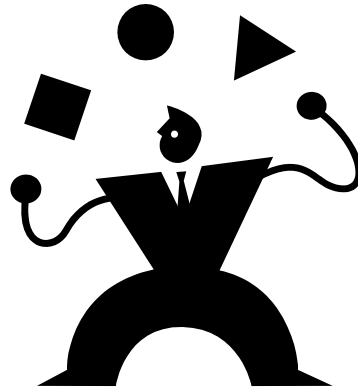# Juggling SPSS Data Sets

Files, Aliases, and Windows

Addressing Data Sets

- File names
- File handles
  - Files
  - Directories
- Window names

File Names

- Use the operating system name
  - e.g. 'Y:\SPSS\Cars.sav' or "Y:\SPSS\Cars.sav"
  - Either single or double quotes are fine
  - Capitalize according to the operating system rules
  - Can be used anywhere you refer to a data set

  - Use the same approach for other files (e.g. imported data, included syntax files)

File Names examples

get file="y:\spss\cars.sav".

Save outfile="u:\cars copy.sav".

File Handles

- Aliases for referring to a file or directory
  - Make it easier to reuse syntax even when file locations change, by just specifying the new file name or location once.

  - file handle *alias* / name='*directory\filename*'.

  - Either single or double quotes are fine

Handle for File Name

file handle cars /name='Y:\SPSS\Cars.sav'.
get file=cars.
select if year<80.
descriptives variables=mpg.
get file=cars.
select if year>=80.
descriptives variables=mpg.

*You may optionally use quotes when you use
   the file handle, e.g. get file='cars'

Handle for a Directory

file handle workshop /name='Y:\SPSS'.

get file= 'workshop\cars.sav'.

select if year<80.

descriptives variables=mpg.

get file='workshop\cars.sav'.

select if year>=80.

descriptives variables=mpg.

Change the Working Directory

- Achieve a similar effect to using a file handle for a directory by changing the working directory
  - Affects all files, not just data sets

  - cd "*directory*".

Changing Directory

cd "y:\spss".

get file="cars.sav".

select if year<80.

save outfile="seventies cars.sav".

*Note the data set is saved in the y:\spss directory .

Window (Dataset) Names

- You can have several working data sets open in separate data editor windows, and switch among them.

- Useful for merging data

- Useful for output data sets

- However, you must still manipulate and analyze your data one data set at a time

Dataset Commands

- dataset name
  - Gives a name to the active data editor window, often recently opened with "get file"
- dataset activate
  - Makes a previously named window the active one
- dataset declare
  - Names a window which can be used as the destination for output data
- dataset copy
  - Copies the active data set to a new window (and names that window)
- dataset close
  - housekeeping

Dataset Name

get file='Y:\SPSS\Employee data.sav'.

compute raises=salary - salbegin.

descriptives variables=raises.

dataset name employee.

*Names the most recently opened working data set.

Merging with Dataset Names

get file="wave1.sav".

dataset name one.

sort cases by id.

get file="wave2.sav".

dataset name two.

sort cases by id.

match files file=one

 /file=two

 /by=id.

dataset name combined.

* This results in three open data sets, "one," "two," and "combined."

Dataset Activate

get file="region1.sav".
dataset name one.
get file="region2.sav".
dataset name two.
compute source=2.
dataset activate one. /* return focus to "one" */
compute source=1.
add files file=*
 /file=two.

* This results in two open data sets, "one" (really
   combined) and "two."

Dataset Declare

get file='Y:\SPSS\Employee data.sav'.
* Note the dataset name is null, " ".
sort cases by gender.
dataset declare salarymeans.
aggregate
  /outfile=salarymeans
  /break=gender
  /salary_mean=mean(salary).

*Results in two open data sets, " " and
    "salarymeans."

Dataset Copy

get file='Y:\SPSS\Employee data.sav'.
dataset name employee.
dataset copy men.
dataset activate men.
select if gender = "m".
dataset activate employee.
select if gender = "f".
dataset name women. /*Rename the active dataset*/

*Results in two open data sets.

Juggling Output

- Just like working data sets, you can juggle multiple output windows, too.
- output name
  - Gives a name to the active output window
- output new
  - Names and activates a new output window
- output activate
  - Changes the focus to a previously name output window
- output save
  - Save the active window to a file
- output open
  - Opens an output file in a new window
- output close
  - housekeeping