How to convert Excel tables to LaTeX and insert them into a LaTeX document

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1 Downloading and activating "Excel2LaTeX"

1. Go to http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/support/excel2latex/.

2. Right-click on "`Excel2LaTeX.xla`" towards the bottom of the page and select "save link as".

3. Copy the file to your Microsoft Office Addins folder. On my PC, the path is

   `C:\\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\Office12\ADDINS`

4. Open Excel. Click on the Microsoft Symbol in the upper left hand corner, then "Excel Options" at the bottom of the pop-up window. In the "options" window, select "Addins". Make sure `Excel2LaTeX.xla` is shown as "activated", else click on "manage Excel addins" at the bottom and activate the addin.

5. Close and re-open Excel. You should now see an "Addins" tab in the top menu bar. It has 2 sub-options. You will need only the first one titled "Convert table to latex".

2 Conversion steps

Create a table in Excel like you usually would. See the example posted on this web page titled "HHbasics", a table with basic sample demographics that is customary in many empirical papers.

1. Select all cells of the table

2. open the "addins" tab, click on "Convert table to latex".

3. Click on "browse" and select your destination folder. Make sure this is the exact same folder where your main Tex document that will call the table is located .

4. Type a file name (here I chose "HHbasics"), and make sure "Tex documents" is shown in the "save as type" bar.

5. Click on "save" (browser window will close) and "save to file" in the addins window.

3   Cleaning steps

Open the file in TeXnicCenter. Do the following:

1. Make sure the midrule is in the correct place (as shown in the original Excel table), else move it. You usually do not have to change the top and bottom rule.

2. Wedge any math symbols (such as $>$, $<$, etc.) between dollar symbols, so they will compile correctly.

3. insert a "\" prior to any percentage symbols, if applicable, as in: %

4. Make any other cosmetic changes as needed

5. save the file

4   Inserting the table

The following shows the most flexible way to insert tables, with annotations (only visible in LaTeX file). First vertically, as is customary, than sideways on a new page (handy for larger tables):

Table 1: Basic Home Characteristics

Home feature	Mean	Std	Min	Max
age in 2007 (years)	23.163	18.623	2	99
lot size (1000 sqft)	10.771	8.606	0.392	84.942
home size (1000 sqft)	1.967	0.789	0.576	6.931
number of bedrooms	3.315	0.842	1	12
number of bathrooms	2.386	0.723	1	7
taxable value (1000s)	268.5	170.7	69.4	1644.8
fraction of even addresses	0.514	0.500	0	1
number of homes	1114			

This table includes all premises for which a full set of home characteristics was available (92% of the full 2007 sample)
Std = standard deviation, Min = minimum, Max = maximum

Table 2: Basic Home Characteristics

Home feature	Mean	Std	Min	Max
age in 2007 (years)	23.163	18.623	2	99
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home size (1000 sqft)	1.967	0.789	0.576	6.931
number of bedrooms	3.315	0.842	1	12
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5 Final notes:

Excel2LaTeX is surprisingly flexible. It can handle relatively complex tables, for example with merged cells and centered text, empty columns between text and so on. However, sometimes it will be necessary to "manually" change the width of each column so that the table fits on a page.

This can be accomplished by first converting the Excel table as usual, then editing the Tex file. For an example, see the "Table with schedule" file in the Syllabus section of our course web page. Note that you need to change the table environment from "table" to "tabularx" for flexibility with column width. Then add specific width measures for each column.

Once the table Tex file is so modified, calling / inserting the table into the main document proceeds as usual.