

Pre Datasets Access Basics Screens Demo Messages Etc

Lecture Outline

- **Program Basics**
 - Access, Variations, & Issues
- **SPSS Overview**
 - Screens, Editors, & Columns
- **Missing Values**
 - Types, Solutions, & Tips
- **Demo/Preview**
 - Screens, Columns, Frequencies, & Indices

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SOC 497 Methods of Social Research w/ Dr. Ellis Godard

Lectures M and W 1230-3, Labs M and W 315-530+, via Zoom ID 814 8711 1033
Office Hours M&W 12-1230 & 3-315 via Zoom (308 700 9152 at other times)
Website [↗](#) - Syllabus [↗](#) - Schedule [↗](#) - Gradebook [↗](#) & Progress Reports [↗](#)
[↗](#) Frequently Asked Questions [↗](#) - Survey Project [↗](#) - Mystery Measurements [↗](#)

Key Reminders...

- Reading and Homework are due at start of lecture on the date indicated. (Note late penalty & early bonus apply only to HWs.) They are not assigned on those dates; they are all assigned now.
- Labs are due at 930, **one day after your next lab meeting. Solo labs are due 3 additional days later.** No late submissions, and no makeup. **Accepted.** Also, I suggest that you submit the 1st each day before starting the 2nd.
- Labs, quizzes, & exams **must** be submitted late, **not** handled as "make up"
- **Do not use left mouse button to open datasets; right-click and save it, then in SPSS use FILE - OPEN - DATA. Always!**
- Please contact me ASAP if any links are broken, or any instructions are unclear - and consult the FAQ [↗](#) often!

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Datasets for SPSS

- **Most assignments have datasets**
 - In parenthesis in Canvas with related lab or homework
 - Put cursor over link & look @ bottom right status bar for *.sav
 - *Never* use the left mouse button. When? (say "Never!")
 - *Always* right-click and save File
 - "Save Target as" (in IE) / "Save Link as..." (in Firefox or Chrome)
 - Pay attention to *where* you save it - otherwise, *you can't open it!*
 - May need to add *.sav before saving (SMB server problems @ 9/11/09)
- **But not today -**
 - For the first SPSS lab (today's), you'll *create your own* dataset
 - create variables, do data entry, & make a composite measure, wow! 😊

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Frequently Asked Questions

- Check the FAQ page in Canvas for the course
 - Linked many places, inc. top of Canvas
- Examples (relevant to this lecture)
 - Do I need SPSS?
 - My file won't open.
 - Can I do the work at home?
 - Can you explain missing values again?
- Problems w/ VSL (vsl.csun.edu)?
 - Navigate to correct directory - see FAQ, & slides 10&11 above!

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Getting Datasets from Canvas

- **Do NOT left-click the dataset link, ever**
 - Hint: with cursor over the link, link in status bar ends in *.sav
- Locally, you may get corrupted data (cached junk)
- Elsewhere, it may not work
 - A machine without SPSS won't know what it is
- What to do instead?
 - **Save the file, then open SPSS, then FILE-OPEN-DATA**
 - You'll of course need to know *where* you saved it
 - *Always* right-click & choose "Save Target/File/Link as"
 - Keep track of *where* you saved it
 - Desktop? thumbdrive? local My Documents? network My Documents?
 - Fall 09: Need to add *.sav before saving (current SMB server problems)

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Options for Access

- ~~Purchase~~ - student version limited; others expensive
 - A. LABTIME (if we were on campus)
 - B. SH180 - open lab times TBA
 - C. Other labs - see "campus software and labs" link
 - D. **VSL (<http://vsl.csun.edu>) or MyCSUNSoftware**
 - listed last, but used by the most - once you figure it out involves installing the Apporto plug-in, and running SPSS in browser
 - E. **Download and install SPSS** - CSUN downloads page
 - Faculty/staff only? *Maybe* undergraduates now?
 - F. Trial Version from IBM - works only for a limited time
 - G. **PSPP** - free open-source alternative; fully featured
- **See "Options for Getting SPSS (<--- START HERE!!!!)"**

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Browser Access

- VSL (<http://vsl.csun.edu>) or MyCSUNSoftware
 - Use same login/password as portal, email, etc.
 - Requires install of a Apporto plug-in – see handout in module
 - NOT the same as installing SPSS
- Can't find a file or open your data?
 - SPSS is installed on the CSUN network, not your local computer
 - The default directory is thus your student network drive (U? N? T?)
 - To save or open files, you must navigate to a *local* drive (e.g. C:)
 - If you are saving files on campus first, use the bottommost option
- That's the *only* problem students have. But it *does* work!

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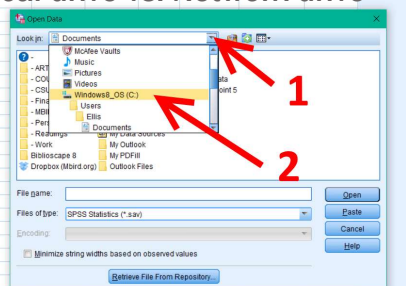
Opening SPSS (in labs)

- Desktop icon, StartMenu, Start>AllPrograms
- If you get a box that says “....OLE...”, click ok
 - SPSS doesn't want to open the application & the file @ the same time; you'll need to go FILE > OPEN
- If you get a warning about the license, email me the lab & machine number!
- Once you're in, you'll see the “Data View”
 - It's an empty spreadsheet
 - Each row is a new case, each column a variable
 - Double-click any column heading to see the “Variable View” screen

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Local drive vs. Network drive



Note: This is the only screenshot in this lecture, AND the only image in the FAQ page in Canvas!

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Variations in the Program

- Multiple versions of the software on campus
 - No large changes from v.9 to v.29+
 - I'll note those of importance
- Setup varies from PC to PC
 - How some choices are enabled and displayed*
- Setup varies from lab to lab
 - Including whether there's an icon on desktop
 - Some classes consistently use choices we don't

* e.g. You may want to toggle displays by choosing
EDIT – OPTIONS – Display Names/Labels (@top)

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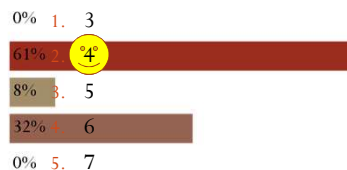
SPSS Screens: Data Screens

- 2 Data “screens” – Variable View & Data View
 - Toggle: menu (Data), tabs (bottom-left), dble-click
 - In DV: rows are cases; columns are variables
 - In VV: rows are variables; cols are aspects of vars
 - Toggle: menu (Data), tabs (bottom-left), dble-click
 - Save data files to diskette/CDR/thumb drive/U drive/email
 - not hard drive, except to email to yourself as attachment
 - Two disks better than one; sometimes formatting screwy
 - **DO NOT PRINT A DATA SET!!**

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Q2. How many columns will we use?



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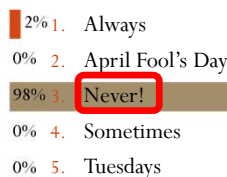
SPSS Screens: Others

- Output window
 - Separate file – must save separately from data!
 - Usually minimize, rather than closing (loses your work!)
 - But close to start over – otherwise new stuff appends
- Syntax window
 - Commands, if you're into programming or repeat procedures
 - Otherwise, we won't use

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Q3. When can you use the “measure” column?



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Data Editor in SPSS

- Data View (“Data Spreadsheet” in v.9)
- Variable View (“Define Variable dialog” in v.9)
 - **Name** – variable name (8 character limit) – e.g. EDUC
 - **Type** – numeric, string (text), etc.
 - Width – number of digits or characters
 - Decimals
 - **Label** – “variable label”; e.g. EDUC means “number of years of education”
 - **Values** – “value labels”, i.e. what the numbers mean
 - **Missing** – user-defined missing value codes
 - Columns – width of the column in Data View
 - Align – alignment as displayed in Data View
 - **Measure** – scale (interval), ordinal, nominal – NOT reliable! – IGNORE!!
 - New far-right column? Whatever... not important ☺
- Always need underlined 4; never use the “Measure” column

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Demo Preview: Parts of SPSS

- Screens
- Columns
 - Name & Label today
 - Values & Missings soon
- Basic output
 - Analyze – Descriptives – Frequencies
 - From Charts: pick histogram
 - From Stats: pick mean, median, mode, quartiles, std dev, range
- Combining data
 - Computing today (combines variables)
 - Recoding later (combines values)

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Demo: Data & Computing

- Creating variables
 - Hours in TikTok, Instagram, Facebook
- Entering cases
 - 3 of us
- Combining variables
 - SocMed = TTHrs + InstaHrs + FaceHrs

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Lab Exercise

- Open SPSS to a new /empty data file
- Create two variables – miles and trips
 - Enter variable names in *variable view*
 - You can only type data in the *data view*
 - Don't change the type of the variable to "string"
- Enter data for 3 cases (you, me, 1 more)
- Compute a new variable: milestot = miles*trips*2
 - Scan rows to verify that the math worked
- Get a frequency distribution
 - Analyze – Descriptives – Frequencies (see above, and handout)
- Print it and put your names on it
 - This is the only lab you'll get credit for output alone
 - Typically, must show that you understand, can use, & are able to interpret it

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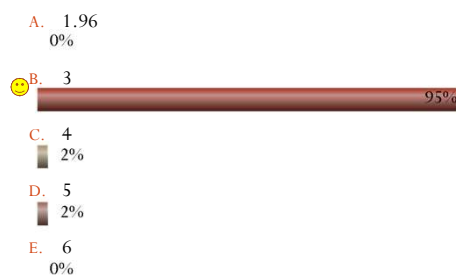
Frequency Table Output

- **Values**
 - the categories, usually by label
- **Frequencies**
 - the raw counts in each category
- **Percent**
 - the percent of all cases for each value
- **Valid Percent**
 - the percent of *non-missing* cases for each value
- **Cumulative Percent**
 - the percent of all *non-missing* cases of that value or lower value, or of all cases in that row or *higher* rows in the table
 - useful for finding even thirds, fourths, 50/50 threshold, etc.

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Q5. How many backgrounds did I use during lecture today?



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Creating Variables

- Raw Variables
 - Type a Name into a new row in Variable View
 - Type a longer Label to say what it is
 - Soon, we'll do Values & Missing (not now)
- Composite Variables
 - From menu, use TRANSFORM > COMPUTE
 - Follow instructions on the handout from Canvas
 - Don't forget to name the "Target Variable"
 - That's whatever your new thing is called
 - The "Numeric Expression" is just a formula
 - Note that the equals sign ("=") is already there!

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Team Scores

Points	Team	Points	Team
17.05	Transfer from commun...		
16.1	Entering Freshman		
16	Transfer from anothe...		
13	Something else		