denominator]
#annot(<num>, pos: right + top, dy: -2.0em, dx: 1.5em)[Numerator]
#annot(<rem>, pos: right + horizon, dy: 0em, dx: 2em)[Remainder]
```

## 2.7.2 Equations with Alignment

Use a different separator than & to use equations with alignment.

*Document Result*

Matrix Form	Equation System Form
$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$	(1st) $y_1 = a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2$ (2nd) $y_2 = a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2$

*Input*

```
#set math.mat(delim: "[")
#rowtable(
  separator: ";",
  stroke: (x, y) => (bottom: int(y == 0) * 1pt),
  [Matrix Form; Equation System Form],
  $
    mat(y_1; y_2) = mat(a_11, a_12; a_21, a_22) mat(x_1; x_2)
  ;
  "(1st)" y_1 &= a_11 x_1 &+ a_12 x_2 \
  "(2nd)" y_2 &= a_21 x_1 &+ a_22 x_2 \
  $
)
```

## 2.7.3 Sizing Delimiters in Annotated Matrix

This example draws a matrix using rowtable and inserts iteratively sized delimiters in rowspan cells. Grid lines are drawn to show how the table is constructed.

*Document Result*

		$(k)$	$(l)$				
$(a)$	$\left[ \begin{array}{cc} n & \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \end{array} \right]$			$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \beta_0 \end{array} \right]$			
$(b)$	$\left[ \begin{array}{cc} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i & \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \end{array} \right]$			$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \beta_1 \end{array} \right]$			

*Input*

```
/// Measure a table's size
/// Successively remove display of each row
/// (first full table, then remove 0, then remove 0 and 1, and so on).
/// Returns an array of measurements which is a size profile of the array's rows
/// (or columns if `attr: "x"`)
#let measure-table(t, min: 0, max: 50, attr: "y") = {
  let wh = (x: "width", y: "height").at(attr)
  let result = ()
  for i in range(max) {
    let sz = measure({
      show table.cell: it => {
        if it.at(attr) < i { none } else { it }
      }
    })
  }
```

```

    t
  })
  result.push(sz)
  if i > min and (sz.at(wh) == 0pt or result.at(-2, default: none) == sz) {
    break
  }
}
result
}

/// Create an element using `func`; then measure it using `measure-func`
/// then create the final version of the element again using func, this
/// time with the size info from the first try.
#let measure-and-make(func, measure-func: measure-table) = context {
  func(measure-func(func(none)))
}

#measure-and-make(sizeinfo => {
  set text(size: 1.5em)
  let nrows = 2
  // use row height information from size profile with one row removed.
  let row = if sizeinfo != none { sizeinfo.at(1).height / nrows } else { 1em }
  let delimheight = row * 0.90 * nrows
  let delim(p) = table.cell(rowspan: nrows, $lr(#p, size: #delimheight)$, inset:
0em)
  let open = delim([\[])
  let close = delim([\]])
  rowtable(
    stroke: 0.10pt + blue,
    align: horizon,
    inset: 0.4em,
    $ & & & (k) & (l) &&& $,
    $ (a) & open & n & sum_(i=1)^n x_i & close & open & beta_0 & close $,
    $ (b) & sum_(i=1)^n x_i & sum_(i=1)^n x_i^2 & beta_1 $,
  )
})

```

### 3 Known Limitations

#### Properties/Behaviours

- ▶ A single *styled* item is not treated as a row, like this: [*\*0ne item\**]. Fix this by inserting a cell separator: [*\*0ne item\** & ].<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Table cells can be passed outside the rows, and this messes up the row length calculations. Avoid doing this.

#### Unimplemented

- ▶ Multi-row `table.header/footer` are not supported yet.
- ▶ `rowspan` is not supported in rows inside `table.header/footer`.
- ▶ `expandcell` can collide with rowspanned cells (if they are not placed along the left or right side of the table); use `colspan` as a workaround when necessary.
- ▶ `rowtable` does not properly support being used as a front end for `grid`.

---

<sup>4</sup>Only content sequences and text are treated as rows and split on separators. [*\*item\**] ends up being a strong element.

## 4 Function Reference

### 4.1 rowtable

Table which takes table cell inputs in rows.

Each row is passed as one markup block [...] which is split internally on the separator. Rows that are shorter than the longest row (or the configured columns) will be filled to be the same length as all other rows.

Rows can also be passed as equations ( $\$...\$$ ) and they are then split into cells by separator-eq.

Leading/trailing spaces are removed from each table element in rows. To preserve such spaces, use ~.

This function wraps the standard table function and passes through all its regular arguments.

Passing table.cell outside rows is possible but not recommended. Passing #table.cell[] inside a row, between separators, is supported and can be used with colspan >= 1 and/or rowspan >= 1. Successive rows will take rowspans into account when computing their length.

It is supported to input rows inside table.header and table.footer.

#### Parameters

```
rowtable(  
  separator: str,  
  separator-eq: none or auto or equation,  
  row-filler: none or content,  
  column-width: length relative fraction array,  
  table: function,  
  ..args: arguments  
) -> table content
```

#### separator str

Configurable cell separator in rows. Good choices are "&", ",", " or ";". Escape the separator using e.g. \&. As a special case " " will split on consecutive whitespace (one or more spaces, tabs or a newline). Additionally, using " " (two spaces) will only split on

Default: "&"

#### separator-eq none or auto or equation

Cell separator for equations, must be single symbol. By default depends on separator if possible otherwise falls back to  $\$5\$$ . Set to none to disable splitting equations.

Default: auto

#### row-filler none or content

Value used to fill rows that are too short.

Default: none

**column-width**    `length` or `relative` or `fraction` or `array`

Set column width without specifying number of columns. A single length is repeated for all columns. An array of lengths is repeated by extending with the last item.

Default: `none`

**table**    `function`

Table function to use to build the final table. Intended for use with table wrappers from other packages. (The function arguments can be used for argument pass-through.)

Default: `std.table`

**..args**    `arguments`

Rows like [A & B & C] and other positional or named table function parameters. Arguments to table pass through. A `columns` argument to the table is possible but not mandatory.

## 4.2 row-split

Take a sequence (content) and split it into an array by the given separator. It's split only shallowly, not deeply; the separators must exist in the uppermost sequence's content.

### Parameters

```
row-split(  
  it: content,  
  sep: str,  
  strip-space: bool  
) -> array
```

**it**    `content`

Text or sequence or other content

**sep**    `str`

Separator

Default: `"&"`

**strip-space**    `bool`

Remove leading/trailing spaces from split sequences

Default: `true`

## 4.3 expandcell

An `expandcell` is a `table.cell` that expands its `colspan` to available width. The `expandcell` can be passed alone as a whole row, or should be placed inside a row markup block to form part of a row.

### Parameters

```
expandcell(  
  body: content,  
  ..args: arguments  
) -> content
```

**body** `content`

Cell body

**..args** `arguments`

`table.cell` arguments, except `colspan` and `rowspan` which are not permitted.

## 4.4 row

Style a whole row at once

All arguments are optional. Only one of `map` or `imap` can be passed at the same time.

Cell properties are resolved in this order: 1. cell returned from `map/imap`, 2. cell properties from `cell`. 3. cell properties from the cell in the row.

### Parameters

```
row(  
  body,  
  map: none function,  
  imap: none function,  
  cell: dictionary  
)
```

**map** `none` or `function`

apply this function to the content of each cell, after resolving row lengths and padding rows. Passing cell content, signature: `function(any) -> any`.

Default: `none`

**imap** `none` or `function`

apply this function to the content of each cell, after resolving row lengths and padding rows. Passing index and cell content, signature: `function(int, any) -> any`. Note that this is just the index in the row, which does not correspond to the column number in complex layouts.

Default: `none`

**cell** `dictionary`

set these `table.cell` settings on each cell of the row, after resolving row lengths and padding rows. The properties `x`, `y`, `colspan`, `rowspan` are not allowed here.

Default: `(:)`

API Documentation generated using tidy.