

# Microsoft Excel 2

Advanced Analysis Tools  
*Classroom Course Manual*



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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*Last Updated 1/16/2017*

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# Topics Outline

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1 Introduction

2 Input Tables

3 Subtotal

4 Goal Seek

5 Solver

6 Analysis ToolPak

# Introduction

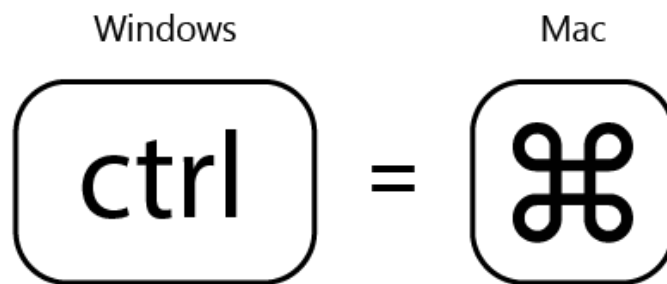
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Welcome to Excel 2: Analysis! This course will build upon the basic skills you learned in the Excel 1 class. After this class, you will be able to utilize Excel's advanced analysis tools to summarize data, solve complex equations and perform "What-If" analyses on the data.

## About this Class

Excel 2: Analysis is one of three intermediate Excel classes offered by Software Training for Students. These three classes (Functions, Data Visualization, and Analysis) are designed so you can take them independently and in any order. After this class, you will be able to utilize powerful features of Excel which allow you to analyze data faster and easier.

As of 2016, Microsoft Office has combined its PC and Mac versions to provide the same experience to all users. However, one major difference remains, that is, the use of the Control and Command keys on Windows and Mac respectively for keyboard shortcuts. These keys essentially perform the same function and are used in conjunction with other keys to perform various tasks quicker. Your instructor will mention these interchangeably.



## Required Skills

You should have a basic knowledge of the Windows environment, and have taken Excel 1, or have equivalent experience.

Key background skills needed include familiarity with the following:

- Common terminology: rows, columns and cells
- Entering and editing data
- Basic formulas: addition, subtraction, product, division, etc.
- Built-in functions: sum, average, etc.

## Other Requirements

In addition to this manual, you will need to download the class files for the course and have access to a computer with Microsoft Office 2016. The class files can be downloaded at the STS website or will be provided by your instructor.

If you are working on an older version of Office, some features may be located in different locations or, on rare occasions, may be unavailable altogether. In such cases, setting up an Ask-a-Trainer appointment with an STS trainer via the STS website would allow you to work through your specific questions. Otherwise, Microsoft Office is also available on most campus computer labs. Office 2016 can also be acquired free of cost as a student here:

[it.wisc.edu/services/office-365/](http://it.wisc.edu/services/office-365/)

To begin, find the **Excel-2-Analysis-2016.xlsx** file from the downloaded Class Files and open it. Examine the various exercises in the worksheets.

# Input Tables

Creating tables in Excel can make managing and analyzing hypothetical data very easy. In this section, we will use a table with two inputs to analyze how the outcomes of a final exam score and project score will affect our overall semester grade. In other words, we can create a table that contains all possible outcomes for our exam and project grades and have Excel calculate our final semester grade based on that table.

## "What-If" Data Table

Navigate to the Two Input worksheet. This section explains how to use "What-If" Data Tables, which is an available tool through "What-If" Analysis.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>How will my final Project and Exam scores affect my grade?</b>						
2							
3							
4		<b>Homework</b>			<b>Mid Terms</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>
5	1	95.0%		1	89.0%		
6	2	85.0%		2	92.0%		
7	3	87.0%		3	85.0%		
8	4	93.0%		<b>Exam Avg</b>	<b>88.7%</b>		
9	5	90.0%					
10	6	89.0%					
11	<b>HW Avg</b>	<b>89.8%</b>					
12							
13							
14	*Homework is worth 10% of Semester Grade						
15	*Mid Term total is worth 40% of Semester Grade						
16	*Project is worth 20% of Semester Grade						
17	*Final Exam is worth 30% of Semester Grade						

In this example, it is the end of the semester. For this class, we have already completed six homework assignments and three exams whose grades are already specified in the worksheet. The only items left to be completed and graded are the final exam and a final project. We want to know what our final grade would be depending on what grade we receive on these two remaining assignments.

We still have not completed our project or final exam, but we need some values as starting points to calculate our hypothetical final grade.

- 1 In cells F5 and G5, enter a value of 80% for the Project grade and 85% for the Final Exam grade.

Now we must write an equation to calculate our final grade as shown below. Here, we sum the products of the different grade components with their respective weights.

- 2 In cell K8, Insert the formula  $=0.1*B11+0.4*E8+0.2*F5+0.3*G5$ .

=-0.1*B11+0.4*E8+0.2*F5+0.3*G5						
	F	G	H	I	J	K
	Project	Final Exam				
	80.00%	85.00%				
					Semester Grade	85.95%

3 Press Enter

Again, remember that the project and final exam grades are just guesses so that we can write a complete formula for our semester grade calculation. Now that we have done that, we can fill in the "What-if" table.

## Filling a Series of Data

This exercise explains how to fill in the data table with possible values for "What-If" analysis. This "What-If" table has an empty row along the top to fill in with hypothetical project grades and an empty column on the left to fill in with hypothetical exam grades. Let's use a few Auto Fill features to put in the grades.

"What-If?" Table										
		Project Grade								
Final Exam Grade										

1 In cell G20, type 0.

2 In cell H20, type 10.

Project Grade										
0.00%	10.00%									

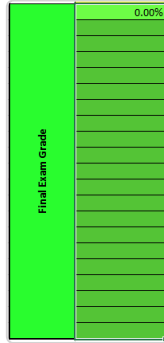
These are both automatically changed into percentages due to the number formatting of the cells.

3 Select cells G20 and H20 and Autofill the selection until cell Q20. This completes the series from 0% to 100% in increments of 10%.

Project Grade										
0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	30.00%	40.00%	50.00%	60.00%	70.00%	80.00%	90.00%	100.00%

4 In cell F21, type 0.

5 Select cells F21:F41.

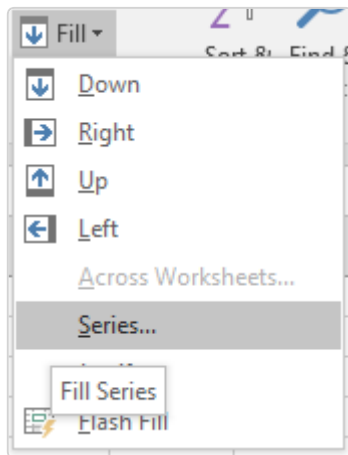


**Series... dialog box**

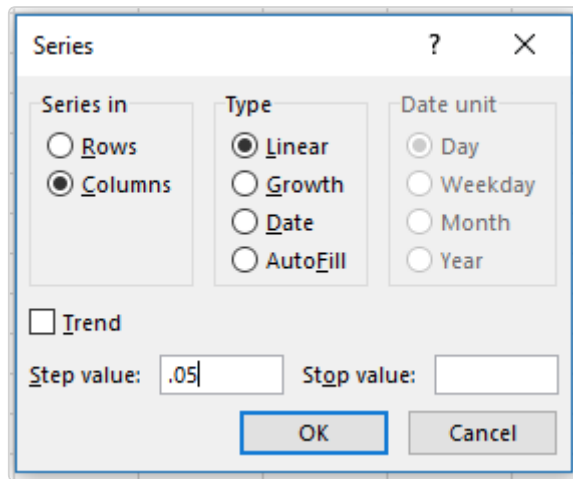
The Series dialog box let's us instruct Excel how to fill in the cells we had selected based on the given starting value.

We have a column selected so we leave "Series in Columns." We also want our hypothetical grades to be evenly spaced we leave Type as "Linear." Stop value can be ignored because we want the entire range we selected to be filled. The Step value increases each consecutive cell by that specified amount until all the selected cells are filled.

- 6 Navigate to the Home tab and fine the Fill button. From the drop-down menu, select Series....



- 7 Specify a Step value of 0.05, leaving all the other options as is, and click OK.



Excel automatically completes the columns by incrementing each cell by 5% to the end.

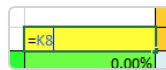


Final Exam Grade	0.00%
	5.00%
	10.00%
	15.00%
	20.00%
	25.00%
	30.00%
	35.00%
	40.00%
	45.00%
	50.00%
	55.00%
	60.00%
	65.00%
	70.00%
	75.00%
80.00%	
85.00%	
90.00%	
95.00%	
100.00%	

## Performing a What-If Analysis

The data table is almost ready to perform the “What-If Analysis.” This allows us to iteratively solve a formula based on parameters supplied to it by a table. Our semester grade calculation is a perfect use for it. In order for a ‘What-If’ table to work properly, we must specify a specific equation that we want to alter the values of. For this example, we will use the Semester Grade formula in K8 and use “What-If” Analysis to see how our project and final exam grades will affect our semester grade.

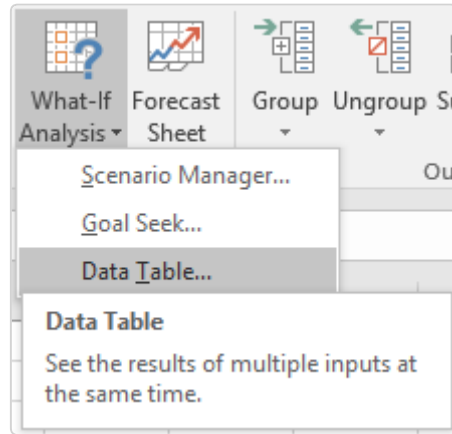
- 1 In cell F20, type =K8 and press Enter.



- 2 Select cells F20:Q41 (the entire table).

	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
19		Project Grade										
20	85.95%	0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	30.00%	40.00%	50.00%	60.00%	70.00%	80.00%	90.00%	100.00%
21	0.00%											
22	5.00%											
23	10.00%											
24	15.00%											
25	20.00%											
26	25.00%											
27	30.00%											
28	35.00%											
29	40.00%											
30	45.00%											
31	50.00%											
32	55.00%											
33	60.00%											
34	65.00%											
35	70.00%											
36	75.00%											
37	80.00%											
38	85.00%											
39	90.00%											
40	95.00%											
41	100.00%											

- 3 Switch to the Data tab in the ribbon and find What-If Analysis under the Forecast panel.



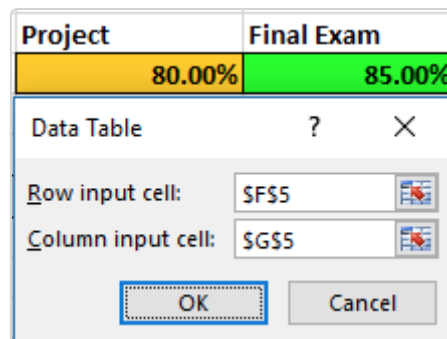
- 4 Select Data Table from the What-If Analysis drop-down menu.

In Row input cell, we want to enter the project grade, because this is the first variable we want to vary in our semester grade equation.

- 5 Click in the Row input cell field and then click cell F5 (project) in the workspace.

In Column input cell, we want to enter the Final Exam grade, because this is the second variable we want to vary in our semester grade equation.

- 6 Click in the Column input cell field and then click in cell G5 (final exam) in the workspace.



- 7 Click OK.

The table is now filled out with many possible values for our final semester grade. We can double check our results by finding our original guess values for the project (80%) and final exam (85%) and see if they match our original semester grade (85.95%).

"What-if?" Table												
	85.95%	Project Grade										
		0.00%	10.00%	20.00%	30.00%	40.00%	50.00%	60.00%	70.00%	80.00%	90.00%	100.00%
Final Exam Grade	0.00%	44.45%	46.45%	48.45%	50.45%	52.45%	54.45%	56.45%	58.45%	60.45%	62.45%	64.45%
	5.00%	45.95%	47.95%	49.95%	51.95%	53.95%	55.95%	57.95%	59.95%	61.95%	63.95%	65.95%
	10.00%	47.45%	49.45%	51.45%	53.45%	55.45%	57.45%	59.45%	61.45%	63.45%	65.45%	67.45%
	15.00%	48.95%	50.95%	52.95%	54.95%	56.95%	58.95%	60.95%	62.95%	64.95%	66.95%	68.95%
	20.00%	50.45%	52.45%	54.45%	56.45%	58.45%	60.45%	62.45%	64.45%	66.45%	68.45%	70.45%
	25.00%	51.95%	53.95%	55.95%	57.95%	59.95%	61.95%	63.95%	65.95%	67.95%	69.95%	71.95%
	30.00%	53.45%	55.45%	57.45%	59.45%	61.45%	63.45%	65.45%	67.45%	69.45%	71.45%	73.45%
	35.00%	54.95%	56.95%	58.95%	60.95%	62.95%	64.95%	66.95%	68.95%	70.95%	72.95%	74.95%
	40.00%	56.45%	58.45%	60.45%	62.45%	64.45%	66.45%	68.45%	70.45%	72.45%	74.45%	76.45%
	45.00%	57.95%	59.95%	61.95%	63.95%	65.95%	67.95%	69.95%	71.95%	73.95%	75.95%	77.95%
	50.00%	59.45%	61.45%	63.45%	65.45%	67.45%	69.45%	71.45%	73.45%	75.45%	77.45%	79.45%
	55.00%	60.95%	62.95%	64.95%	66.95%	68.95%	70.95%	72.95%	74.95%	76.95%	78.95%	80.95%
	60.00%	62.45%	64.45%	66.45%	68.45%	70.45%	72.45%	74.45%	76.45%	78.45%	80.45%	82.45%
	65.00%	63.95%	65.95%	67.95%	69.95%	71.95%	73.95%	75.95%	77.95%	79.95%	81.95%	83.95%
	70.00%	65.45%	67.45%	69.45%	71.45%	73.45%	75.45%	77.45%	79.45%	81.45%	83.45%	85.45%
	75.00%	66.95%	68.95%	70.95%	72.95%	74.95%	76.95%	78.95%	80.95%	82.95%	84.95%	86.95%
	80.00%	68.45%	70.45%	72.45%	74.45%	76.45%	78.45%	80.45%	82.45%	84.45%	86.45%	88.45%
85.00%	69.95%	71.95%	73.95%	75.95%	77.95%	79.95%	81.95%	83.95%	85.95%	87.95%	89.95%	
90.00%	71.45%	73.45%	75.45%	77.45%	79.45%	81.45%	83.45%	85.45%	87.45%	89.45%	91.45%	
95.00%	72.95%	74.95%	76.95%	78.95%	80.95%	82.95%	84.95%	86.95%	88.95%	90.95%	92.95%	
100.00%	74.45%	76.45%	78.45%	80.45%	82.45%	84.45%	86.45%	88.45%	90.45%	92.45%	94.45%	

You have now successfully completed a two input table!

## Subtotal

Switch to the SUBTOTAL worksheet. This worksheet may be familiar to you from our Excel 1 course. It contains the inventory of a sporting goods store along with information on the sales for each item. Note the small arrow in each column header. Remember that clicking on these arrows will open a filter menu for that header. This worksheet also has the freeze panes option enabled to allow us to see our headers while we are looking at the summary rows at the bottom of the sheet.

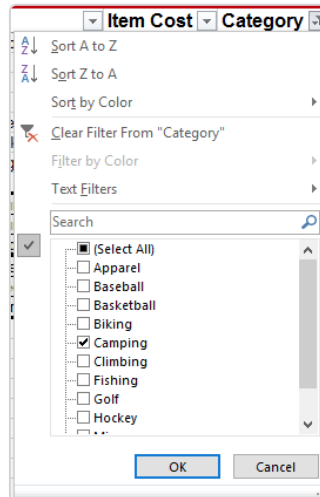
Sporting Goods Inventory									
Item	Item Cost	Category	# Sold	Item Sales	Sales W/ Tax	Sales Tax	0.055		
58 Tennis Balls-3 Pack	\$4.99	Tennis	13	\$64.87	\$68.44				
59 Tennis Balls-6 Pack	\$8.99	Tennis	5	\$44.95	\$47.42				
60 Titleist Golf Balls	\$14.99	Golf	8	\$119.92	\$126.52				
61 TPX Batting Gloves	\$14.99	Baseball	1	\$14.99	\$15.81				
62 Trek Road Bike	\$599.99	Biking	1	\$599.99	\$632.99				
63 Used Huffly	\$0.39	Biking	0	\$0.00	\$0.00				
64 Waders	\$16.99	Fishing	4	\$67.96	\$71.70				
65 Wilson Golf Clubs	\$299.99	Golf	1	\$299.99	\$316.49				
Minimum Item Cost	\$0.39		Minimum # Sold	0	Total Sales	\$6,988.45	Total Sales w/ Tax	\$7,372.81	
Maximum Item Cost	\$599.99		Maximum # Sold	13	Bonus Target	\$7,000.00			
Average Item Cost	\$50.28		Total # Sold	219	Overall Bonus?	NO			
Filtered Minimum			Filtered Minimum		Filtered Total		Filtered Total		
Filtered Maximum			Filtered Maximum		Bonus Target	\$7,000.00			
Filtered Average			Filtered Total		Bonus Portion?	NO			

Let's say we are interested in knowing about sales figures for our camping items. We can use the filter menu to sort category by camping and then try creating functions that summarize the data for us.

- 1 Click the small arrow next to the column title Category for the drop-down menu.

Sporting Goods		
Item	Item Cost	Category
Coleman Cooler	\$19.99	Camping
Deluxe Tent	\$49.99	Camping
Iron Pot	\$19.99	Camping
Lantern	\$11.99	Camping
Picnic Basket	\$14.99	Camping
Propane Tank	\$15.99	Camping
Sleeping Bag	\$19.99	Camping

- 2 Filter the Category column to display only the Camping items and click OK.



- 3 In cell C72, type =MIN(.  
 4 Select the range of data by Clicking in cell C19 and Dragging to C52.

Coleman Cooler	\$19.99
Deluxe Tent	\$49.99
Iron Pot	\$19.99
Lantern	\$11.99
Picnic Basket	\$14.99
Propane Tank	\$15.99
Sleeping Bag	\$19.99
<b>Minimum Item Cost</b> \$0.39	
<b>Maximum Item Cost</b> \$599.99	
<b>Average Item Cost</b> \$50.28	
<b>Filtered Minimum</b> =MIN(C19:C52)	

- 5 Type a closing parenthesis ) and press Enter. A minimum value of \$1.99 is returned even though the lowest item cost for the items displayed is \$11.99 (Lantern). By clicking in cell C72, you can see the function reads =MIN(C19:C52).

Item	Item Cost
Coleman Cooler	\$19.99
Deluxe Tent	\$49.99
Iron Pot	\$19.99
Lantern	\$11.99
Picnic Basket	\$14.99
Propane Tank	\$15.99
Sleeping Bag	\$19.99
<b>Minimum Item Cost</b> \$0.39	
<b>Maximum Item Cost</b> \$599.99	
<b>Average Item Cost</b> \$50.28	
<b>Filtered Mini</b> \$1.99	

- 6 Update cell C72 to read =MIN(C19,C21,C32,C36,C42,C45,C52). The correct minimum of \$11.99 is found so we know that this function works.

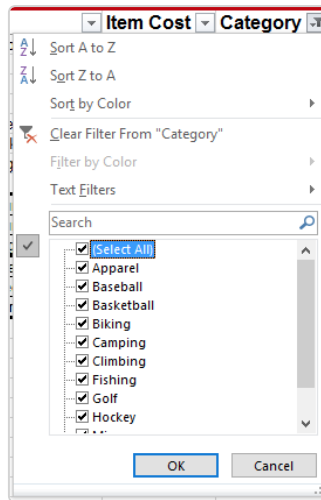
fx =MIN(C19,C21,C32,C36,C42,C45,C52)		
C	D	E
<b>Sporting Goods</b>		
Item Cost	Category	
\$50.28		Total #
\$11.99		Filtered Min

We get \$1.99 initially because when we made our selection, even though it appeared like we only selected the item cost values the camping items, we also selected values that are currently hidden. It found the minimum for all the cells between C19 and C52 while the camping items are only located in rows 19, 21, 32, 36, 42, 45, and 52.

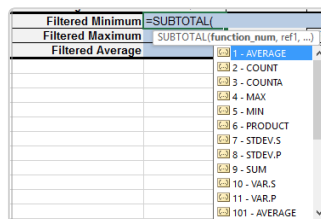
However, if we wanted to examine the sales for a different category by changing the filter, this function would not update and instead it would still report the camping category information. We could update this formula every time we changed the filter, but this would be quite the hassle.

Instead, we can use a different function to do the work for us such as the SUBTOTAL function. The SUBTOTAL function is convenient because it automatically updates its calculations to only include the currently displayed data based on the filter. We will now use the SUBTOTAL function to perform AVERAGE, MAX, and MIN operations, in addition to the SUM operation.

- 1 Delete the formula in cell C72.
- 2 Click the small drop down arrow next to the column title Category.

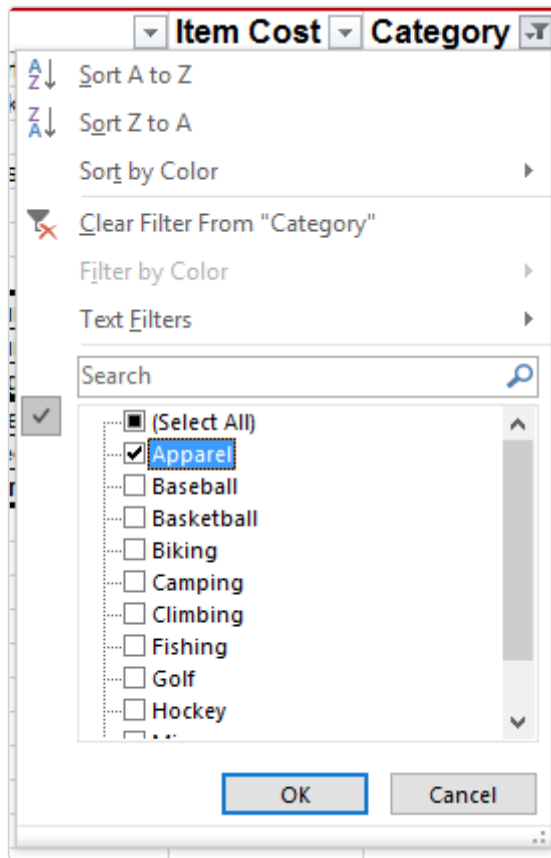


- 3 Click on the box labeled Select All. This will remove any filters previously applied to the column Category.
- 4 In cell C72, type =SUBTOTAL (.



- 5 Complete the formula to read =SUBTOTAL (5, C3:C67).
- 6 Complete all the other SUBTOTAL functions for the rest of the filtered summary data by using function numbers the respective function numbers.

- 7 Change the Category filter to Apparel and Check to see that the functions update accordingly.



**SUBTOTAL arguments**

The SUBTOTAL function uses function numbers for arguments that indicate what type of calculation Excel should perform. Some common ones from the drop-down list are:

- 1 - Average
- 2 - Count
- 4 - Max
- 5 - Min
- 9 - Sum

By using the SUBTOTAL function, we are able to maximize the potential of the filter feature in Excel. For this reason, the filter option is often used more than the sort command when looking at snapshots of a larger portion of data. The sort command is more often used to permanently reorder your data.

Minimum Item Cost	\$0.39	Minimum # Sold	0	Total Sales	\$6,988.45	Total Sales w/	
Maximum Item Cost	\$599.99	Maximum # Sold	13	Bonus Target	\$7,000.00	Tax	\$7,372.81
Average Item Cost	\$50.28	Total # Sold	219	Overall Bonus?	NO		
Filtered Minimum	\$3.99	Filtered Minimum	1	Filtered Total	\$311.76	Filtered Total	\$328.91
Filtered Maximum	\$20.00	Filtered Maximum	9	Bonus Target	\$646.15		
Filtered Average	\$10.49	Filtered Total	28	Bonus Portion?	NO		

## Goal Seek

Excel has tools available that can be used to solve both simple and complex mathematical equations. We will look at one of these tools now called Goal Seek. Excel's Goal Seek feature allows you to alter the input values in a formula in order to find out what the results will be. When Goal Seek is used properly, we can use it to solve algebraic equations.

Switch to the Goal Seek worksheet for this section.

The Goal Seek function has three parameters:

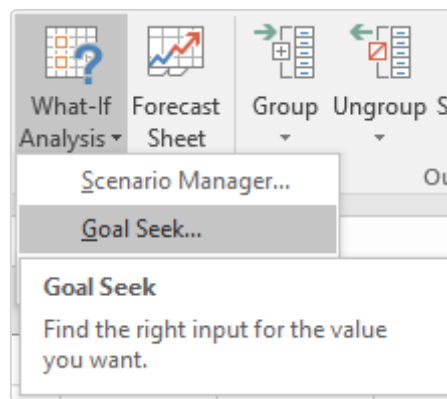
- Set cell: This is the cell whose value is changed to the goal value defined in the To value form.

- To value: The goal value is specified here.
- By changing cell: This cell's value is used as a variable which is changed so as to satisfy the goal value in the Set cell.

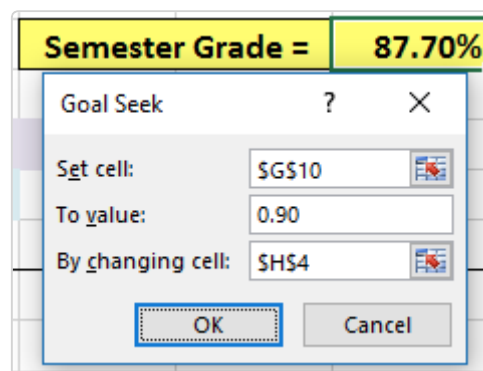
## Calculation of Semester Grades

For our first example, we will go back to the semester grade problem and calculate the exact score we need on the test to receive an A (90%) for the semester using Goal Seek. Before we begin, navigate to cell G10 to view the formula we will be working with. It should look familiar, as it is similar to the semester grade calculation that we have used for input tables. The following exercise explains how Goal Seek can be used to calculate theoretical results for our data.

- 1 Click in cell G10, the semester grade. This is the cell we will be changing.
- 2 From the Data tab in the ribbon, find What-If Analysis under the Forecast panel.



- 3 Select Goal Seek from the What-If Analysis drop-down menu.
- 4 In the Set cell form, input cell \$G\$10.
- 5 In the To value form, type 0.90.
- 6 In the By changing cell form, input cell \$H\$4.



Here we set the semester grade to the desired target of 90% by changing the final exam score.

- 7 Click OK twice

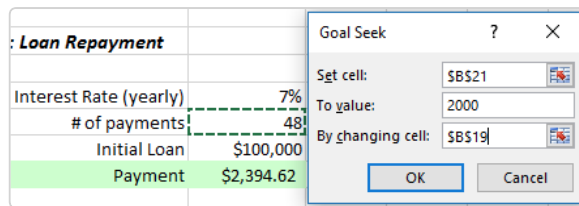
HW1	85.00%		Exam1	87.00%		FinalExam	91.57%
HW2	89.00%		Exam2	93.00%			
HW3	95.00%		Exam3	89.00%			
HW4	79.00%		Exam Average:	89.67%			
HW5	92.00%						
HW Average:	88.00%						
						Semester Grade =	90.00% *Use Goal

We now know that we need to score a 91.57% or better on the final exam in cell H4 to receive an A for the semester.

## Calculation of Loan Payments

This exercise explains how to use Goal Seek to evaluate a loan payment. Here, we will work with a loan that we have taken out. We have taken out a \$100,000 loan at a yearly interest rate of 7% that we intend to pay off in four years (48 months). Right now, our current monthly payment is \$2394.62. However, we can only afford to pay \$2000 a month on our loan and want to figure out how long it will take us to pay it off.

- 1 Select cell B21 and click on Goal Seek as done previously.
- 2 In the Set cell form, input cell \$B\$21.
- 3 In the To value form, type 2000.
- 4 In the By changing cell form, input cell \$B\$19.



**Payment function**

We have used the Excel function PMT to calculate each monthly payment for the loan. The payment function works as follows:

=PMT(interest rate on loan, total amount of payments to make on loan, initial loaned amount)

Here, we are changing our monthly payment to the desired payment we want to make by changing the amount of time it will take us to pay off the loan.

- 5 Click OK twice

Interest Rate (yearly)	7%
# of payments	59.28776097
Initial Loan	\$100,000
Payment	\$2,000.00

We can see that it will take us about 59.3 months to pay off our loan with \$2000/month payments. Since we don't make a payment at 0.3 months, we will round it up to 60 months which comes to 5 years. Not bad!

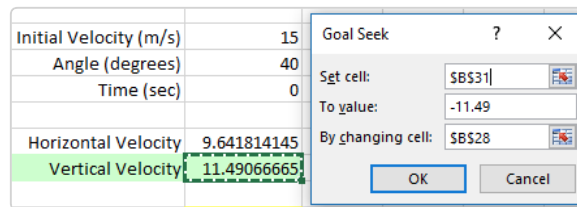
## A Physics Problem

For our last "What-If Analysis" example we will solve a physics problem. We want to figure out how far we can throw a ball before it hits the ground. We'll say we can throw at about 15 m/sec (roughly 34 mph). Click on cells B30 and B31 to see how we calculated the horizontal and vertical velocity of the ball. Don't worry about getting too absorbed in the physics, but notice the use of the RADIANS function that converted our measurement of the angle we can throw at from degrees to radians. To solve this problem, we should set our vertical velocity to the negative of its initial value



by changing the amount of time the ball has been in the air. When our vertical velocity is at the opposite of this value, we know that the ball has landed.

- 1 Select cell B31. This corresponds to our vertical velocity.
- 2 Find Goal Seek once again and click on it.
- 3 In the Set cell form, input cell  $\$B\$31$ .
- 4 In the To value form, type -11.49.
- 5 In the Be changing cell form, input cell  $\$B\$28$ .



Here, we are setting the vertical velocity to its final value when the ball hits the ground by changing the time it takes for the ball to hit the ground. We can use this information to see how far we can throw the ball.

- 6 Click OK twice

Initial Velocity (m/s)	15
Angle (degrees)	40
Time (sec)	2.342575601
Horizontal Velocity	9.641814145
Vertical Velocity	-11.49
Distance	22.58667857

We can see now that it will take the ball 2.34 seconds to hit the ground, and we can throw the ball 23 meters (about 74 feet).

## Goal Seek Review

Here are few things to remember about Goal Seek before we move on:

- Since Goal Seek is used to solve equations, always make sure the Set cell has an equation or formula in it, i.e., something that will vary based on other numbers.
- To value is the value you want, i.e., your goal.
- By changing cell is a variable that changes in order to enable the previous two arguments.

However, Goal Seek is limited in its equation solving abilities as it can only solve one equation, and you cannot add any constraints or limits on your solution. Our next topic, the Solver, will allow you to solve multiple equations with multiple constraints.

# Solver

This section explains how to use Solver to solve multiple equations at the same time. Goal Seek is an excellent resource for single variable solutions and simple formulas. But when multiple variables are introduced, Goal Seek is not as an effective of a tool as another built-in program called Solver. Solver is part of an Add-In to Excel, meaning that we need to check and make sure we have that Add-In installed.

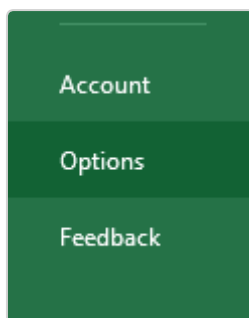
Before we learn about Add-ins in the following section, switch to the Solver worksheet in your Excel workbook.

## Add-Ins

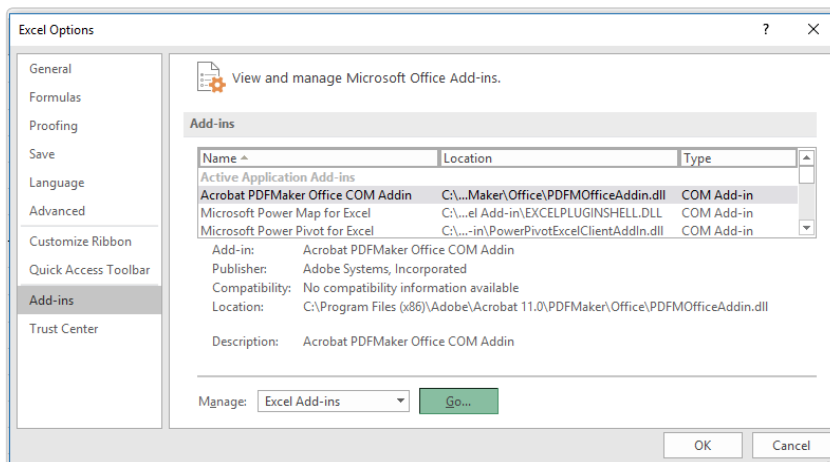
Add-Ins are small programs that add additional functionality to Excel. These may be created by Microsoft or a third-party in order to provide tools that more proficient users of Excel may require. We first need to check and make sure the add-in is active on your computer.

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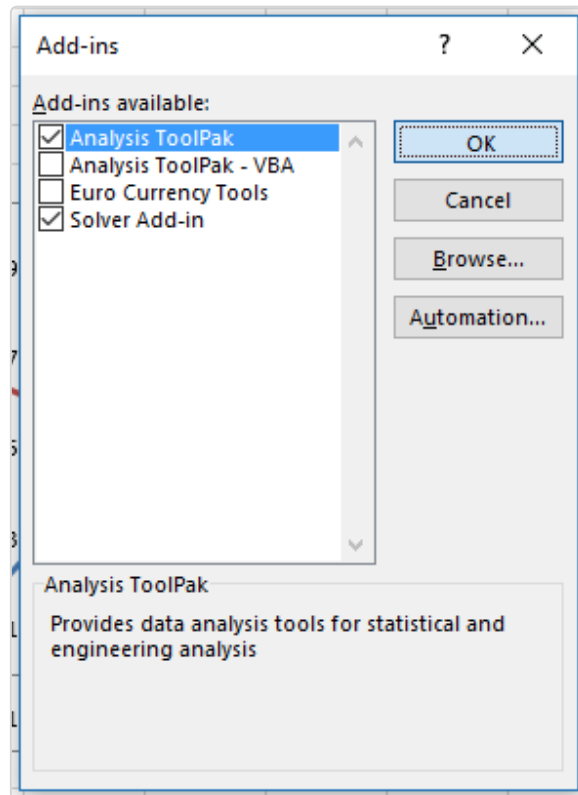
- 1 Switch to the File tab and click Options.



- 2 Navigate to the Add-ins options

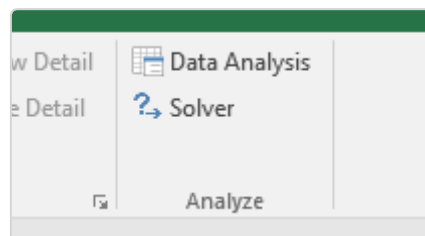


- 3 Find the Manage drop-down menu, select Excel Add-ins and click Go....



- 4 From the list of available add-ins, check the Analysis ToolPak and Solver Add-In, and click OK.

These Add-ins can now be found in the Data tab under the Analyze section. The process of loading the Add-ins into Excel may be slow so please be patient. If you are prompted to install the Add-ins, go ahead and click Yes to install them.



## One-Variable Math Example

In Example 1, we will solve the equation " $y=x-5$ " for  $x$ . This is very similar to how we used Goal Seek to solve equations, except for this example we will use the Solver tool.

Like Goal Seek, Solver needs both a guess value and a formula to evaluate.

- 1 In cell B5, type a guess value for  $x$ , such as 3.
- 2 In cell B6, type the formula `=B5-5`.

	A	B	C	D
2	<b>Example 1</b>			
3	$y = x - 5$	*Solution for $y=0$ is $x=5$		
4				
5		$x =$	3.00	
6	Equation for y:	-2.00		

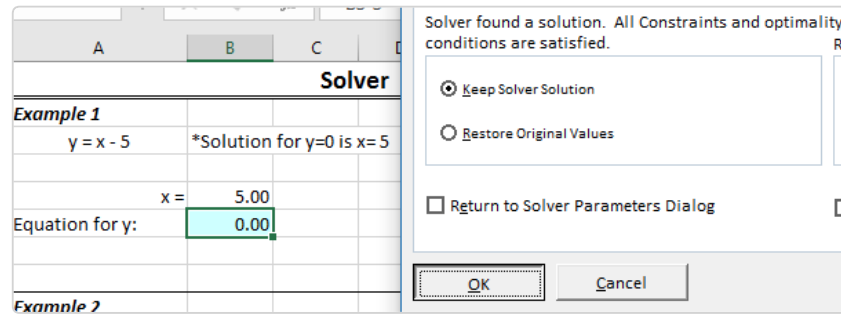
We will now use Solver to find the value of x that yields zero as the y value.

- 3 Navigate to the Data tab.
- 4 In the Analyze section, select Solver.
- 5 Click Reset All to remove any previous input.
- 6 Input the following into the forms:
  - o Set Objective:  $\$B\$6$
  - o To: Value Of: 0
  - o By Changing Variable Cells:  $\$B\$5$
  - o Solving Method: Simplex LP

By setting the value of B6 equal to zero and changing cell B5 (or x guess) we will gain our solution for x when  $y = 0$ .

- 7 Click Solve

- Another dialogue box prompts to keep or discard the solution. Click OK too keep the solution if it seems logical.



We have now solved  $y = x - 5$  for  $y = 0$  using both Goal Seek and Solver. For this simple example, Goal Seek is a more efficient option but both get the same solution. Let's look at a multi-variable set of equations in order to see the real power of Solver.

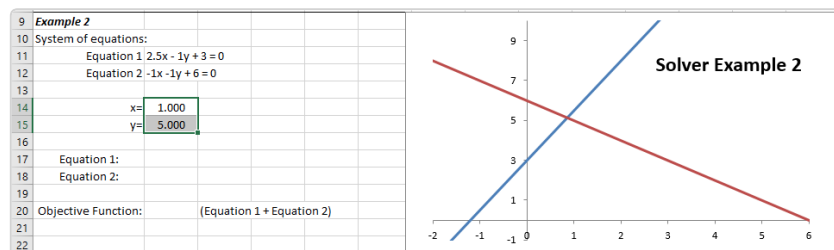
## Multi-Variable Example

Example 2 shows two equations, whose lines intersect at a given point. We are going to use the values of  $x$  and  $y$  to find the point where these lines intersect.

Let's talk through this problem before we solve it. We will enter guess values, as before, for both  $x$  and  $y$ . In cells B17 and B18 we will enter in Equations 1 and 2, respectively. Before we solve, we need to set an objective function to relate the two equations with each other. In this case, we can just add the two equations together, and will set it as our objective for it to equal zero. We will then be ready to solve. Our solutions should be  $x = 0.857$  and  $y = 5.143$  as can be estimated from the graph.

Before we use the Solver, we need to input the pre-requisite data into the worksheet that includes the guess values, the two equations, and the objective function that correlates the equations.

- In cell B14, input a guess value of 1.
- In cell B15, input a guess value of 5.



- In cell B17, input the equation  $=2.5*B14-B15+3$  and press Enter.
- In cell B18, input the equation  $=-B14-B15+6$  and press Enter.

System of equations:	
Equation 1	$2.5x - 1y + 3 = 0$
Equation 2	$-1x - 1y + 6 = 0$
x=	1.000
y=	5.000
Equation 1:	$=2.5*B14-B15+3$
Equation 2:	$=-B14-B15+6$

- In cell B20, input the objective function  $=B17+B18$ .

Now that we have all the information entered into the worksheet, we can use the Solver to solve for x and y.

- Click on Solver in the Data tab as before.
- Click Reset All to start over.
- Input the following into the forms:
  - Set Objective:  $\$B\$20$
  - To: Value Of: 0
  - By Changing Variable Cells:  $\$B\$14:\$B\$15$
  - Solving Method: Simplex LP

Solver Parameters

Set Objective:

To:  Max  Min  Value Of:

By Changing Variable Cells:

Subject to the Constraints:

Make Unconstrained Variables Non-Negative

Select a Solving Method: Simplex LP

Solving Method  
Select the GRG Nonlinear engine for Solver Problems that are smooth nonlinear. Select the LP Simplex engine for linear Solver Problems, and select the Evolutionary engine for Solver problems that are non-smooth.

- Click Solve.

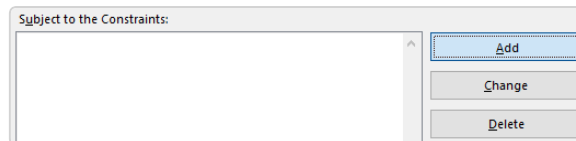
- 5 A dialogue box will prompt you to either keep or discard the solution. Click OK to keep it.

Solver found a solution for our objective function equal to zero (and may have found one different than above), but it is still not quite what we want. Notice that our equations in cells B17 and B18 are not equal to zero. We can make one simple addition in our Solver window to correct this problem.

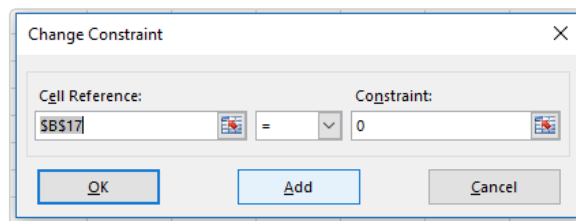
System of equations:			
Equation 1	$2.5x - 1y + 3 = 0$		
Equation 2	$-1x - 1y + 6 = 0$		
	x=	0.000	
	y=	4.500	
Equation 1:	-1.500		
Equation 2:	1.500		
Objective Function:	0.0	(Equation 1 + Equation 2)	

- 1 Select Solver
- 2 In the Subject to the Constraints field, click Add.

We must set one of these equations equal to zero.



- 3 Input the following in the Add Constraint box:
  - o Cell Reference:  $\$B\$17$  or  $\$B\$18$
  - o Operator: =
  - o Constraint: 0



- 4 Click OK.
- 5 Click Solve and then OK once again.

	x=	0.857
	y=	5.143
Equation 1:		0.000
Equation 2:		0.000
Objective Function:		0.0

We can now see that by adding one constraint, Solver found a solution all of our requirements:

$$\text{Equation 1} = \text{Equation 2} = \text{Equation 1} + \text{Equation 2} = 0$$

As seen in this example, you could say that Solver is not always accurate in solving sets of equations. In reality, Solver is correct but you did not completely constrain the problem in the way you meant. Make sure to always double check your work after a solution is reached (hence the graph).

## Practical Nonlinear Example

In this last example, we will look at a practical application for Solver. In this case, we own a small business with 4 employees providing a computer repair service and charge our customers \$30 per job. Each employee is paid a wage shown below:

The Jobs column indicates how many jobs each employee completed during the month. The Earnings column is the total earning of each worker, simply the Wage column multiplied by the Jobs column.

Firstly, set up the formulas and functions to complete the Total Jobs, Total Wages, Revenue, and Profit cells.

- 1 In cell C31, type the function =SUM(C26:C29) and press Enter.
- 2 In cell C33, type the function =SUM(D26:D29) and press Enter.
- 3 In cell C35, type the formula =C31\*H27 and press Enter.

Calculate the profit by subtracting the wages from the revenue.

- 4 In cell C37, type the formula =C35-C33 and press Enter.

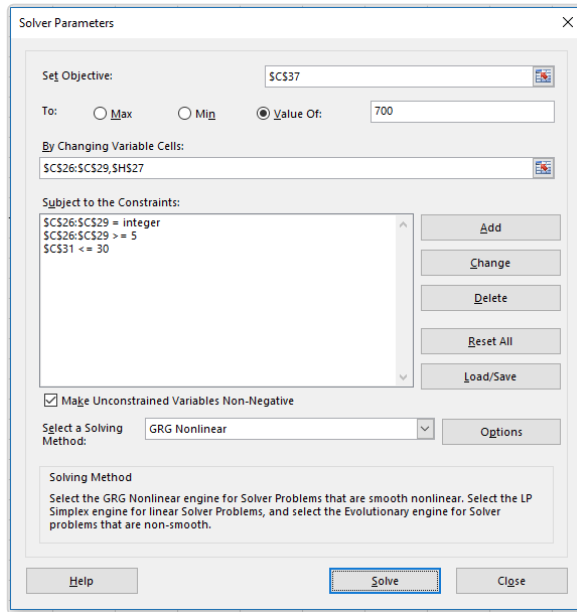
Employees	Wage	Jobs	Earnings		
Alan	\$9.50	4	\$38.00		
Fernando	\$8.50	5	\$42.50	Customer pays per job:	\$30.00
Louisa	\$8.50	4	\$34.00		
Emilia	\$8.00	7	\$56.00		
	<b>Total Jobs:</b>	20			
	<b>Total Wages:</b>	\$170.50			
	<b>Revenue:</b>	\$600.00			
	<b>Profit:</b>	\$429.50			

We now have a multitude of variables to change to try to optimize our business. We are going to determine the optimal price to charge our customers by setting the following constraints:

- Each employee completes at least 5 jobs per month
- Minimum Total Profit of \$700
- No more than 30 total jobs every month

- 1 Select Solver in the Analyze panel of the Data tab.
- 2 Click Reset All.



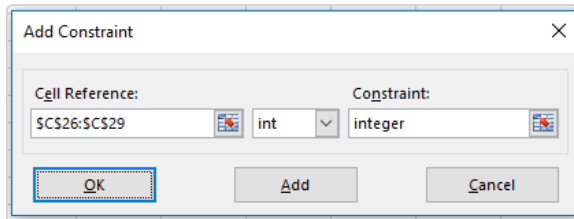


**Cell Selection**

Non-adjacent cells can be selected together by holding the Control or Command button on your keyboard and making selections. Here, cell H27 can be selected with C26:C29 using the above method.

**3** Input the following into the forms:

- Set Objective: `$C$37`
- To: Value Of: 700
- By Changing Variable Cells: `$C$26:$C$29, $H$27`
- Solving Method: GRG Nonlinear
- Constraints:
  - `$C$26:$C$29 = integer`



- `$C$26:$C$29 >= 5`
- `$C$31 <= 30`

**4** Click Solve followed by OK.

We added a few constraints to make sure our solution is valid and not nonsensical. The first constraint specifies that the number of jobs has to be an integer, that is, we want the job number rounded off to the next whole number as one cannot perform 3.45 jobs, for example.

Employees	Wage	Jobs	Earnings				
Alan	\$9.50	5	\$47.50				
Fernando	\$8.50	5	\$42.50	Customer pays per job:	\$38.98		
Louisa	\$8.50	5	\$42.50				
Emilia	\$8.00	8	\$64.00				
	<b>Total Jobs:</b>	23					
	<b>Total Wages:</b>	\$196.50					
	<b>Revenue:</b>	\$896.50					
	<b>Profit:</b>	\$700.00					

All of our conditions have been met and we can see that we need to charge our customer \$38.98 per job. Note that often times multiple solutions are possible and that you may get different answers while running the same problem. You can always add additional constraints until you get an answer that best fits your needs.

## Analysis ToolPak

In addition to Solver, there are other Add-Ins we can use and one of the largest is the Analysis ToolPak. This Add-In allows for financial, scientific and statistical data analysis. Switch to the worksheet named Aerobic Activity for this section.

This file is an example of a hypothetical study of the connection between an individual's BMI (body mass index) and hours of aerobic activity per week. The given information in the table includes the individual's gender, weight before exercise and their current hours spent doing aerobic activity per week. For this example, we will calculate each participant's predicted body weight after performing aerobic activity on a weekly basis, and use this information to calculate their new BMI.

## BMI and Weight Loss Calculation

Before we move on, let us complete the table in this worksheet. This will also help review some functions in Excel. We will now calculate each participant's predicted weight given their hours of exercise per week. Their new predicted weight can be calculated from the following formula:

New weight = old weight - (0.15\* hours of aerobic activity),  
 where 0.15 is weight loss constant found in cell K5.

- 1 In cell E3, type the equation for an individual's predicted weight: `=D3-$K$5*C3` and press Enter.



- 2 Autofill the entire column with this formula by clicking and dragging from the bottom-right of the cell.

Predicted Weight with Aerobic Activity
119.99
146.85
178.00
228.33
153.14
132.00
112.99
202.66
156.96
124.10
139.63
132.00
176.59
104.21
164.89
128.95

Next, to calculate the BMI of each participant, we will use the following equation:

$$\text{BMI} = (\text{Predicted weight}) * 0.454 / (\text{height} * 0.3)^2,$$

where 0.4536 is the conversion factor from pounds to kilograms and 0.3048 is the conversion factor for feet to meters. These constants can be found in cells K6 and K7.

- 1 In cell G3, type the following equation: `=E3*$K$6/POWER((F3*$K$7),2)` and press Enter.

X		✓		fx		=E3*\$K\$6/POWER((F3*\$K\$7),2)	
G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
BMI							
19.37							

- 2 Autofill the entire column with this formula by clicking and dragging from the bottom-right of the cell.

BMI
19.37
32.46
22.61
32.03
26.62
25.78
19.64
30.46
24.44
26.30
27.27
24.78
25.63
15.66
24.78
22.41

Now calculate the average BMI of all participants.

- 3 In cell K8, type `=AVERAGE(E3:E32)`.

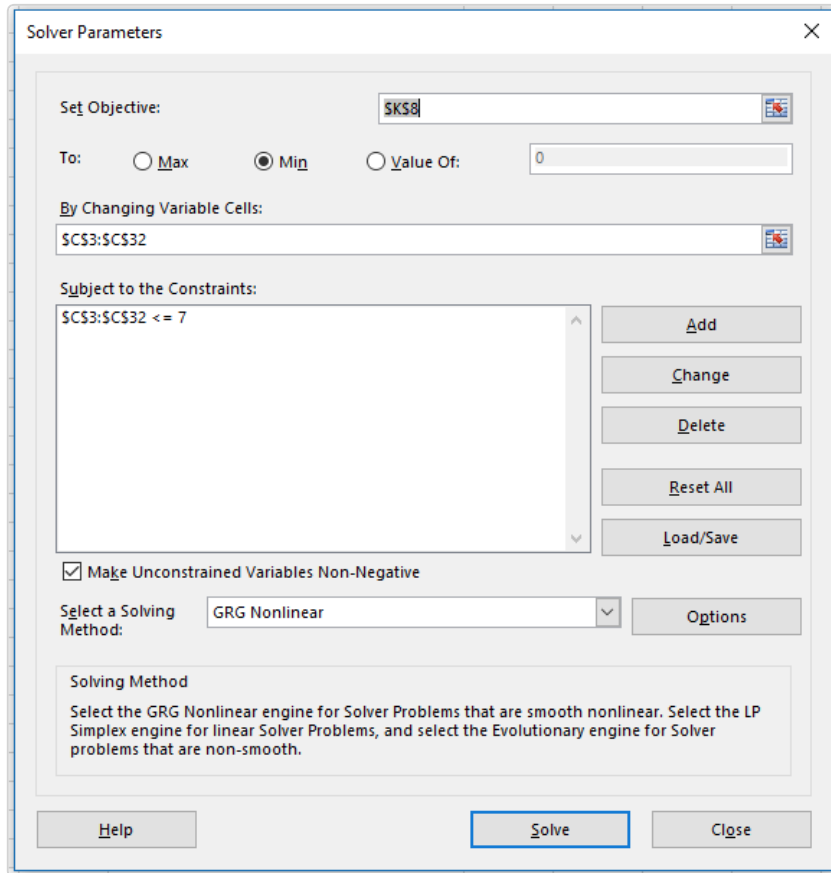
POUNDS LOST PER HOUR OF AEROBIC ACTIVITY:	0.15
CONVERSION POUNDS TO KILOGRAMS:	0.4536
CONVERSION FEET TO METERS:	0.3048
Average BMI	<code>=AVERAGE(G3:G32)</code>

# Optimizing Results with Solver

We can use Solver to put constraints on our data for a What-If Analysis. Note the current average BMI for all participants in cell K8. Suppose that after reviewing health statistics, we want to minimize the average BMI by changing the hours each participant works out a week. We can use Solver to minimize the average BMI by maximizing the hours participants work out.

Before we minimize the average BMI, we would also like to ensure that no participant is completing more than 7 hours of aerobic activity per week.

- 1 Click on Solver under Analyze in the Data tab.



- 2 Input the following into the forms:

- o Set Objective: \$K\$8
- o To: Min
- o By Changing Variable Cells: \$C\$3:\$C\$32
- o Solving Method: GRG Nonlinear
- o Constraints: \$C\$3:\$C\$32 <= 7

**Solver parameters**

Here, we are minimizing average BMI in cell K8 by constraining the hours of aerobic activity in cells C3:C32 to less than or equal to 7.

Hours of Aerobic Activity per week	Weight without Aerobic Activity	Predicted Weight with Aerobic Activity	Height (feet)	BMI		
7.00	121.00	119.95	5.50	19.36		
7.00	147.00	145.95	4.70	32.26		
7.00	178.00	176.95	6.20	22.48	POUNDS LOST PER HOUR OF AEROBIC ACTIVITY:	0.15
7.00	229.00	227.95	5.90	31.97	CONVERSION POUNDS TO KILOGRAMS:	0.4536
7.00	154.00	152.95	5.30	26.59	CONVERSION FEET TO METERS:	0.3048
7.00	132.00	130.95	5.00	25.57	Average BMI	27.26
7.00	114.00	112.95	5.30	19.63		
7.00	203.00	201.95	5.70	30.35		
7.00	157.00	155.95	5.60	24.28		
7.00	125.00	123.95	4.80	26.27		
7.00	140.00	138.95	5.00	27.14		

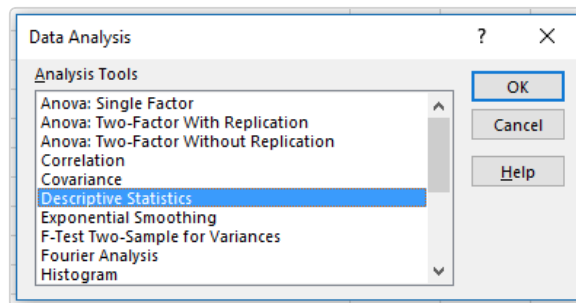
- 3 Click Solve followed by OK to retain the optimized values.

The average BMI should now be smaller than before as a result of all the hours of aerobic activity being maximized to 7 hours.

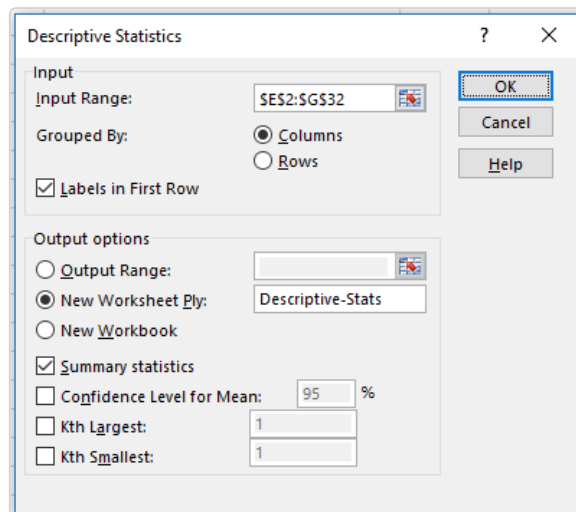
## Descriptive Statistics

The first analysis we will perform on our data is calculating some general statistical information using Descriptive Statistics from the Analysis ToolPak. We can get information such as the mean, median, mode, etc.

- 1 Select Data Analysis from the Analyze panel on the Data tab.
- 2 Select Descriptive Statistics and click OK.



- 3 In the Input Range form, enter \$E\$2:\$G\$32
- 4 Leave the Columns radio button checked for the Grouped By option.
- 5 Enter "Descriptive-Stats" in the New Worksheet Ply form
- 6 Select the Summary statistics checkbox and click OK.



A table with the relevant statistical information will be displayed in the Descriptive-Stats worksheet. Below is the table we should see, but formatted for ease of reading. We may format our table similarly.

Predicted Weight with Aerobic Activity		Height (feet)		BMI	
Mean	166.5166667	Mean	5.46	Mean	27.26293655
Standard Error	8.647195191	Standard Error	0.077696728	Standard Error	1.271877339
Median	154.45	Median	5.45	Median	25.92069336
Mode	130.95	Mode	5.7	Mode	#N/A
Standard Deviation	47.36263865	Standard Deviation	0.425562508	Standard Deviation	6.966359091
Sample Variance	2243.21954	Sample Variance	0.181103448	Sample Variance	48.53015899
Kurtosis	0.911511862	Kurtosis	-1.027658519	Kurtosis	1.230449343
Skewness	1.043803128	Skewness	0.075817909	Skewness	0.987903074
Range	200	Range	1.5	Range	30.05546177
Minimum	103.95	Minimum	4.7	Minimum	15.62132626
Maximum	303.95	Maximum	6.2	Maximum	45.67678803
Sum	4995.5	Sum	163.8	Sum	817.8880965
Count	30	Count	30	Count	30

## Histograms

Another valuable tool when looking at statistics is the histogram. Histograms are useful when looking for a visual representation of frequency of data, in other word, in other words, the number of occurrences of a specific value. Switch to the Aerobic Activity worksheet for this exercise.

First we need to create a range for the data to be plotted on the histogram. We will call this the "Bin."

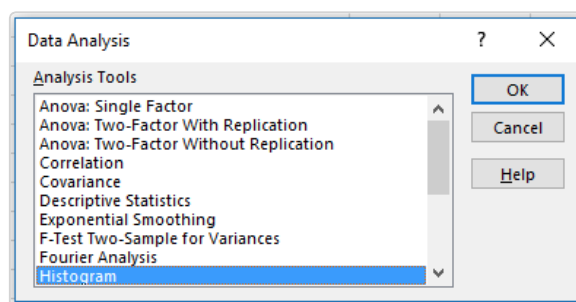
- 1 In cell J12, type Bin. This will be the label of our "bin" column.
- 2 In cell J13, enter 15.
- 3 In cell J14, enter 20.

Bin
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50

- 4 Use Autofill to fill up a column of values from 15 to 50 in increments of 5.

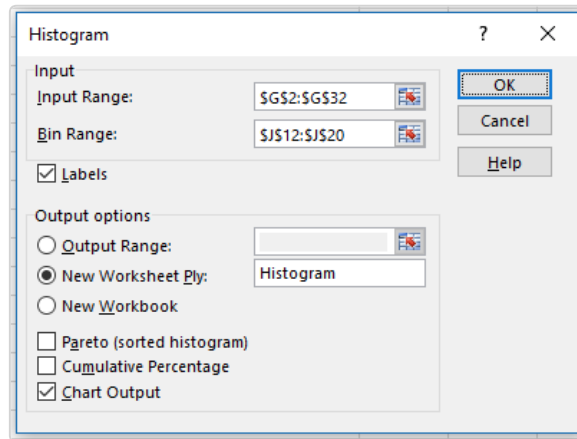
Excel will now group data, for example, everything greater than 40 and less than or equal to 45 will be accounted for in the 45 bar of the histogram. Let us go ahead and create the histogram now.

- 1 Select Data Analysis from the Analyze panel on the Data tab.
- 2 Select Histogram and click OK.

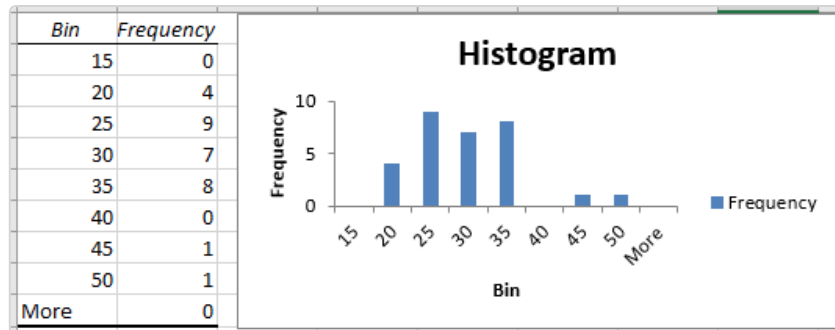


- 3 In the Input Range form, enter G2 : G32.
- 4 In the Bin Range form, enter J12 : J18.

- 5 Check the Labels checkbox
- 6 Type "Histogram" in the New Worksheet Ply form under Output options to create the histogram in a new worksheet with that name.
- 7 Check Chart Output to display a chart of the data and click OK.



The grouped data with along its corresponding frequencies and the histogram chart will be displayed in the Histogram worksheet.



The Office support webpage, linked [here](#) has information on all the available Analysis ToolPak tools for your reference.