

Export pivot table to R using RExcel

Keith Halbert, Richard M. Heiberger, Erich Neuwirth

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Pivot tables are featured in Microsoft Excel as the preferred method for summarizing and subsetting large amounts of data. Excel's trademark pivot tables are referred to as PivotTables.

Previously, an R user who wished to analyze a given Excel PivotTable in R would be required to export the complete data to R and manually create a table within R itself. Given that the desired result already exists within Excel, this exercise consumes time and introduces potential transfer error.

We have added to RExcel the functionality of automatically selecting and exporting a PivotTable from Excel to R. This action creates within R an object of class `structable`, with a name assigned by the user via dialog box. With this capability we can directly display an Excel pivot table using the mosaic plot in the `vcd` package or barchart in the `lattice` package.

References

- [1] Erich Neuwirth, with contributions by Richard Heiberger, Christian Ritter, Jan Karel Pieterse, , and Jurgen Volkering, *Rexcelinstaller: Integration of r and excel, (use r in excel, read/write xls files)*, 2009, R package version 3.0-18.