Changes in SPSS 15 – M. Beaver – February 2007

The syntax files developed under versions that did not allow multiple datasets still work. However, if you choose to open a file from the menus, and then run an old syntax you might run into problems because you may accidentally select a dataset (which makes it the active dataset) and then run your syntax, which may be expecting another data file to be active.

More than one data set can be opened within the same SPSS session. Each file that is opened using the menus is given a name which can be used to reference the dataset in the syntax file. The active dataset has a green plus in the upper left hand corner.

DATASET commands (not available specifically from any menus):

Command	Example
DATASET NAME name [WINDOW={ASIS }] {FRONT}	GET FILE='c:\data\spssdata.sav'. DATASET NAME file1. SORT CASES BY ID. GET FILE 'c:\data\moredata.sav' SORT CASES BY ID. DATASET NAME file2.
DATASET ACTIVATE name [WINDOW={ASIS }] {FRONT}	GET FILE='c:\data\spssdata.sav'. DATASET NAME file1. COMPUTE AvgIncome=income/famsize. GET DATA /TYPE=XLS /FILE='c:\data\exceldata.xls'. COMPUTE TotIncome=SUM(income1, income2, income3). DATASET NAME file2. DATASET ACTIVATE file1.
DATASET DECLARE name [WINDOW={MINIMIZED}] {HIDDEN } {FRONT }	DATASET DECLARE corrmatrix. REGRESSION /DEPENDENT=var1 /METHOD=ENTER= var2 to var10 /OUTFILE=CORB(corrmatrix). DATASET ACTIVATE corrmatrix.
DATASET COPY name [WINDOW={MINIMIZED}] {HIDDEN } {FRONT }	DATASET NAME original. DATASET COPY males. DATASET ACTIVATE males. SELECT IF gender=0. DATASET ACTIVATE original. DATASET COPY females. DATASET ACTIVATE females. SELECT IF gender=1.
DATASET CLOSE {name} {* } {ALL }	DATASET CLOSE file1.
DATASET DISPLAY.	The DATASET DISPLAY command displays a list of currently available datasets. The only specification is the command name DATASET DISPLAY.

With version 12, the restriction on 8 characters for variable name was removed. Variable names can be up to 64 bytes. Versions earlier than version 12 cannot read SPSS data files with longer variable names.

The tables in the Viewer (output window) can be written to Powerpoint. The output can also be converted to a PDF file.

Data subcommands

Duplicate cases – can use a dialog box to define duplicate cases under Data / Identify duplicate cases.

Transpose and restructure commands are now available from the menus.

Merging in variables (MATCH FILES command) – there is a new dialog box to pick a file either from the hard disk or another dataset in memory.

New choice to the output section of the **Select Cases** command. You can choose to copy the selected cases to a new dataset.

Aggregate command –

can add the aggregated variable to the active dataset – subcommand - /OUTFILE=* MODE=ADDVARIABLES.

From the menus can choose to create the aggregated data file in a new dataset. If you use this open the aggregated dataset is available but does not become the active dataset unless you manually select it or include in the syntax the dataset activate "name of dataset" command.

There is no choice from the menus to replace the active dataset with the aggregated dataset. However, the old command still works and will replace the active dataset with the aggregated dataset, e.g.

AGGREGATE /OUTFILE = * /BREAK dist vil hh …..

Can use strings in the break variables for this command now.

Transform subcommands

Recode command – into different variable and into same variable are now separate choices from this menu.

Prepare continuous-level data for analysis. The **Visual Binning** procedure enables you to easily create bins or bands (for example, break income into "bins" of 10,000 or break ages into groups). A data pass provides you with a histogram that allows you to specify cutpoints in an intelligent manner. You can automatically create value labels from the specified cutpoints (for example, "21-30"). Then save time by automatically creating value labels based on your cutpoints.

Analyze subcommands:

Under Descriptives, you can now find P-P plots and Q-Q plots and ratios as well as the others.

I'm not sure which add on modules were included with the site license. In Advanced Models several enhancements were included. Regression models were also enhanced. We didn't get complex samples analysis. See http://spss.com/pdfs/S15CMPhr.pdf for details.

Generalized linear models is new. Generalized estimating equations is new. Step-wise multinomial logistic regression has been available since version 12. Ordinal regression to model ordinal outcomes is new.

Can run significance tests on multiple response variables in the tables command. Can exclude categories used in subtotal calculations from significance tests in the tables command.

Graphic subcommands

Chart Builder is new. You can now have dual Y axes and overlay charts, plus other abilities. There is enhanced process control charts. 2-D line charts where both axes can be scale axes and charts for multiple response sets. Population pyramids, 3-D bar charts and dot charts (dot density charts). Additional chart display features/options including paneled charts and error bars on categorical charts.

The Legacy chart command is still functional as well as the interactive graph command.

Chart tutorial.

Utilities subcommands

Define variable sets so that you are only working with a subset of variables in a file that might have 50 to 100 or more variables.

Make sense and keep track of your data files by adding notes to them using the **Data File Comments** command in the user interface. This enables you to save a block of text with your SPSS data file for easy reference (for example, indicate that you have cleaned a file). Find this command under Utilities.

OMS capability to turn pivot tables into SPSS data files. Interactive interface available now.

There is a programming language now available called Python which will allow you to automate various procedures within SPSS, control the flow of syntax jobs based on variable attributes, procedure output and error codes.