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`Transition-package` *Characterise Transitions in Test Result Status in Longitudinal Studies*

Description

Analyse data from longitudinal studies to characterise changes in values of semi-quantitative outcome variables within individual subjects, using high performance C++ code to enable rapid processing of large datasets. A flexible methodology is available for codifying these state transitions.

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`Blackmore` *Exercise Histories of Eating-Disordered and Control Subjects*

Description

The `Blackmore` data frame has 945 rows and 4 columns. Blackmore and Davis's data on exercise histories of 138 teenaged girls hospitalized for eating disorders and 98 control subjects.

Usage

```
Blackmore
```

Format

This data frame contains the following columns:

subject a factor with subject id codes. There are several observations for each subject, but because the girls were hospitalized at different ages, the number of cases and the age at the last case vary.

age subject's age in years at the time of observation; all but the last observation for each subject were collected retrospectively at intervals of two years, starting at age 8.

exercise the amount of exercise in which the subject engaged, expressed as estimated hours per week.

group a factor with levels: `control`, Control subjects; `patient`, Eating-disordered patients.

Note

The original version in package **carData** states there are 98 `control` subjects, but the actual data only have 93 unique values, and that assuming `subject` id codes with suffixes `a` and `b` represent different individuals; otherwise, there are just 87.

Source

Personal communication from Elizabeth Blackmore and Caroline Davis, York University.

References

Davis C, Blackmore E, Katzman DK, Fox J. (2005). Female adolescents with anorexia nervosa and their parents: a case-control study of exercise attitudes and behaviours. *Psychological Medicine* **35**(3):377-386. doi:10.1017/S0033291704003447

`PreviousDate` *Find Previous Test Date for Subject*

Description

`get_prev_date()` identifies the previous test date for individual subjects and timepoints in a longitudinal study.

`add_prev_date()` interpolates these previous test dates into a data frame for further analysis.

Usage

```
add_prev_date(
  object,
  subject = "subject",
  timepoint = "timepoint",
  result = "result",
  prev_date = "prev_date"
)

get_prev_date(
  object,
  subject = "subject",
  timepoint = "timepoint",
  result = "result"
)
```

Arguments

`object`	a `data.frame` (or object coercible by `as.data.frame()` to a data frame) containing the data to be analysed.
`subject`	`character`, name of the column (of type `integer` or `factor`) identifying individual study subjects; default `"subject"`.

`timepoint` `character`, name of the column recording time points (as `Dates`) of testing of subjects; default `"timepoint"`.

`result` `character`, name of the column (of type `ordered factor`, or binary, see *Details*) recording test results; default `"result"`.

`prev_date` `character`, name to be used for a new column to record previous test dates; default `"prev_date"`.

Details

See `Transitions` *details*.

Value

`add_prev_date()`
: A `data.frame` based on `object`, with an added column named as specified by argument `prev_date` of class `Date` containing the values of the previous test dates.

`get_prev_date()`
: A `vector` of class `Date`, length `nrow(object)`, containing the values of the previous test dates ordered in the exact sequence of the `subject` and `timepoint` in `object`.

See Also

`data.frame`, `Dates`, `ordered factor`.

Other transitions: `PreviousResult`, `Transitions`, `uniques()`

Examples

```
 ## Continuing example from `add_transitions()`
  # subject, timepoint and result arguments all defaults and required types
Blackmore |> str()

  # Integer vector of the previous test dates
get_prev_date(Blackmore)

  # Add column of  previous test dates to data frame
add_prev_date(Blackmore) |> head(32)

rm(Blackmore)
```

`PreviousResult` *Find Previous Test Result for Subject*

Description

`get_prev_result()` identifies the previous test result for individual subjects and timepoints in a longitudinal study.

`add_prev_result()` interpolates these previous test results into a data frame for further analysis.

Usage

```
add_prev_result(
  object,
  subject = "subject",
  timepoint = "timepoint",
  result = "result",
  prev_result = "prev_result"
)

get_prev_result(
  object,
  subject = "subject",
  timepoint = "timepoint",
  result = "result"
)
```

Arguments

`object`	a `data.frame` (or object coercible by `as.data.frame()` to a data frame) containing the data to be analysed.
`subject`	`character`, name of the column (of type `integer` or `factor`) identifying individual study subjects; default `"subject"`.
`timepoint`	`character`, name of the column recording time points (as `Dates`) of testing of subjects; default `"timepoint"`.
`result`	`character`, name of the column (of type `ordered factor`, or binary, see *Details*) recording test results; default `"result"`.
`prev_result`	`character`, name to be used for a new column to record previous result; default `"prev_result"`.

Details

See `Transitions` *details*.

Value

`add_prev_result()`
: A `data.frame` based on `object`, with an added column named as specified by argument `prev_result` and of type `ordered factor` or `integer` depending on whether the results are semi-quantitiative or binary.

`get_prev_result()`
: An `ordered factor` of length `nrow(object)`, containing the values of the previous test results ordered in the exact sequence of the `subject` and `timepoint` in `object`.

See Also

`data.frame`, `Dates`, `ordered factor`.

Other transitions: `PreviousDate`, `Transitions`, `uniques()`

Examples

```
 ## Continuing example from `add_transitions()`
  # subject, timepoint and result arguments all defaults and required types
Blackmore |> str()

  # Previous test results as ordered factor
get_prev_result(Blackmore)

  # Previous test result as column of data frame
(Blackmore <- add_prev_result(Blackmore)) |> head(32)

rm(Blackmore)
```

Transitions *Identify Temporal Transitions in Longitudinal Study Data*

Description

`get_transitions()` identifies temporal transitions in test results for individual subjects in a longitudinal study.

`add_transitions()` interpolates these transitions into a data frame for further analysis.

Usage

```
add_transitions(
  object,
  subject = "subject",
  timepoint = "timepoint",
```

```
  result = "result",
  transition = "transition",
  cap = 0L,
  modulate = 0L
)

get_transitions(
  object,
  subject = "subject",
  timepoint = "timepoint",
  result = "result",
  cap = 0L,
  modulate = 0L
)
```

Arguments

object	a data.frame (or object coercible by as.data.frame() to a data frame) containing the data to be analysed.
subject	character, name of the column (of type integer or factor) identifying individual study subjects; default "subject".
timepoint	character, name of the column recording time points (as Dates) of testing of subjects; default "timepoint".
result	character, name of the column (of type ordered factor, or binary, see *Details*) recording test results; default "result".
transition	character, name to be used for a new column (of type integer) to record transitions; default "transition".
cap	integer, required for calculating transitions; default 0L.
modulate	integer, required for calculating transitions; default 0L.

Details

The data can be presented in any order e.g., ordered by subject, by timepoint, forwards or backwards in time, or entirely at random, and may have unbalanced designs with different time points or numbers of test results per subject. However, the *user* is responsible for ensuring the data contain unique combinations of subject, timepoint and result; if not, outputs will be undefined.

Time points should be formatted as Dates and included in data frame object in the column named as specified by argument timepoint (see *Note*).

Test results should either be semi-quantitiative, formatted as an ordered factor (see *Note*), or binary data formatted as an integer (or numeric) vector with values of either 1 or 0, and included in object in the data frame column specified by argument result.

Temporal transitions in the test results for each subject within the object data.frame are characterised using methods governed by options cap and modulate. If these two parameters are both zero (their defaults), a simple arithmetic difference between the levels of the present and previous result is calculated. Otherwise, if the value of modulate is a positive, non-zero integer, the arithmetic difference is subjected to integer division by that value. Finally, if cap is a positive, non-zero integer, the (possibly modulated) absolute arithmetic difference is capped at that value.

Value

`add_transitions()`
: A `data.frame` based on `object`, with an added column of type `integer` containing the values of the test result transitions.

`get_transitions()`
: An `integer vector` of length `nrow(object)`, containing the values of the test result transitions ordered in the exact sequence of the `subject` and `timepoint` in `object`.

Note

Time points represented by `integer` or `numeric` values can be converted to R `Dates` conveniently using `as.Date()`. If only *year* information is available, arbitrary values could be used consistently for month and day e.g., 1st of January of each year; likewise, the first day of each month could be used arbitrarily, if only the *year* and *month* were known. See vignette Converting numeric values to class `"Date"` for examples.

Quantitive results available as `numeric` data can be converted to a semi-quantitative `ordered factor` conveniently using `cut()` (see *examples*).

See Also

`data.frame`, `Dates`, and `ordered factor`.

Other transitions: `PreviousDate`, `PreviousResult`, `uniques()`

Examples

```
  # Inspect Blackmore data frame using {base} str()
Blackmore |> str()

  # {base} hist() gives insights into the "exercise" column,
  #   useful for choosing `breaks` and `labels` in cut() below
hist(Blackmore$exercise, include.lowest = TRUE, plot = FALSE)[1:2]

  # Tweak Blackmore data frame by converting "age" to dates for the argument
  #   timepoint (using an arbitrary "origin" of 1-Jan-2000), and converting
  #   "exercise" to an ordered factor "result" with {base} cut()
Blackmore <- transform(Blackmore,
    timepoint = as.Date("2000-01-01") + round(age * 365.25),
    result = cut(
        exercise,
        breaks = seq(0, 30, 2),
        labels = paste0("<=", seq(0, 30, 2)[-1]),
        include.lowest = TRUE,
        ordered_result = TRUE
    )
)

  # subject, timepoint and result arguments now defaults and required types
Blackmore |> str()
```

```
  # Integer vector of test result transitions (defaults: cap = modulate = 0)
get_transitions(Blackmore)

  # Tabulate values of transitions
get_transitions(Blackmore) |> table()

  # Effect of cap argument
get_transitions(Blackmore, cap = 6) |> table()

  # Effect of modulate argument
get_transitions(Blackmore, modulate = 2) |> table()

  # Add column of test result transitions to data frame
add_transitions(Blackmore) |> head(22)

  # Showing transitions as either positive (1) or negative (-1)
  #   (defaults to modulate = 0)
add_transitions(Blackmore, cap = 1) |> head(14)

rm(Blackmore)
```

`uniques` *Unique Values for Subject, Timepoint and Result*

Description

`uniques()` identifies unique values for subjects, timepoints and test results in longitudinal study data.

Usage

```
uniques(
  object,
  subject = "subject",
  timepoint = "timepoint",
  result = "result"
)
```

Arguments

`object`	a `data.frame` (or object coercible by `as.data.frame()` to a data frame) containing the data to be analysed.
`subject`	`character`, name of the column (of type `integer` or `factor`) identifying individual study subjects; default `"subject"`.
`timepoint`	`character`, name of the column recording time points (as `Dates`) of testing of subjects; default `"timepoint"`.
`result`	`character`, name of the column (of type `ordered factor`, or binary, see *Details*) recording test results; default `"result"`.

Details

See Transitions *details*.

Works for subject as either an integer vector or a factor.

Value

A list of three elements

1. An integer vector or factor of unique subject identifications.
2. A vector of class Date of unique timepoints in the study.
3. An ordered factor of unique values for results of the study.

See Also

data.frame, Dates, ordered factor.

Other transitions: PreviousDate, PreviousResult, Transitions

Examples

```
 ## Continuing example from `add_transitions()`
  # subject, timepoint and result arguments all defaults and required types
  # (native subject is factor)
uniques(Blackmore)
  #
Blackmore <- transform(Blackmore, subject = as.integer(subject))
  # subject now as integer
Blackmore |> str()
uniques(Blackmore)

rm(Blackmore)
```

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