The Utter Simplicity and Power of the TABULATE Procedure

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IN THE BEGINNING

When I first started using SAS in a university environment in 1972, I was very excited about how much SAS could help me. As I learned more and more and moved to the real world of the employeed I needed more flexibility in my reporting - PROC PRINT had some and PROC MEANS and FREQ had basically none. And SUMMARY needed too much DATA step manipulation. What I needed was a marriage of all these with the flexibility to control what I wanted where and how! Thank the Gods for PROC TABULATE!! I was able to produce reports from massive amounts of data in practically any way I needed! The power of being able to simply rearrange a few variable names and change the complete look of the report was great. But then I also found a few things that were not so simple-like percentages.

BEFORE TABULATE

So many times when you first learn some new software product, you simply do what you are told or can findout about it. I learned base SAS software the same way at a university from a friend. It was for some math classes and I learned to do some simple inputting and frequency tables and summaries using PROC FREQ and SUMMARY. It wasn't until years later I discovered the power of PROC TABULATE.

If all you ever need to do is some simple cross-tabulations or simply print a list of summaries, PROC FREQ or MEANS or SUMMARY will do the job. But more often, you need to be able to control WHAT goes in the cross-tabulation cell and HOW it is printed; PROC TABULATE gives you this control and versatility.

In this tutorial you will see how - with very little coding - you can produce some simple or very complex output. The output from a CONTENTS procedure below is just so you know a little about the data set we will be working with.

-							
			C	ONTENT	rs Pro	CEDURE	
Me	ta Set Name: mber Type: gine:	DATA	A.CLAS	S		Observations: 27 Variables: 5 Indexes: 0	
Cr	Created: 9:14 Wednesday, Sep 19				Observation Length: 48		
La	Last Modified: 11:40 Tuesday, Feb 5				Deleted Observations: 0		
Da	Data Set Type:					Compressed: NO	
						Reuse Space: NO	
#	Alphab Variable					nd Attributes at Label	
4	DATE	Num	8	32	DATE	5. Class Date	
2	LOC	Char	1	25		Location	
1	NAME	Char	25	0			
3	ORG	Char	6	26		Org	
5	SCORE	Num	8	40	5.1	Final Exam Score	

THE OLD WAY

The FREQ procedure is very simple and easy to use to get either a one-way or two-way table by coding TABLE statements as below.

PROC FREQ	DATA=CLASS;
TABLES	DATE;
TABLES	ORG*DATE;
DITT.	

The output below shows that basically all you get is a count of observations and percentages.

		Class D	ate		
DATE	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent	
07APR	5	18.5	5	18.5	
03MAY	4	14.8	9	33.3	
22JUN	9	33.3	18	66.7	
120CT	9	33.3	27	100.0	

	TAB	LE OF ORG	BY DATE		
ORG(Org)	DATE (C	lass Date	:)		
Frequency Percent Row Pct Col Pct	 07APR				
Energy	12.50 20.00	2 7.41 25.00 50.00	1 3.70 12.50 11.11	4 14.81 50.00	8
Mgt S	3.70 10.00	1 3.70 10.00			
Power	33.33	3.70 11.11	14.81 44.44 44.44	3.70 11.11	
Total	5 18.52	4	9	9 33.33	

The MEANS procedure is also very simple to use and gives you more information about your data, i.e. MEAN and SUM, if requested as below.

```
PROC MEANS DATA=CLASS N NMISS MEAN SUM;
CLASS LOC;
VAR SCORE;
RUN:
```

But the output produced is only a simple list as below.

Analys	is Va	riab	le : SCOR	E Final Exam	Score
LOC N	Obs	N	Nmiss	Mean	Sum
A	12	10	2	84.0500000	840.5000000
В	5	5	0	83.9000000	419.5000000
C	10	10	0	83.2900000	832.9000000

A BETTER WAY

The TABULATE procedure is a marriage of the FREQ and MEANS procedures to produce an even more powerful and flexible procedure. TABULATE makes use of the CLASS and VAR statements of PROC MEANS and the TABLE statement of PROC FREQ. The CLASS and VAR statements haven't changed; they still define which variables are used for classification (or categorization) and analysis (for statistics). The TABLE statement has been greatly enhanced to allow you to specify not only *what* you want each cell to be but also *how* to format it and label it. It has also been expanded to allow you to group and/or concatenate more than one table. Let's look at some simple examples.

PROC TABULATE DATA=CLASS;
CLASS ORG LOC DATE;
VAR SCORE;
TABLE ORG, DATE;
RUN;

The PROC statement simply identifies the data set and other options to control various output features. The CLASS and VAR statements simply define the variables used for classification and analysis. The TABLE statement specifies the table expressions used to define the pages, rows, and columns to be produced.

The key to using TABULATE are the **table expressions** which consist of a combination of operands and operators much like an arithmetic expression:

TABLE

page-expression, row-expression, column-expression;

Operators (discussed later)

- * for nesting
- space for concatenation

Operands

- > class variables(from CLASS stmt) or ALL
- analysis variables(from VAR stmt)
- > () for grouping
- statistics keywords (i.e. N, NMISS, MEAN, STD, MIN, MAX, SUM)
- title specification (='text')
- format specification (F=w.d)

When only two expressions are coded (like ORG, DATE), they are the row-expression and the column-expression. What if only ONE expression is coded; will it be the row or column expression?

The tables below show a very simple yet powerful use of TABULATE. Although our data set only contains a few observations, it could have contained half a million and the code would not change.

	Class Date										
-	07APR	03MAY	22JUN	120CT							
-	N	N	N	N							
Org		·									
Energy	1.00	2.00	1.00	4.00							
Mgt S	1.00	1.00	4.00	4.00							
Power	3.00	1.00	4.00	1.00							

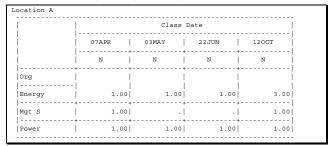
The above output shows that when CLASS variables are used, TABULATE will give you a count (N) by default.

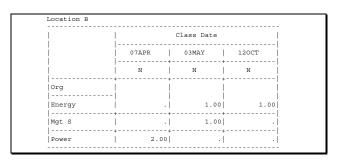
TABLE ORG, SCORE;

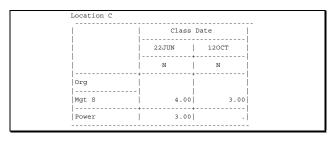
	Final Exam Score
	SUM
 Org	
Energy	530.40
Mgt S	825.60
Power	736.90

The above output shows that when VAR variables are used, TABULATE will give you a total (SUM) of that variable by default.

TABLE LOC, ORG, DATE;







The above outputs show the results of using a page -expression.

FORMATTING

The above examples show a very simple use of tables, and if all you needed was the numbers to plug in some report for your boss, this would suffice. But I have found that sometimes these tables go beyond your eyes or you need to make the cells smaller (or larger). As you can see, the default format for the cells is 12.2, but you can control the size of each cell by attaching a format specification to the variable in the table expression.

TABLE ORG, DATE*(N*F=6.0);

	 !	Class	Date	
			22JUN	
	N N		N	N
Org	 			
Energy	1			4
Mgt S	1			4
Power	3			

You could also specify FORMAT=6.0 as an option on the PROC statement, but that changes the default for all cells. By using the FORMAT= (or F=) in the table expression you can control the format of individual rows or columns based on which variable you attach it to.

NESTING

Nesting is a very common use of TABULATE and is produced by coding an asterisk (*) between the variables you want to breakdown even further for more detailed information. So the expression DATE*LOC will produce a row/column for each date (4 in our example) broken-down even further by each location within that date. Notice that even though the table is in sorted order, we did NOT have to do a PROC SORT prior to this step--the CLASS statement takes care of this for us. In the following example of nesting columns, parentheses are used to aid in clarification. Later they are also used to group expressions just like in arithmetic.

TABLE ORG, DATE*LOC*(N*F=3.0);

!				Clas	s Da	te			
	072		03M				1	2001	 r
	:	ati-	Loca	ti-	Loca	ti-			
į			 A			+			
į		N	 N	 N	N	N	4 N	N	 N
 Org			-		i	ا	i ا		
 Energy	1			1	1	.	3	1	 .
Mgt S	1				.	4			
Power			1						

Notice how TABULATE split the "Location" label because it was too long to fit over its nested column. TABULATE makes no attempt to hyphenate it correctly; it simply puts as much as it can on the first line, inserts a hyphen, and continues on the next line. The best way to control the splitting is to use labels with blanks where you want it split, since it will split at a blank the same way the PRINT procedure does.

Now by simply moving the nesting to the row expression you have changed the whole look of the table.

TABLE ORG*DATE, LOC*(N*F=3.0);

TABLE	ORG*I	ATE,	LOC,	* (N	*F=	3.	0);	
			-	Loc	atio	n		
	į		j	A	В	C		
	į.		i	N	N	N		
	į-	org Energy	Class Date			l		
		mergy	07APR	1	.			
			03MAY	1	1	.		
	1		22JUN	1	.	.		
	ļ		120CT	3	1	.		
	ŀ	lgt S	07APR	1	.	.		
	į		03MAY	.]	1	.		
	į		22JUN	. [. [4		
			120CT	1	.	3		
	F	ower	07APR	1	2	.		
	ļ		03MAY	1	.	.		
	ļ		22JUN	1	.	3		
	ł		120CT	1	.	.		
							•	

WOW !! WHAT HAPPENED ?!?!

The look of the table completely changed by simply moving a variable from nesting in the columns to nesting in the rows.

You'll also notice that TABULATE uses the same amount of space to label the rows, regardless of the levels of nesting. The above output is all right in this case, but could get very narrow with another level of nesting. The default amount of space is 1/4 of the linesize (LS= option), but can be specified with the RTS= table option as below. The RTS space will be divided equally among the levels of nesting. Can you guess what RTS stands for?

TABLE ORG*DATE, LOC*(N*F=3.0) / RTS=20;

Location						
N N N N N N N N N N			Lo	ca	tion	ı
N N N N N Org Class			A	Ī	в	C
Org Class	į		i	+-	+-	İ
Date			N		N	N
Date	Org	Class	+ 	+-	+-	
07APR		Date	İ	İ	i	i
	Energy			ļ	- [
03MAY 1 1 . .		07APR			.	
					1	
120CT 3 1 .		22JUN	1	ĺ		
Mgt S 07APR 1 			3	ĺ		.
	Mgt S				.	.
12OCT 1 . 3 					1	.
120CT 1 . 3						4
Power 07APR 1 2 . 		120CT	1	ĺ	.	3
03MAY 1 	Power		1	ĺ	2	.
		03MAY	1	ĺ	- 1	.
				İ		3
	i				- 1	.

As with most base SAS software statements used in procedures (i.e. PLOT and CHART), you can follow the table request with a slash followed by table options. We'll see more of these options later

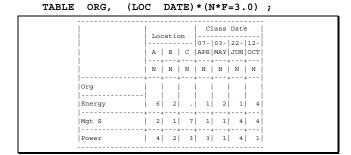
CONCATENATION

Concatenation is like putting tables side-by-side or stacked on top of each other. By simply using a blank between the variables you get tables for each variable concatenated from left-to-right or top-to-bottom.

TABLE ORG DATE, LOC*(N*F=3.0);

		Loc	atio	on
i	İ	A	В	C
-	ا ++	+ 	N	N
0	org			
	nergy			
	igt S	2	1	
- P		4		3
	Class Date			
0	7APR	3		
0		2	2	
-	2JUN	2	-	
1	.20CT	5		

The above output shows the results of concatenating in the row expression; basically stacked tables.



The above output shows the results of concatenating in the column expression; basically side-by-side tables.

TABLE ORG. (LOC*N*F=2.0 DATE*N*F=6.0):

	(
	Location	Cla	ss Date	
	A B C 0		Y 22JUN :	
	N N N		N	N
Org		į	į į	
Energy 	6 2 . +++-	1	2 1	4
Mgt S	2 1 7	1	1 4	4

This output shows the results of concatenating in the column expression and specifying which statistic (N) and how to format it (F=) for each column.

3 | 1 |

| 4 | 2 | 3 |

STATISTICS

TABULATE gives you the same statistics as the MEANS and SUMMARY procedures, plus two new ones: PCTN and PCTSUM. With the flexibility of TABULATE you can now specify what statistic you want where and how. One re quirement is you can only perform statistics on analysis variables (from the VAR statement), which only makes sense. You've already seen this in some earlier examples where you nest (or attach) the statistic to either a row or column table expression. Here are some examples.

TABLE ORG, SCORE*MEAN;

 	Final Exam Score
 Org	MEAN -+
 Energy	- 88.40
 Mgt S 	82.56
Power	81.88

This is the mean of the scores for each organization. Remember the default statistic is SUM if not specified.

TABLE ORG, SCORE*(N MEAN MAX PCTN);

		Final Exam	n Score	
	N	MEAN	MAX	PCTN
Org				
Energy	6.00	88.40	100.00	24.00
Mgt S	10.00	82.56	99.40	40.00
Power	9.00	81.88	99.10	36.00

Notice here that by grouping with parenthesis you can get more than

one statistic for a given variable. The way to look at nesting a group is like the distributive law of mathematics. Whatever is outside the parenthesis is distributed to each item inside the parenthesis. Thus you could code the above expression as:

TABLE ORG, SCORE*N SCORE*MEAN
SCORE*MAX SCORE*PCTN:

But that seems a little much.

TABLE ORG, SCORE*(N MEAN MAX PCTN)*F=5.1;

	Final Exam Score
	N MEAN MAX PCTN
0rg	
Energy	6.0 88.4 100.0 24.0
Mgt S	10.0 82.6 99.4 40.0
Power	9.0 81.9 99.1 36.0

TABLE ORG* (N MEAN MAX PCTN), SCORE;

 		Final Exam Score	
 Org		 	
 Energy	N	6.00	
 	MEAN	88.40	
	MAX	100.00	
	PCTN	24.00	
Mgt S	N	10.00	
	MEAN	82.56	
	MAX	+ 99.40 +	
	PCTN	40.00	
Power	N	+ 9.00	
	MEAN	81.88	
	MAX	99.10	
	PCTN	36.00	

Here again you can completely change the look of the table by simply moving the grouping to the row expression. Notice the statistics are not of ORG but simple specify in which dimension to put them.

Here are few more examples and their totally different looking outputs by simply changing where and how the variables are coded.

TABLE ORG, LOC*SCORE*(N MEAN)*F=5.1;

	Location				
	!	B	C		
	Final Exam Score	Final Exam Score	Final Exam Score		
	N MEAN	N MEAN	N MEAN		
Org					
Energy		2.0 96.4			
1	2.0 73.4	1.0 85.4	7.0 84.8		
Power			3.0 79.8		

Here you see a column for the count (N) and mean of SCORE for each location.

TABLE ORG*LOC, SCORE* (N MEAN MAX PCTN) *F=5.1;

TABLE ONG BOX	C, SCORE" (N MEAN MAX PCIN) "P=5.1,
	Final Exam Score
	N MEAN MAX PCTN
[i	Locati-
į i	A
	 A
	B 1.0 85.4 85.4 4.0
	A
	B 2.0 70.7 90.0 8.0
	C 3.0 79.8 93.6 12.0

Here are the same numbers from the previous output. Location was simply moved from the column expression to the row expression.

TABLE ORG LOC, SCORE*(N*F=5. MEAN MAX PCTN)*F=5.1;

	Final Exam Score
	N MEAN MAX PCTN
Org	
Energy	6 88.4 100.0 24.0
The state of the s	10 82.6 99.4 40.0
Power	9 81.9 99.1 36.0
Location	
A	10 84.0 99.4 40.0
B	5 83.9 100.0 20.0
c	10 83.3 98.3 40.0

Here are two tables in one: the N, MEAN, MAX, and PCTN statistics in the column expression allows you to use the row expression to see a summary by two different variables (ORG and LOC) in one table.

TABLE ORG ALL,
(LOC ALL)*SCORE*(N MEAN)*F=5.1;

	Location		
A	В	C	ALL
Final Exam Score	+ Final Exam Score		Final Exam
1	+ N MEAN		

Org								-
Energy		84.4		96.4				88.4
Mgt S	2	73.4	1	85.4	7	84.8	10	82.6
Power	4	89.0	2	70.7	3	79.8	9	81.9
ALL		84.0						

What in the world happened in this last example?

There's no variable named ALL in the data set?

That's right but ALL is kind of like a built-in variable that can be specified to accumulate totals for the entire row and/or column. In the above example it was used in the row expression to produce a set of totals after the ORG rows. If you placed it before the ORG variable (i.e. ALL ORG) you would get the totals as the *first* row of the table. The use of ALL in the column expression caused it to produce a column after the LOC columns. Also notice since it was grouped with LOC and then nested, the column contains the totals for all locations using the same statistics (there's that distributive law again).

You may not be able to tell from this example, but TABULATE computes true statistics (i.e. MEAN above). That means it <u>POES</u> <u>NOT</u> add-up the means from the tables and then divides by the number of tables entries; it accumulates <u>each</u> observation's value and divides by the number of observations.

TITLES AND LABELS

You have seen that to have TABULATE put descriptive titles or labels for the variables you simply need to assign meaningful labels to them. You can either do this in earlier steps that create the data set or with a LABEL statement in the PROC step. But what about the statistics and ALL? Simply attach a descriptive label to ANY variable or statistic right in the TABLE statement. Follow it with an equals sign(=) and a quoted label ('This is a Label') just like you do in a LABEL statement. Or if you want to use a certain label for every use of the statistic, use the KEYLABEL statement which looks exactly like the LABEL statement except you use statistic's name instead of a variable name. Here is an example of doing both.

```
TABLE

ORG ALL,

(LOC ALL='Row Totals')

*SCORE*(N MEAN)*F=5.1

/ BOX='NESUG 16';

KEYLABEL

N='Count'

MEAN='Avg'

ALL='Total';
```

NESUG 16	 		Locat	ion				
	A	'		В		l c		
		Exam re	Final Sco	Exam	Final Sco	Exam re	Final Sco	Exam
	Count				Count			Avg
Department								
Energy								
Mgt S	2	73.4	1	85.4		84.8		
Power	4	89.0	2	70.7	3	79.8	9	
Total								

The above example has another tables option specified (BOX=) that

specifies what to put in the upper-left corner box of the table.

In the following example we added the MISSING and NOSEPS options to the PROC statement to have TABULATE treat missing values as a valid category (which it does not do by default) and remove the separation lines between the rows. I also specified some table options: BOX=SCORE to label the upper-left box with the SCORE variable's label; and MISSTEXT='None' to label missing values in the tables with the text 'None' instead of the standard period.

```
PROC TABULATE DATA=CLASS MISSING NOSEPS;

CLASS ORG LOC DATE;

VAR SCORE;

/* TITLES & LABELS */

LABEL SCORE='Final Exam Averages';

TABLE

ORG ALL='--- Totals ---',

(LOC ALL='Row Totals')

*(SCORE*MEAN=' '*F=5.1)

/ BOX=SCORE

ROW=FLOAT MISSTEXT='None';

RUN;
```

Final Exam	Location Row
Averages	A B C ls
İ	+
	Final Final Final Final Final
	Exam Exam Exam Exam
	Aver- Aver- Aver- Aver- Aver-
	ages ages ages ages
	-+
Department	
	None None None None
Energy	None 84.4 96.4 None 88.4
Mgt S	None 73.4 85.4 84.8 82.6
Power	None 89.0 70.7 79.8 81.9
Totals	None 84.0 83.9 83.3 83.7

Notice that since the MEAN label was blank and the **ROW=FLOAT** was specified, that no space was wasted for it.

Now as one final farewell to labeling, a table that doesn't look like a table.

```
PROC TABULATE DATA=CLASS MISSING NOSEPS

FORMCHAR=' ';

CLASS ORG LOC DATE;

VAR SCORE;

LABEL SCORE='Final Exam Averages';

TABLE

ORG ALL='--- Totals ---',

(LOC ALL='Dept Totals')

*(SCORE=' '*MEAN=' '*F=6.1)

/BOX=SCORE ROW=FLOAT MISSTEXT='None';
```

Final Exam	Location					
Averages					Dept	
		A	В	C	Totals	
Department						
	None	None	None	None	None	
Energy	None	84.4	96.4	None	88.4	
Mgt S	None	73.4	85.4	84.8	82.6	
Power	None	89.0	70.7	79.8	81.9	
Totals	None	84.0	83.9	83.3	83.7	

By simply adding the FORMCHAR= option to the PROC statement and specifying 16 blanks, you remove all the lines from around the table. If you have access to a laser printer you can also use characters that form "solid" lines around your table.

SUBTOTALING

Subtotaling is probably not a beginning tutorial topic, but here is an example anyway.

```
TABLE

ORG*(LOC ALL='**Subtotal')

ALL='Dept Total',

SCORE='Average Final Scores'

*MEAN=''*F=6.1

/ RTS=25 BOX=SCORE

ROW=FLOAT MISSTEXT='None';
```

```
Average Final Scores
|Department |Location
                        None
           |**Subtotal |
                        None
Energy
          Location
                        None
           **Subtotal |
                        73.4
                      85.4
                     84.8
           |**Subtotal | 82.6
           Location
Power
                        89.0
                     70.7
           |**Subtotal |
                        81.9
Dept Total
```

The only real trick is the nesting of ALL in the row expression.

IN SUMMARY

You have seen several reasons to use PROC TABULATE over other methods:

- displays statistics in hierarchical tables
- provides a concise and powerful control language
- provides a greater degree of flexibility and complexity in classification hierarchies than MEANS, FREQ, or SUMMARY
- provides a very flexible mechanism for titling and formatting

The base SAS statements required are:

- PROC TABULATE DATA=sasdataset options; options: MISSING NOSEPS FORMAT= ORDER= FORMCHAR=
- CLASS variables; classification variables: character or numeric
- > VAR variables; analysis variables: numeric only
- KEYLABEL keyword='text';
- TABLE page-expression, row-expression, column-expression / options;
- Others used: LABEL, FORMAT, BY, TITLEn

The key to using TABULATE is the **table expression**, which consists of a combination of operators and operands:

Operators

- * for nesting
- > space for concatenation

Operands

- > class variables(from CLASS stmt) and ALL
- analysis variables(from VAR stmt)
- () for grouping
- statistics keywords
- title specification(='text')
- format specification(F=w.d)

Standard statistics names from MEANS or SUMMARY are:

- > N, NMISS, MEAN, STD, MIN, MAX, SUM, etc.
- Plus two new ones: PCTN and PCTSUM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For a complete discussion of TABULATE and its uses see the "SAS Guide to TABULATE Processing, Second Edition" and the "SAS Language and Procedures, Usage, Version 6, First Edition", chapter 25, "Creating Summary Tables". There is a very good article in the first issue of "Observations, The Technical Journal for SAS Software Users", vol. 1, no. 1, entitled "Computing Percentages with PROC TABULATE" by Tina Keene.

Lauren Haworth has written a book entitled "PROC TABULATE By Example" that is full of all kinds of examples for all kinds of applications and well worth the money.

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