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# **pyRestTable Documentation**

*Release 2020.0.2+35.g6dbd9a5.dirty*

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## Contents

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<b>1</b>	<b>Usage</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1	Interactive example with <i>ipython</i> . . . . .	7
3.2	<i>simple</i> (default) . . . . .	8
3.3	<i>plain</i> . . . . .	9
3.4	<i>grid</i> ( <i>complex</i> ) . . . . .	9
3.5	<i>markdown</i> . . . . .	10
3.6	<i>list-table</i> . . . . .	11
3.7	<i>html</i> . . . . .	12
3.8	Complicated example . . . . .	13
3.9	Example using XML source data from a URL . . . . .	15
<b>4</b>	<b>pyRestTable</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1	source code documentation . . . . .	19
<b>5</b>	<b>Change History</b>	<b>23</b>
5.1	Production . . . . .	23
<b>6</b>	<b>License</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Features</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Indices and tables</b>	<b>33</b>
	<b>Python Module Index</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>Index</b>	<b>37</b>



Format a nice table in reST (reStructuredText) from Python.

Each cell may have multiple lines, separated by a newline. The content of each cell will be rendered as `str(cell)`. At present, *pyRestTable* only supports tables with content that does not span any cells (no rowspans or columnspans).

- Install with conda: `conda install -c prjemian pyRestTable`
- Install with pip: `pip install pyRestTable`

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**docs** <https://pyRestTable.readthedocs.io>

**URL** <https://github.com/prjemian/pyRestTable>

**TODO** <https://github.com/prjemian/pyRestTable/issues>

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**pyRestTable** provides support for writing tables in the format of reStructured Text<sup>1</sup> from Python programs. (It provides no command-line or GUI program itself – no “entry points”; it should be used within a Python program.)

- Import the `pyRestTable` package
- Create the `Table` instance
- Set the list of column labels (either `labels.append()` or `addLabel()`)
- Append the list of column cells for each row (either `rows.append([])` or `addRow()`)
- Render the table with `reST()` (default table format is `simple`)

Examples are provided to demonstrate usage.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://docutils.sourceforge.net/docs/ref/rst/restructuredtext.html>





## CHAPTER 2

---

### Installation

---

available for installation from PyPI via standard installers for Python 2.7 or Python 3.0+:

```
$ pip install pyRestTable
```

or from conda:

```
$ conda -c prjemian pyRestTable
```

The source code is on GitHub: <https://github.com/prjemian/pyRestTable>



Examples are provided to demonstrate usage.

### 3.1 Interactive example with *ipython*

```
1 In [1]: import pyRestTable
2
3 In [2]: pyRestTable.__long_description__
4
5 Out[2]: 'Format a nice table in reST (reStructuredText ) from Python'
6
7 In [3]: pyRestTable.__version__
8
9 Out[3]: '2015-1111-1'
10
11 In [4]: t = pyRestTable.Table()
12
13 In [5]: t.labels = ['x', 'y']
14
15 In [6]: t.rows.append([1,2])
16
17 In [7]: print(t.reST())
18
19 = =
20 x y
21 = =
22 1 2
23 = =
```

which displays as:

x	y
1	2

The same table may be rendered in the *grid* reST format:

```

1 In [8]: print(t.reST(fmt='grid'))
2
3 +---+---+
4 | x | y |
5 +---+---+
6 | 1 | 2 |
7 +---+---+

```

which displays as:

x	y
1	2

The same table may be rendered in the *list-table* reST format:

```

1 In [9]: print(t.reST(fmt='list-table'))
2
3 .. list-table::
4   :header-rows: 1
5   :widths: 1 1
6
7   * - x
8     - y
9   * - 1
10    - 2

```

which displays as:

x	y
1	2

## 3.2 simple (default)

see <http://docutils.sourceforge.net/docs/ref/rst/directives.html#tables>

These python commands:

```

1 import pyRestTable
2 t = pyRestTable.Table()
3 t.labels = ('one', 'two', 'three' )
4 t.rows.append( ['1,1', '1,2', '1,3',] )
5 t.rows.append( ['2,1', '2,2', '2,3',] )
6 t.rows.append( ['3,1', '3,2', '3,3',] )
7 t.rows.append( ['4,1', '4,2', '4,3',] )
8 print(t.reST())

```

build this table source code:

```

1 =====
2 one two three
3 =====
4 1,1 1,2 1,3

```

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```

5  2,1 2,2 2,3
6  3,1 3,2 3,3
7  4,1 4,2 4,3
8  
```

which is rendered as:

one	two	three
1,1	1,2	1,3
2,1	2,2	2,3
3,1	3,2	3,3
4,1	4,2	4,3

### 3.3 plain

These python commands:

```

1  import pyRestTable
2  t = pyRestTable.Table()
3  t.labels = ('one', 'two', 'three' )
4  t.rows.append( ['1,1', '1,2', '1,3',] )
5  t.rows.append( ['2,1', '2,2', '2,3',] )
6  t.rows.append( ['3,1', '3,2', '3,3',] )
7  t.rows.append( ['4,1', '4,2', '4,3',] )
8  print(t.reST(fmt='plain'))

```

build this table source code:

```

1  one two three
2  1,1 1,2 1,3
3  2,1 2,2 2,3
4  3,1 3,2 3,3
5  4,1 4,2 4,3

```

The *plain* format is useful when generating very compact tables as text.

### 3.4 grid (complex)

see <http://docutils.sourceforge.net/docs/ref/rst/restructuredtext.html#grid-tables>

These python commands:

```

1  import pyRestTable
2  t = pyRestTable.Table()
3  t.labels = ('one', 'two', 'three' )
4  t.rows.append( ['1,1', '1,2', '1,3',] )
5  t.rows.append( ['2,1', '2,2', '2,3',] )
6  t.rows.append( ['3,1', '3,2', '3,3',] )
7  t.rows.append( ['4,1', '4,2', '4,3',] )
8  print(t.reST(fmt='grid'))

```

build this table in reST source code:

```
1 +-----+-----+-----+
2 | one | two | three |
3 +-----+-----+-----+
4 | 1,1 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
5 +-----+-----+-----+
6 | 2,1 | 2,2 | 2,3 |
7 +-----+-----+-----+
8 | 3,1 | 3,2 | 3,3 |
9 +-----+-----+-----+
10 | 4,1 | 4,2 | 4,3 |
11 +-----+-----+-----+
```

which is rendered as:

one	two	three
1,1	1,2	1,3
2,1	2,2	2,3
3,1	3,2	3,3
4,1	4,2	4,3

---

### Note: API Changes

- version 2015.1111.01

In versions previous to 2015.1111.01, the `complex` output table format was supported:

```
print t.reST(fmt='complex')
```

The `complex` output format has been aliased `grid` to be consistent with the docutils<sup>1</sup> documentation:

```
print (t.reST(fmt='grid'))
```

The two commands are identical (except the latter is upgraded for compatibility with Python v3). To preserve existing code, no plans are made to deprecate the `complex` name.

---

## 3.5 markdown

see <https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet#tables>

These python commands:

```
1 import pyRestTable
2 t = pyRestTable.Table()
3 t.labels = ('one', 'two', 'three' )
4 t.rows.append( ['1,1', '1,2', '1,3',] )
5 t.rows.append( ['2,1', '2,2', '2,3',] )
6 t.rows.append( ['3,1', '3,2', '3,3',] )
7 t.rows.append( ['4,1', '4,2', '4,3',] )
8 print(t.reST(fmt="markdown"))
```

---

<sup>1</sup> docutils: <http://docutils.sourceforge.net/docs/ref/rst/restructuredtext.html>

build this table source code:

```

1 | | | one | | two | | three
2 | | | --- | | --- | | ---
3 | | | 1,1 | | 1,2 | | 1,3
4 | | | 2,1 | | 2,2 | | 2,3
5 | | | 3,1 | | 3,2 | | 3,3
6 | | | 4,1 | | 4,2 | | 4,3

```

which is rendered (by markdown) as:

one	two	three
1,1	1,2	1,3
2,1	2,2	2,3
3,1	3,2	3,3
4,1	4,2	4,3

---

**Note:** `fmt="md"` is a synonym for `fmt="markdown"`

---

## 3.6 *list-table*

see <http://docutils.sourceforge.net/docs/ref/rst/directives.html#list-table>

These python commands:

```

1 import pyRestTable
2 t = pyRestTable.Table()
3 t.labels = ('one', 'two', 'three' )
4 t.rows.append( ['1,1', '1,2', '1,3',] )
5 t.rows.append( ['2,1', '2,2', '2,3',] )
6 t.rows.append( ['3,1', '3,2', '3,3',] )
7 t.rows.append( ['4,1', '4,2', '4,3',] )
8 print(t.reST(fmt='list-table'))

```

build this table source code:

```

1 .. list-table::
2   :header-rows: 1
3   :widths: 3 3 5
4
5   * - one
6     - two
7     - three
8   * - 1,1
9     - 1,2
10    - 1,3
11   * - 2,1
12    - 2,2
13    - 2,3
14   * - 3,1
15    - 3,2
16    - 3,3

```

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```

17 * - 4,1
18   - 4,2
19   - 4,3

```

which is rendered as:

one	two	three
1,1	1,2	1,3
2,1	2,2	2,3
3,1	3,2	3,3
4,1	4,2	4,3

### 3.7 html

see [https://www.w3schools.com/html/html\\_tables.asp](https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_tables.asp)

These python commands:

```

1 import pyRestTable
2 t = pyRestTable.Table()
3 t.labels = ('one', 'two', 'three' )
4 t.rows.append( ['1,1', '1,2', '1,3',] )
5 t.rows.append( ['2,1', '2,2', '2,3',] )
6 t.rows.append( ['3,1', '3,2', '3,3',] )
7 t.rows.append( ['4,1', '4,2', '4,3',] )
8 print(t.reST(fmt='html'))

```

build this table in HTML source code:

```

1 <table>
2   <tr>
3     <th>one</th>
4     <th>two</th>
5     <th>three</th>
6   </tr>
7   <tr>
8     <td>1,1</td>
9     <td>1,2</td>
10    <td>1,3</td>
11  </tr>
12  <tr>
13    <td>2,1</td>
14    <td>2,2</td>
15    <td>2,3</td>
16  </tr>
17  <tr>
18    <td>3,1</td>
19    <td>3,2</td>
20    <td>3,3</td>
21  </tr>
22  <tr>
23    <td>4,1</td>
24    <td>4,2</td>

```

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```

25     <td>4,3</td>
26 </tr>
27 </table>

```

## 3.8 Complicated example

These python commands setup the table:

```

1  import pyRestTable
2  t = pyRestTable.Table()
3  t.addLabel('Name\nand\nAttributes')
4  t.addLabel('Type')
5  t.addLabel('Units')
6  t.addLabel('Description\n(and Occurrences)')
7  t.addRow( ['one,\ntwo', "buckle my", "shoe.\n\n\nthree,\nfour", "..."] )
8  t.addRow( ['class', 'NX_FLOAT', '', None, ] )
9  t.addRow( range(0,4) )
10 t.addRow( [None, {'a': 1, 'b': 'dreamy'}, 1.234, range(3)] )
11 t.setLongtable()
12 t.setTabularColumns(True, 'l l c r'.split())

```

Here, we assert more control over the table format using `setLongtable()` and `setTabularColumns()` configuration options.

### 3.8.1 Format: `print(t.reST(fmt='simple'))`

this reST code:

```

1  .. tabularcolumns:: |l|L|c|r|
2     :longtable:
3
4  =====
5  Name      Type                Units  Description
6  and
7  Attributes
8  =====
9  one,      buckle my                shoe.  ...
10 two
11
12
13
14 class     NX_FLOAT
15 0         1                2      3
16 None     {'a': 1, 'b': 'dreamy'} 1.234  [0, 1, 2]
17 =====

```

is rendered as:

Name	Type	Units	Description
and			(and Occurrences)
Attributes			
one,	buckle my	shoe.	...
two		three, four	
class	NX_FLOAT		None
0	1	2	3
None	{'a': 1, 'b': 'dreamy'}	1.234	[0, 1, 2]

### 3.8.2 Format: `print(t.reST(fmt='grid'))`

this reST code:

```

1 .. tabularcolumns:: |l|L|c|r|
2   :longtable:
3
4 +-----+-----+-----+-----+
5 | Name      | Type                | Units | Description |
6 | and       |                      |       | (and Occurrences) |
7 | Attributes |                      |       |              |
8 +-----+-----+-----+-----+
9 | one,      | buckle my           | shoe. | ...         |
10 | two       |                      |       |              |
11 |           |                      |       |              |
12 |           |                      | three,|              |
13 |           |                      | four  |              |
14 +-----+-----+-----+-----+
15 | class     | NX_FLOAT            |       | None        |
16 +-----+-----+-----+-----+
17 | 0         | 1                   | 2     | 3           |
18 +-----+-----+-----+-----+
19 | None      | {'a': 1, 'b': 'dreamy'} | 1.234 | [0, 1, 2]   |
20 +-----+-----+-----+-----+

```

is rendered as:

Name and Attributes	Type	Units	Description (and Occurrences)
one, two	buckle my	shoe. three, four	...
class	NX_FLOAT		None
0	1	2	3
None	{'a': 1, 'b': 'dreamy'}	1.234	[0, 1, 2]

### 3.8.3 Format: `print(t.reST(fmt='list-table'))`

this reST code:

```

1 .. list-table::
2   :header-rows: 1
3   :widths: 10 23 6 17
4
5   * - Name
6     and

```

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```

7     Attributes
8     - Type
9     - Units
10    - Description
11      (and Occurrences)
12    * - one,
13      two
14    - buckle my
15    - shoe.
16
17
18      three,
19      four
20    - ...
21    * - class
22      - NX_FLOAT
23      -
24      -
25    * - 0
26      - 1
27      - 2
28      - 3
29    * - None
30      - {'a': 1, 'b': 'dreamy'}
31      - 1.234
32      - [0, 1, 2]

```

is rendered as:

Name and At-tributes	Type	Units	Description (and Occur-ences)
one, two	buckle my	shoe. three, four	...
class	NX_FLOAT		
0	1	2	3
None	{'a': 1, 'b': 'dreamy'}	1.234	[0, 1, 2]

### 3.9 Example using XML source data from a URL

Another example (*cansas.py* in the source distribution) shows how content can be scraped from a URL that provides XML (using the *lxml* package) and written as a reST table. This particular XML uses a namespace which we setup in the variable `nsmmap`:

```

1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2
3  import io
4  import sys
5  from lxml import etree
6  try:
7      # python 3
8      from urllib.request import urlopen
9  except ImportError as _exc:

```

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```

10     # python 2
11     from urllib2 import urlopen
12     sys.path.insert(0, '..')
13     from pyRestTable import Table
14
15     SVN_BASE_URL = 'http://www.cansas.org/svn/ldwg/trunk'
16     GITHUB_BASE_URL = 'https://raw.githubusercontent.com/canSAS-org/ldwg/master'
17     CANSAS_URL = '/'.join((GITHUB_BASE_URL, 'examples/cs_af1410.xml'))
18
19
20     def main():
21         nsmmap = dict(cs='urn:cansasld:1.1')
22
23         r = urlopen(CANSAS_URL).read().decode("utf-8")
24         doc = etree.parse(io.StringIO(r))
25
26         node_list = doc.xpath('//cs:SASentry', namespaces=nsmmap)
27         t = Table()
28         t.labels = ['SASentry', 'description', 'measurements']
29         for node in node_list:
30             s_name, count = '', ''
31             subnode = node.find('cs:Title', namespaces=nsmmap)
32             if subnode is not None:
33                 s = etree.tostring(subnode, method="text")
34                 s_name = node.attrib['name']
35                 count = len(node.xpath('cs:SASdata', namespaces=nsmmap))
36                 title = s.strip().decode()
37                 t.rows += [[s_name, title, count]]
38
39         return t
40
41
42     if __name__ == '__main__':
43         table = main()
44         # use "complex" since s_name might be empty string
45         print(table.reST(fmt='complex'))

```

The output from this code:

```

1 10 SASentry elements in http://www.cansas.org/svn/ldwg/trunk/examples/cs_af1410.xml
2
3 +-----+-----+-----+
4 | entry      | description                                     | measurements |
5 +-----+-----+-----+
6 | AF1410:10  | AF1410-10 (AF1410 steel aged 10 h)           | 2            |
7 +-----+-----+-----+
8 | AF1410:8h  | AF1410-8h (AF1410 steel aged 8 h)            | 2            |
9 +-----+-----+-----+
10 | AF1410:qu  | AF1410-qu (AF1410 steel aged 0.25 h)         | 2            |
11 +-----+-----+-----+
12 | AF1410:cc  | AF1410-cc (AF1410 steel aged 100 h)          | 2            |
13 +-----+-----+-----+
14 | AF1410:2h  | AF1410-2h (AF1410 steel aged 2 h)            | 2            |
15 +-----+-----+-----+
16 | AF1410:50  | AF1410-50 (AF1410 steel aged 50 h)          | 2            |
17 +-----+-----+-----+
18 | AF1410:20  | AF1410-20 (AF1410 steel aged 20 h)          | 1            |

```

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```

19 +-----+-----+-----+
20 | AF1410:5h | AF1410-5h (AF1410 steel aged 5 h) | 2 |
21 +-----+-----+-----+
22 | AF1410:1h | AF1410-1h (AF1410 steel aged 1 h) | 2 |
23 +-----+-----+-----+
24 | AF1410:hf | AF1410-hf (AF1410 steel aged 0.5 h) | 2 |
25 +-----+-----+-----+

```

The resulting table is shown:

10 SASentry elements in [http://www.cansas.org/svn/ldwg/trunk/examples/cs\\_af1410.xml](http://www.cansas.org/svn/ldwg/trunk/examples/cs_af1410.xml)

entry	description	measurements
AF1410:10	AF1410-10 (AF1410 steel aged 10 h)	2
AF1410:8h	AF1410-8h (AF1410 steel aged 8 h)	2
AF1410:qu	AF1410-qu (AF1410 steel aged 0.25 h)	2
AF1410:cc	AF1410-cc (AF1410 steel aged 100 h)	2
AF1410:2h	AF1410-2h (AF1410 steel aged 2 h)	2
AF1410:50	AF1410-50 (AF1410 steel aged 50 h)	2
AF1410:20	AF1410-20 (AF1410 steel aged 20 h)	1
AF1410:5h	AF1410-5h (AF1410 steel aged 5 h)	2
AF1410:1h	AF1410-1h (AF1410 steel aged 1 h)	2
AF1410:hf	AF1410-hf (AF1410 steel aged 0.5 h)	2



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## 4.1 source code documentation

Format a nice table in reST (restructured text)

User Interface	Description
<i>Table</i>	Construct a table in reST
<code>addLabel()</code>	add label for one additional column
<code>addRow()</code>	add list of items for one additional row
<code>setLongtable()</code>	set <i>longtable</i> attribute
<code>setTabularColumns()</code>	set <i>use_tabular_columns</i> & <i>alignment</i> attributes
<code>reST()</code>	render the table in reST format

<code>Table()</code>	Construct a table in reST (no row or column spans).
<code>example_minimal()</code>	minimal example table
<code>example_basic()</code>	basic example table
<code>example_complicated()</code>	complicated example table

**class** `pyRestTable.rest_table.Table`

Construct a table in reST (no row or column spans).

### Parameters

- **`use_tabular_columns`** (*bool*) – if True, embed table in Sphinx ‘`.. tabularcolumns::`

|%s|' % *alignment*' role

- **alignment** (*[str]*) – with *use\_tabular\_columns*, each list item is a column format string, as specified by LaTeX *tabulary* package format: <http://sphinx-doc.org/markup/misc.html?highlight=tabularcolumns#directive-tabularcolumns>
- **longtable** (*bool*) – with *use\_tabular\_columns*, if True, add Sphinx *:longtable:* directive

#### MAIN METHODS

<i>addLabel</i> (text)	add label for one additional column
<i>addRow</i> (list_of_items)	add list of items for one additional row
<i>reST</i> ([indentation, fmt])	render the table in reST format

#### SUPPORTING METHODS

<i>setLongtable</i> ([state])	set <i>longtable</i> attribute
<i>setTabularColumns</i> ([state, column_spec])	set <i>use_tabular_columns</i> & <i>alignment</i> attributes
<i>plain_table</i> ([indentation])	render the table in <i>plain</i> reST format
<i>simple_table</i> ([indentation])	render the table in <i>simple</i> reST format
<i>grid_table</i> ([indentation])	render the table in <i>grid</i> reST format
<i>list_table</i> ([indentation])	render the table in <i>list-table</i> reST format:
<i>html_table</i> ([indentation])	render the table in <i>HTML</i>

#### **addLabel** (*text*)

add label for one additional column

**Parameters** **text** (*str*) – column label text

**Return int** number of labels

#### **addRow** (*list\_of\_items*)

add list of items for one additional row

**Parameters** **list\_of\_items** (*[obj]*) – list of items for one complete row

**Return int** number of rows

#### **find\_widths** ()

measure the maximum width of each column, considering possible line breaks in each cell

#### **grid\_table** (*indentation=""*)

render the table in *grid* reST format

#### **html\_table** (*indentation=""*)

render the table in *HTML*

#### **list\_table** (*indentation=""*)

render the table in *list-table* reST format:

See <http://docutils.sourceforge.net/docs/ref/rst/directives.html>

Table 4: Frozen Delights!

Treat	Quantity	Description
Albatross	2.99	On a stick!
Crunchy Frog	1.49	If we took the bones out, it wouldn't be crunchy, now would it?
Gannet Ripple	1.99	On a stick!



**markdown\_table** (*indentation=""*)

render the table in GitHub-flavored *markdown* (not reST) format

see: <https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet#tables>

**plain\_table** (*indentation=""*)

render the table in *plain* reST format

**reST** (*indentation=""*, *fmt='simple'*)

render the table in reST format

**setLongtable** (*state=True*)

set *longtable* attribute

**Parameters** **longtable** (*bool*) – True | False

**setTabularColumns** (*state=True*, *column\_spec=None*)

set *use\_tabular\_columns* & *alignment* attributes

**Parameters**

- **state** (*bool*) – True | False
- **column\_spec** (*[str]*) – list of column specifications

**simple\_table** (*indentation=""*)

render the table in *simple* reST format

`pyRestTable.rest_table.example_basic()`

basic example table

`pyRestTable.rest_table.example_complicated()`

complicated example table

`pyRestTable.rest_table.example_minimal()`

minimal example table



### 5.1 Production

**2020.0.2** *2019.07-30* - bug fix

- #33 not really a bug – add side pipes to markdown table

**2020.0.1** *2019.07-23* - bug fix

- #31 fix bug in column width detection

**2020.0.0** *2019.07.09* - packaging and code review

- #28 switch to semantic version numbering (<https://semver.org/>) automated code reviews
- #27 automated code reviews
- #22 automated code reviews

**2019.0508.1**

- add output in markdown table format

**2019.0321.0**

- conda release of noarch packaging, also pip

**2019.0321.0.rc2**

- develop and test conda release packaging

**2019.0321.0.rc1**

- develop and test conda release packaging

**2018.10.25**

- for zenodo DOI

**2018.4.0**

- #12 provide HTML table output format

**2017.2.0**

- #9 provide default rendering: `t = Table(); ...; str(t)`
- #8 add a plain table output

**2016.1024.0** unit tests, repaired python 3 support

**2016.1003.1** support python 3 AND python 2

**2015.1115.0** add support methods, such as *addLabel* and *addRow*

**2015.1111.01** support output as ReST *list-table* directive

**2014.0710.01** provide docs at <http://pyRestTable.readthedocs.org>

**2014.0430.01** release after forking from previous home

# CHAPTER 6

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- create *simple*, *plain*, *grid* (also known as *complex*), and *list-table* reST formatted tables<sup>1</sup>, also *markdown*-formatted tables<sup>2</sup>
- defines table cells through Python lists, row-by-row
- use with Python 2 or Python 3

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<sup>1</sup> <http://docutils.sourceforge.net/docs/ref/rst/restructuredtext.html#tables>

<sup>2</sup> <https://github.com/adam-p/markdown-here/wiki/Markdown-Cheatsheet#tables>



## CHAPTER 8

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### Indices and tables

---

- `genindex`
- `modindex`
- `search`



**p**

`pyRestTable.rest_table`, 19





**A**

`addLabel()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 20  
`addRow()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 20

**E**

`example_basic()` (in module *pyRestTable.rest\_table*), 21  
`example_complicated()` (in module *pyRestTable.rest\_table*), 21  
`example_minimal()` (in module *pyRestTable.rest\_table*), 21

**F**

`find_widths()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 20

**G**

`grid_table()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 20

**H**

`html_table()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 20

**L**

`list_table()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 20

**M**

`markdown_table()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 20

**P**

`plain_table()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 21  
`pyRestTable.rest_table` (module), 19

**R**

`reST()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 21

**S**

`setLongtable()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 21  
`setTabularColumns()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 21  
`simple_table()` (*pyRestTable.rest\_table.Table method*), 21

**T**

`Table` (class in *pyRestTable.rest\_table*), 19