xttab — Tabulate xt data

Description

xttab, a generalization of tabulate (see [R] tabulate oneway), performs one-way tabulations and decomposes counts into between and within components in panel data.

xttrans, another generalization of tabulate (see [R] tabulate oneway), reports transition probabilities (the change in one categorical variable over time).

Quick start

Overall, between, and within one-way tabulation of v1 using xtset data

    xttab v1

Report transition probabilities for v2

    xttrans v2

Add frequency of transitions

    xttrans v2, freq

As above, but for each level of catvar

    bysort catvar: xttrans v2, freq

Menu

xttab

    Statistics > Longitudinal/panel data > Setup and utilities > Tabulate xt data

xttrans

    Statistics > Longitudinal/panel data > Setup and utilities > Report transition probabilities
Syntax

```
xttab varname [if]
xttrans varname [if] [ , freq]
```

A panel variable must be specified; use `xtset`; see [XT] `xtset`.
`by` is allowed with `xttab` and `xttrans`; see [D] `by`.

Option

```
freq, allowed with `xttrans` only, specifies that frequencies as well as transition probabilities be displayed.
```

Remarks and examples

If you have not read [XT] `xt`, please do so.

Example 1: xttab

Using the `nlswork` dataset described in [XT] `xt`, variable `msp` is 1 if a woman is married and her spouse resides with her, and 0 otherwise:

```
use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r16/nlswork
(National Longitudinal Survey. Young Women 14-26 years of age in 1968)
xttab msp
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><code>msp</code></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Between</th>
<th>Within</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freq.</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Freq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>11324</td>
<td>39.71</td>
<td>3113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>17194</td>
<td>60.29</td>
<td>3643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28518</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>6756</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(n = 4711)

The overall part of the table summarizes results in terms of person-years. We have 11,324 person-years of data in which `msp` is 0 and 17,194 in which it is 1—in 60.3% of our data, the woman is married with her spouse present. Between repeats the breakdown, but this time in terms of women rather than person-years; 3,113 of our women ever had `msp` 0 and 3,643 ever had `msp` 1, for a grand total of 6,756 ever having either. We have in our data, however, only 4,711 women. This means that there are women who sometimes have `msp` 0 and at other times have `msp` 1.

The within percent tells us the fraction of the time a woman has the specified value of `msp`. If we take the first line, conditional on a woman ever having `msp` 0, 62.7% of her observations have `msp` 0. Similarly, conditional on a woman ever having `msp` 1, 75.8% of her observations have `msp` 1. These two numbers are a measure of the stability of the `msp` values, and, in fact, `msp` 1 is more stable among these younger women than `msp` 0, meaning that they tend to marry more than they divorce. The total within of 69.73% is the normalized between weighted average of the within percents, that is, \((3113 \times 62.69 + 3643 \times 75.75)/6756\). It is a measure of the overall stability of the `msp` variable.
A time-invariant variable will have a tabulation with within percents of 100:

```
.xttab race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>race</th>
<th>Overall Freq.</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Between Freq.</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Within Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>white</td>
<td>20180</td>
<td>70.72</td>
<td>3329</td>
<td>70.66</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black</td>
<td>8051</td>
<td>28.22</td>
<td>1325</td>
<td>28.13</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 28534 100.00 4711 100.00 100.00 (n = 4711)
```

**Example 2: xttrans**

`xttrans` shows the transition probabilities. In cross-sectional time-series data, we can estimate the probability that $x_{i,t+1} = v_2$ given that $x_{it} = v_1$ by counting transitions. For instance

```
.xttrans msp
if married, spouse present
1 if married, spouse present
   0 1
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80.49</td>
<td>19.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rows reflect the initial values, and the columns reflect the final values. Each year, some 80% of the msp 0 persons in the data remained msp 0 in the next year; the remaining 20% became msp 1. Although msp 0 had a 20% chance of becoming msp 1 in each year, the msp 1 had only an 8% chance of becoming (or returning to) msp 0. The freq option displays the frequencies that go into the calculation:

```
.xttrans msp, freq
if married, spouse present
1 if married, spouse present
   0 1
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,697</td>
<td>1,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80.49</td>
<td>19.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|          | 1,133 | 13,100 | 14,233 |
|          | 7.96  | 92.04  | 100.00 |
| Total    | 8,830 | 14,966 | 23,796 |
|          | 37.11 | 62.89  | 100.00 |
Technical note

The transition probabilities reported by *xttrans* are not necessarily the transition probabilities in a Markov sense. *xttrans* counts transitions from each observation to the next once the observations have been put in *t* order within *i*. It does not normalize for missing periods. *xttrans* does pay attention to missing values of the variable being tabulated, however, and does not count transitions from nonmissing to missing or from missing to nonmissing. Thus if the data are fully rectangularized, *xttrans* produces (inefficient) estimates of the Markov transition matrix. *fillin* will rectangularize datasets; see [D] *fillin*. Thus the Markov transition matrix could be estimated by typing

```
.fillin idcode year
_xttrans msp
```

Also see

[XT] *xtdescribe* — Describe pattern of xt data
[XT] *xtsum* — Summarize xt data