

# sparkTable: Generating Graphical Tables for Websites and Documents with R

Alexander Kowarik<sup>1,\*</sup>, Bernhard Meindl<sup>1</sup> and Matthias Templ<sup>1,2</sup>

1. Statistics Austria, Guglgasse 13, 1110 Vienna, Austria

2. Vienna University of Technology, Wiedner Hauptstraße 8-10, 1040 Vienna, Austria

\*Contact author: [alexander.kowarik@statistik.gv.at](mailto:alexander.kowarik@statistik.gv.at)

**Keywords:** Visualisation, Graphical Tables, Sparklines

With the R package **sparkTable** (Kowarik et al. (2010)) tables presenting quantitative information can be enhanced by including sparklines and sparkbars (initially proposed by Tufte (2001)). Sparklines and sparkbars are simple, intense and illustrative graphs, small enough to fit in a single line. Therefore they can easily enrich tables and continuous texts with additional information in a comprehensive visual way.

Another feature of **sparkTable** is the optimal allocation of geographical units to cells in a 2-dimensional table and the presentation of graphical and quantitative information within these cells. For example, graphical tables including information about countries with each country representing a cell in a 2-dimensional grid can be generated. Hereby, the position of countries in a thematic map are projected to the given grid in an optimal manner by solving a linear program.

The usage of S4-classes provide an easy and fast way to create fancy output for websites, presentation and documents. The output is presented and explained with real-world applications.

## References

Kowarik, A., B. Meindl, and S. Zechner (2010). sparktable: Sparklines and graphical tables for tex and html. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=sparkTable>.

Tufte, E. R. (2001). *Visual Display of Quantitative Information*. Graphics Press.