

# BAD TABLES

TABLE 1

n	xL	xm	xR	ym	xR-xL
1	0.500000	0.759231	0.759231	4.17776e-02	0.25923
2	0.500000	0.725450	0.725451	-1.01897e-02	0.22545
3	0.500000	0.717501	0.717502	2.56724e-03	0.21750
4	0.500000	0.715517	0.715518	-6.51134e-04	0.21551
5	0.500000	0.715015	0.715015	1.65414e-04	0.21501

TABLE 2

n	xL	xm	xR
	ym	xR-xL	
1	0.500000	0.759231	0.759231
	4.17776e-02	0.25923	
2	0.500000	0.725450	0.725451
	-1.01897e-02	0.22545	
3	0.500000	0.717501	0.717502
	2.56724e-03	0.21750	
4	0.500000	0.715517	0.715518
	-6.51134e-04	0.21551	
5	0.500000	0.715015	0.715015
	1.65414e-04	0.21501	

TABLE 3

n	xL	xm	xR	ym	xR-xL
1	0.500000	0.759231	0.759231	4.17776e-02	0.25923

2	0.500000	0.725450	0.725451	-1.01897e-02	0.22545
3	0.500000	0.717501	0.717502	2.56724e-03	0.21750
4	0.500000	0.715517	0.715518	-6.51134e-04	0.21551
5	0.500000	0.715015	0.715015	1.65414e-04	0.21501

TABLE 4

n	xL	xm	xR	ym	xR-xL
1	0.500000	0.759231	0.759231	4.17776e-02	0.25923
2	0.500000	0.725450	0.725451	-1.01897e-02	0.22545
3	0.500000	0.717501	0.717502	2.56724e-03	0.21750
4	0.500000	0.715517	0.715518	-6.51134e-04	0.21551
5	0.500000	0.715015	0.715015	1.65414e-04	0.21501

TABLE 5

n	xL	xm	xR	ym	xR-xL
1	0.500000	0.759231	0.759231	4.17677659743e-02	0.25923
2	0.500000	0.725450	0.725451	-1.01898670735e-02	0.22545
3	0.500000	0.717501	0.717502	2.56724491984e-03	0.21750
4	0.500000	0.715517	0.715518	-6.51130493250e-04	0.21551
5	0.500000	0.715015	0.715015	1.65241408141e-04	0.21501

TABLE 6

n	xL	xm	xR	ym	xR-xL
1	0.500000	0.759231	0.759231	4.1777e-02	0.25923
2	0.500000	0.725450	0.725451	-1.0189e-02	0.22545
3	0.500000	0.717501	0.717502	2.5672e-03	0.21750
4	0.500000	0.715517	0.715518	-6.5113e-04	0.21551
5	0.500000	0.715015	0.715015	1.6541e-04	0.21501

TABLE 7

n	xL	xm	xR	ym	xR-xL
1	-1.500000	-0.759231	0.759231	4.1777e-02	0.25923
2	-0.759231	-0.525450	0.759231	-1.0189e-02	0.22545
3	-0.525450	-0.217501	0.759231	2.5672e-03	0.21750
4	-0.217501	0.215517	0.759231	-6.5113e-04	0.21551
5	0.215517	0.385015	0.759231	1.6541e-04	0.21501

TABLE 8

n	xL	xm	xR	ym	xR-xL
1	-1.500000	-0.759231	0.759231	4.1777e-02	0.25923
2	-0.759231	-0.525450	0.759231	-1.0189e-02	0.22545
3	-0.525450	-0.217501	0.759231	2.5672e-03	0.21750
4	-0.217501	0.215517	0.759231	-6.5113e-04	0.21551
5	0.215517	0.355015	0.759231	1.6541e-04	0.21501

**Which table would you put in your thesis or in a report to be given to your boss at work?**

1. What's wrong with Table 1?
2. What's wrong with Table 2?
3. What's wrong with Table 3?
4. What's wrong with Table 4?
5. What's overkill in Table 5?
6. What's wrong with Table 6?
7. What's bad about Table 7?
8. The best table is Table 8.

Good tables:

1. will have output aligned in nice clean columns,
2. will have descriptive headers **centered** over their respective columns,
3. will have decimal points aligned within each column,
4. will not undergo a page-break (see Table 3),
5. will not have line-breaks (wrap-around lines; see Table 2),
6. will not have blank (empty) lines (see Table 6),
7. will not have too little or too much empty space between columns (see T. 2 &7),
8. will not display many, many digits unless necessary (see Table 5).