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Pivot Tables: How to Avoid all that Copying-and-Pasting to Build a 2D Table



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Note: you don't *absolutely* need to know about any of this. You can do perfectly well using the steps shown in the *Project Notes* to turn a linear print-out of data into a 2D table. Once you get used to them, however, Pivot Tables will save you time.



pivot_tables.pptx


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Remember This Slide from the Project Notes Noteset?


1	1	1	1.44
2	1	10	3.99
3	1	100	8.07
4	1	1000	9.33
5	1	10000	23.4
6	1	100000	25.13
7	1	500000	25.97
8	2	1	0.23
9	2	10	4.62
10	2	100	19.26
11	2	1000	17.91
12	2	10000	34.34
13	2	100000	49.83
14	2	500000	49.27
15	4	1	0.34
16	4	10	0.259
17	4	100	16.7
18	4	1000	38.66
19	4	10000	82.39
20	4	100000	91.09
21	4	500000	91.49
22	8	1	0.26
23	8	10	2.39
24	8	100	16.21
25	8	1000	48.49
26	8	10000	137.59
27	8	100000	166.17
28	8	500000	181.62



E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
		1	10	100	1000	10000	500000	
	1	1.44	3.99	8.07	9.33	23.4	25.13	25.97
	2	0.23	4.62	19.26	17.91	34.34	49.83	49.27
	4	0.34	0.259	16.7	38.66	82.39	91.09	91.49
	8	0.26	2.39	16.21	48.49	137.59	166.17	181.62

You will need to do some copying and pasting to get the linear format into this 2D format, but it will be worth it!

You can avoid *all* that copying and pasting by using an Excel feature called **Pivot Tables**! Here come the steps.




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Step #1: Insert Column Heading Labels

1	1	1	1.44
2	1	10	3.99
3	1	100	8.07
4	1	1000	9.33
5	1	10000	23.4
6	1	100000	25.13
7	1	500000	25.97
8	2	1	0.23
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25	8	1000	48.49
26	8	10000	137.59
27	8	100000	166.17
28	8	500000	181.62



Clipboard	Font		
E5			
A	B	C	
1	Cores	Number of Trials	MegaTrialsPerSecond
2	1	1	1.44
3	1	10	3.99
4	1	100	8.07
5	1	1000	9.33
6	1	10000	23.4
7	1	100000	25.13
8	1	500000	25.97
9	2	1	0.23
10	2	10	4.62
11	2	100	19.26
12	2	1000	17.91



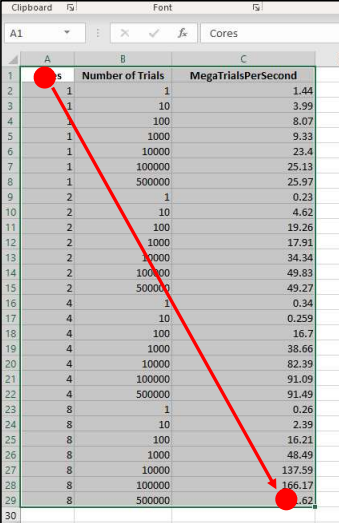
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4

Step #2: Sweep Over the Entire Table, Including the Labels

Clipboard	Font		
A1			
A	B	C	
1	Number of Trials	MegaTrialsPerSecond	
2	1	1.44	
3	1	10	3.99
4	1	100	8.07
5	1	1000	9.33
6	1	10000	23.4
7	1	100000	25.13
8	1	500000	25.97
9	2	1	0.23
10	2	10	4.62
11	2	100	19.26
12	2	1000	17.91
13	2	10000	34.34
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24	8	10	2.39
25	8	100	16.21
26	8	1000	48.49
27	8	10000	137.59
28	8	100000	166.17
29	8	500000	181.62
30			



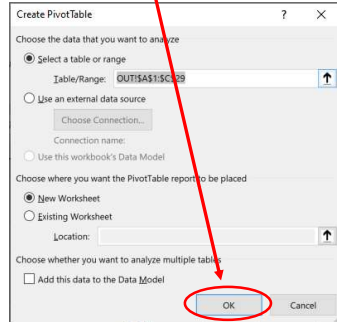
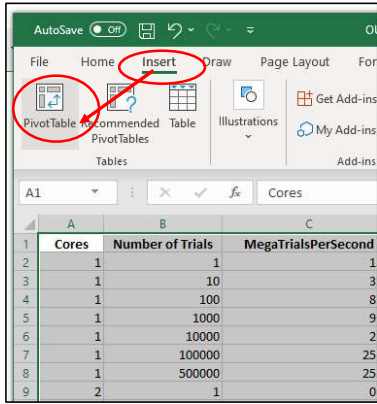


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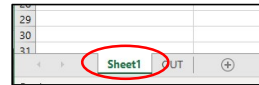
4

Step #3: Insert → Pivot Table → OK

5



This will create a new worksheet.



5

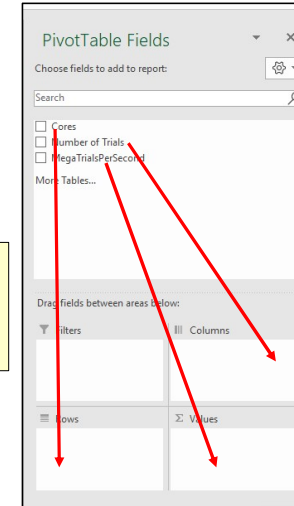
Step #4: Assign Roles for the Different Columns of Your Data

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1. Drag **Cores** to **Rows**
2. Drag **Number of Trials** to **Columns**
3. Drag **MegaTrialsPerSecond** to **Values**

This defines how the 2D table will be created.

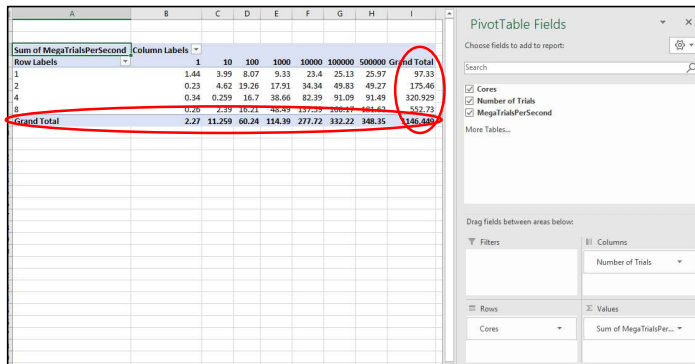
Note that you can have more than 3 columns of data to start with. This process just lets you pick which 3 will go into the 2D table.



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Ta-Da! You Have a 2D Table with No Copying and Pasting!

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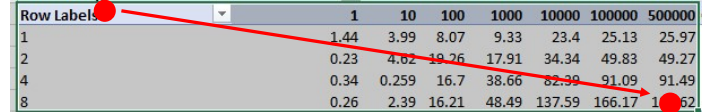
You can get rid of the **Grand Total** row and column – they have meaning in some spreadsheet applications, but not here.

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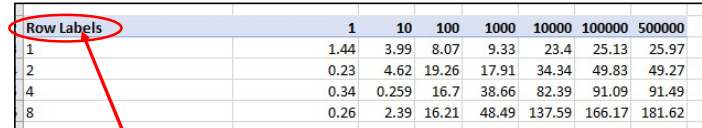
But, You Can't Make a Graph from a Pivot Table, so Copy and Paste it into Normal Cells

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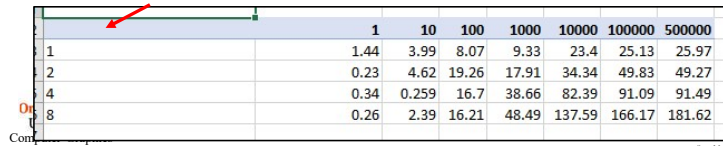
Sweep over and Copy the Pivot Table:



Paste those numbers somewhere else:



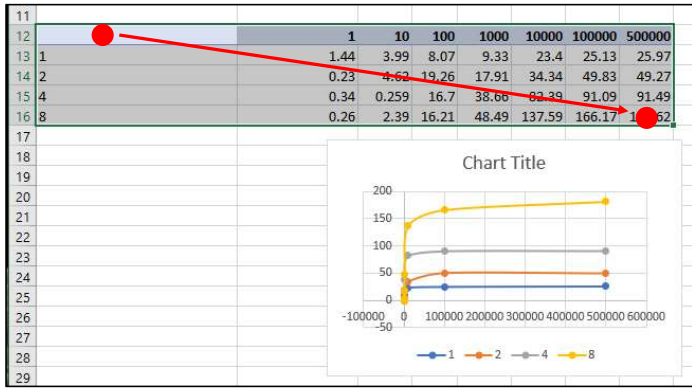
Clear the **Row Labels** cell:



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Sweep Over the New 2D Table and Copy → Insert your graph,
Just like in the Project Notes

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