SAS Programming (BIOL-4V190)

Chapter 16
Summarizing Your Data

16.1 Introduction

PROC MEANS can be used to generate a basic statistics report as well as to create data sets containing the values of these statistics.

PROC SUMMARY can be used to generate the same data sets if printed output is not needed.

PROC SUMMARY is identical to PROC MEANS NOPRINT.

16.2 PROC MEANS—Starting from the Beginning

By default, PROC MEANS generates a table of basic statistics (n, mean, std dev, min, max) on all numeric variables in the data set.

Adding the VAR statement controls the variables which will appear in the output.

Statistics that appear in the output can be controlled using options on the PROC MEANS statement.

Some of the statistics available are shown on page 321.

A complete list of the statistics available can be found in the SAS online documentation.

Syntax:

```
proc means options;
  var variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
run;
```

```
*Program 16-2 Adding a VAR statement and requesting specific statistics with PROC MEANS - page 322; title "Selected Statistics Using PROC MEANS"; proc means data=learn.blood n nmiss mean median min max maxdec=1; var RBC WBC; run;
```

In this example, the requested statistics appear in the output in the same order in which they are listed on the PROC MEANS statement.

The MAXDEC= option is used to control the number of decimal places that are printed.

16.3 Adding a BY Statement to PROC MEANS

Adding a BY statement to PROC MEANS causes the statistics to be calculated within subsets of the data.

The subsets are created based on the different values in each BY group.

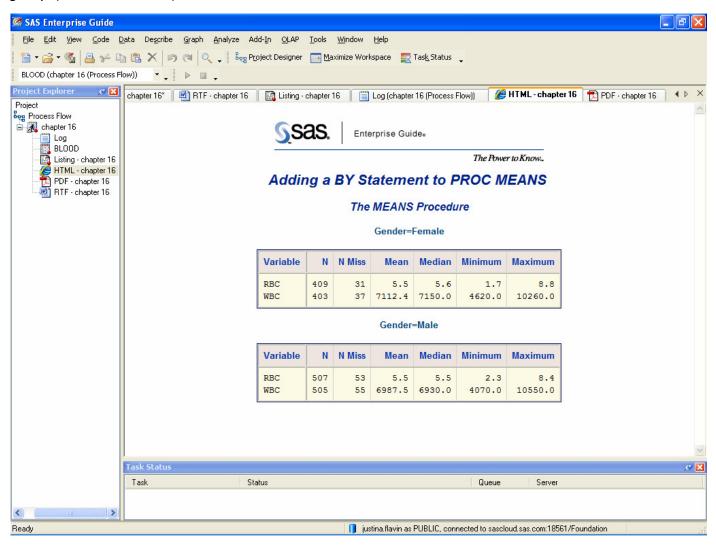
As with all other procedures, using a BY statement in PROC MEANS requires the data to first be sorted.

Syntax:

```
proc sort;
  by variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
run;

proc means options;
  by variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
  var variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
run;
```

Adding the BY Gender statement to Program 16-3 causes the statistics to be calculated separately for each BY group (Females, Males).



16.4 Using a CLASS Statement with PROC MEANS

The CLASS statement can be used in place of the BY statement.

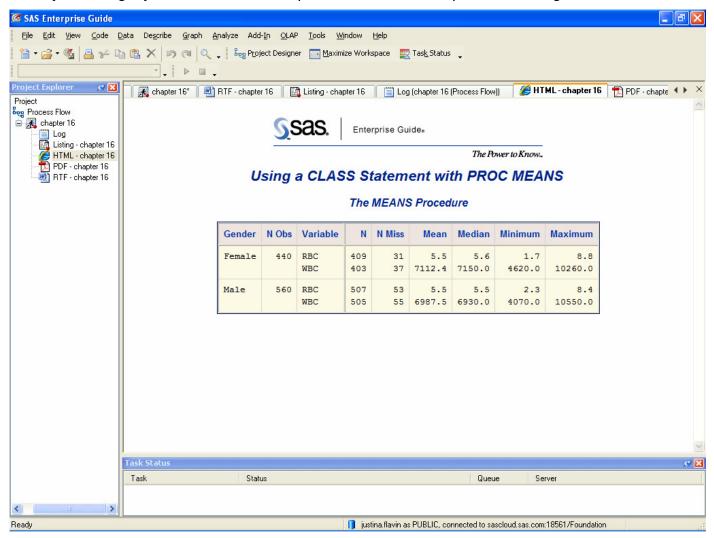
The main advantage to doing this is that the data do not need to be sorted prior to running PROC MEANS.

The format of the output is slightly different but contains the same information.

Syntax:

```
proc means options;
  class variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
  var variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
run;
```

Notice in the sample code that this output was generated on the unsorted data in LEARN.BLOOD The layout is slightly different, but the output is identical to that produced using a BY statement



16.5 Applying a Format to a CLASS Variable

A format can be added to a CLASS variable by using a FORMAT statement.

Adding a format to a class variable can be used to change how the CLASS variable groups the data without having to change the data in the data set.

Syntax:

```
proc means options;
  class variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
  var variablename1 variablename2...variablename'n';
  format variablename1 format. variablename2 $format.;
run;
```

In our example, the cholesterol variable value will be categorized into one of two groups (low and high) using a format. Then applying this format to the variable in PROC MEANS will cause the summary statistics to be generated for the two groups.

```
*Program 16-5 Demonstrating the effect of a formatted CLASS variable - page 326; proc format;

value chol_group

low -< 200 = 'Low'

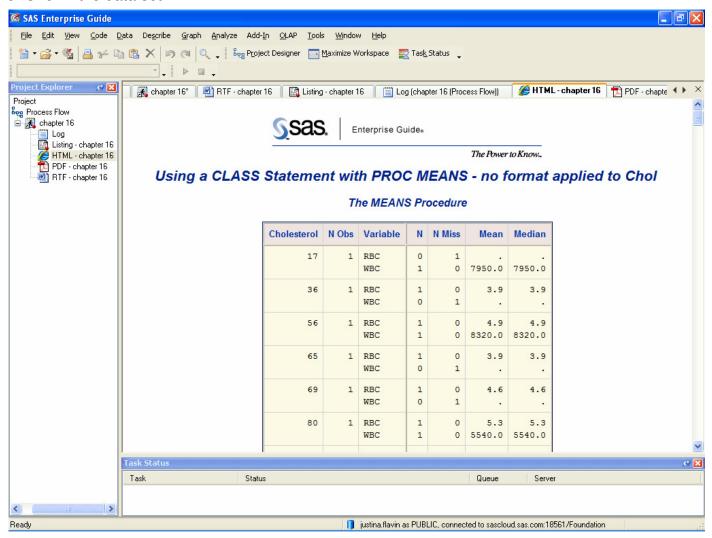
200 - high = 'High';
run;
```

Note: This technique also works when using a BY statement instead of a CLASS statement.

Creating a format and applying it in PROC MEANS allows you to turn a continuous variable into a categorical variable to get meaningful results and to make meaningful comparisons.

Compare the output on page 326 to the output generated without the FORMAT statement.

Without a format applied to Chol, PROC MEANS generates summary statistics for every unique nonmissing value of Chol in the data set.



16.6 Deciding between a BY Statement and a CLASS Statement

The general rule of thumb is to use a CLASS statement since it eliminates the need for a PROC SORT. If the data are already correctly sorted on the values of the BY variables, using a BY statement is more efficient.

16.7 Creating Summary Data Sets Using PROC MEANS

Summary statistics can be routed to data sets by using an OUTPUT statement.

Adding the NOPRINT option to the PROC MEANS statement will cause the output to be suppressed and only a data set will be generated.

Statistics are specified using the same statistics keywords that are used on the PROC MEANS line.

The statistics keywords on the PROC MEANS line can be the same or different than the statistics that will be written to the data set.

Syntax:

In this example, the mean values of RBC and WBC will be saved in the variables MeanRBC and MeanWBC in the output data set my summary.

This output data set is shown on page 328.

By default, there are two automatic variables, _TYPE_ and _FREQ_, that are also written to the output data set. These automatic variables will be discussed is a later section.

Notice that if the noprint option is removed, the procedure also generates the default output.

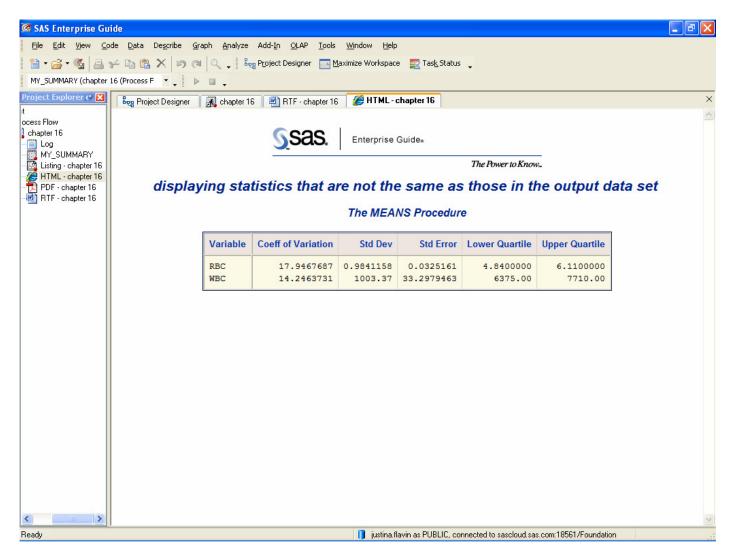
Specifying statistics on the PROC MEANS statement only affects the printed output.

There is no effect on the output data set.

Thus is it possible to generate output that contains different statistics than those that are included in the output data set

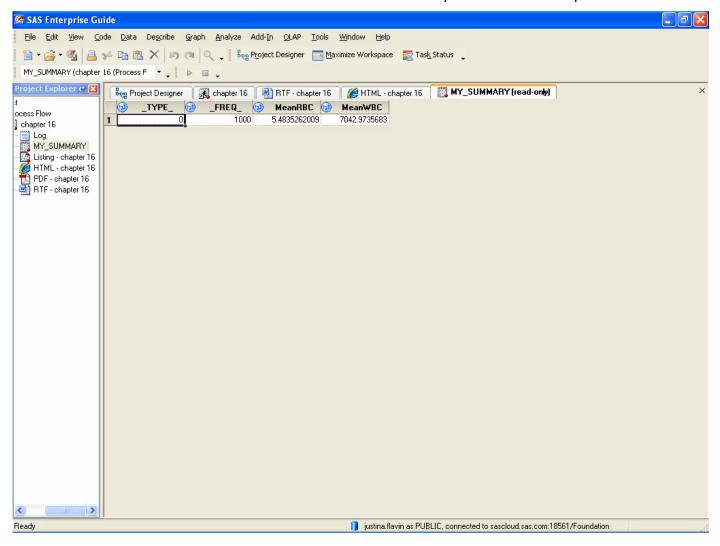
```
proc means data=learn.blood cv std stderr q1 q3;
   title displaying statistics that are not the same as those in the output data set;
   var RBC WBC;
   output out = my_summary
        mean = MeanRBC MeanWBC;
run;
```

Here is the output. The statistics are those that were specified on the PROC MEANS statement.



Here is the data set MY_SUMMARY.

It has the variables MeanRBC and MeanWBC which were specified on the output statement.



16.8 Outputting Other Descriptive Statistics with PROC MEANS

More than one statistic can be written to the output data set.

Different statistics can be selected for each variable on the VAR statement.

Syntax:

This is illustrated in Program 16-7 on page 329.

The previous example illustrated how to obtain the same statistics for every variable on the VAR statement.

There is also a way to specify different statistics for each variable, by modifying the output statement as shown below.

```
output out=datasetname
    statistics-keyword1(variablename1) = newvariablename1
    statistics-keyword2(variablename1 variablename2) = newvariablename1 newvariablename2
```

Placing the variable name or names inside parentheses following the statistics keyword causes SAS to calculate the requested statistic for only the variables listed rather than all variables on the VAR statement.

In this example, the mean is only calculated for WBC and chol. The mean of wbc is saved in DOG and the mean of chol is saved in CAT.

An output variable name is not specified for the std dev of chol, so by default, the output variable will have the same name as the input variable (chol).

Only two output variable names are provided for n, nmiss, and median, so SAS calculates these values for the first two variables listed on the var statement.

16.9 Asking SAS to Name the Variables in the Output Data Set

Using the AUTONAME option on the OUTPUT statement causes SAS to generate the variable names in the output data set.

If variable names are specified after statistics-keyword, then those variable names are used.

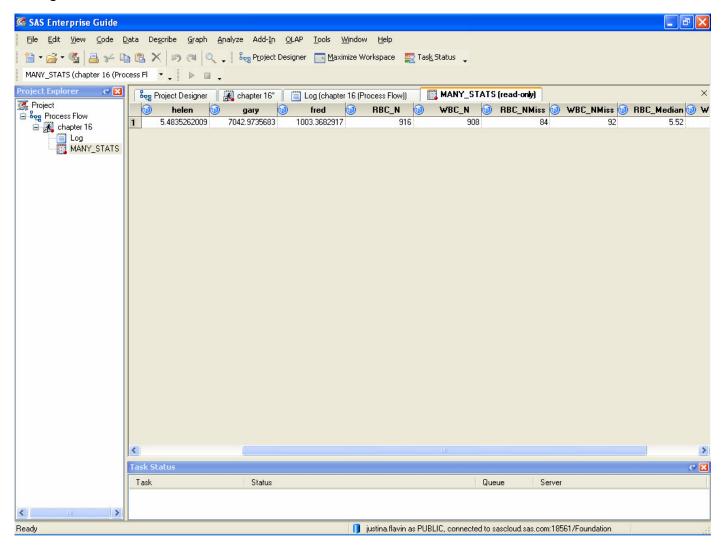
However, if not enough of these are specified, AUTONAME will automatically generate the remaining variable names.

Syntax:

The output data set with the auto-generated variable names for Program 16-8 is shown on page 330.

Here is a different example:

In this example, some variable names are provided. SAS uses those variable names in the output data set and auto-generates the remainder of the variable names.



16.10 Outputting a Summary Data Set: Including a BY Statement

Adding a BY statement will cause the statistics to be calculated and output by subsetting the data based on the different values in each BY group.

Syntax:

This is illustrated in Program 16-9 on page 331.

16.11 Outputting a Summary Data Set: Including a CLASS Statement

A CLASS statement can also be used in place of the BY statement when creating output data sets.

The resulting data set is slightly different unless the NWAY option is used on the PROC MEANS statement.

Syntax:

Programs 16-10 and 16-11 illustrate the use of a CLASS statement with and without the NWAY option.

16.12 Using Two CLASS Variables with PROC MEANS

When there are two or more variables on the CLASS statement, the automatic variable _TYPE_ in the output data set can be used to identify which rows correspond to which combinations of the different levels of the variables specified on the CLASS statement.

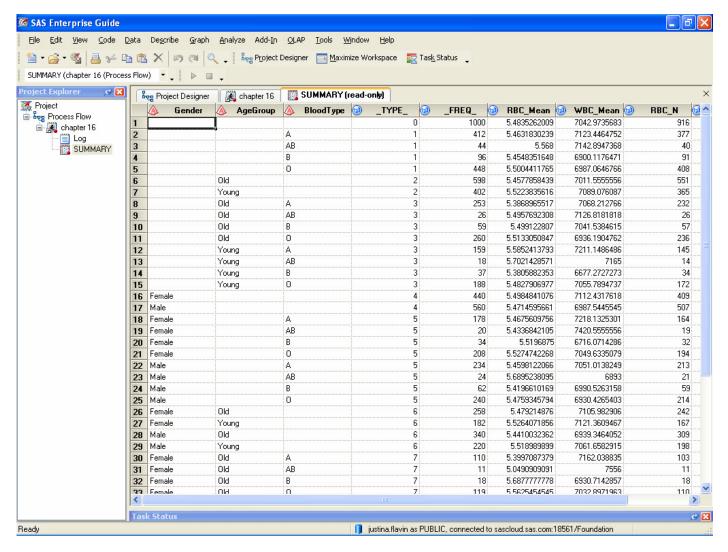
This can be useful for subsetting the data appropriately if multiple output data sets are desired.

The values of _TYPE_ can be converted to a binary representation by adding the CHARTYPE option on the PROC MEANS statement.

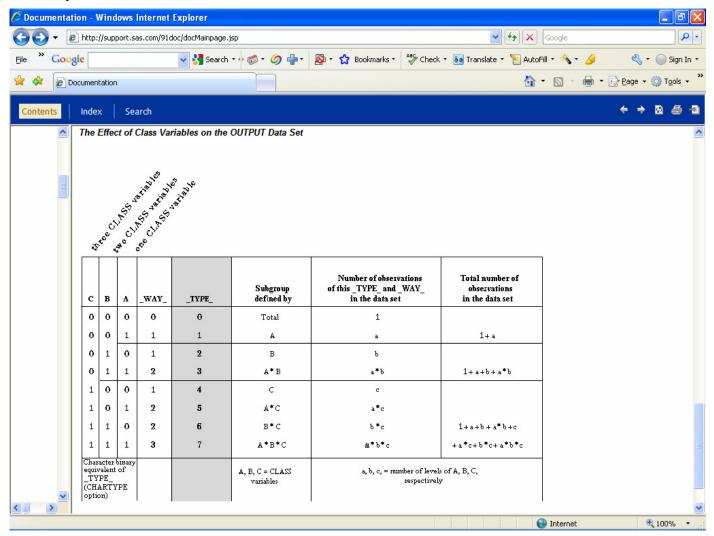
The examples in this section have been modified to better illustrate the concepts.

In this example, there are three class variables and we will look at the values of TYPE in the output data set.

Here is the output data set SUMMARY.



The online documentation for PROC MEANS provides a chart under **Results: MEANS Procedure**. There are three class variables A,B,C. In our example, A=BloodType, B=AgeGroup, C=Gender. A "0" in the variable column indicates that the variable is not used in calculating the summary statistics for that row. So _TYPE_=0 provides summary statistics without using any class variables. _TYPE_=1 provides summary statistics for the levels within Variable A. _TYPE_=2 provides summary statistics for the levels within Variable B.... _TYPE_=6 provides summary statistics for the combination of levels within Variables B and C.



Adding the CHARTYPE option to the code changes the value of _TYPE_ to a character representation of the binary value of _TYPE_.

The length of the variable equals the number of class variables.

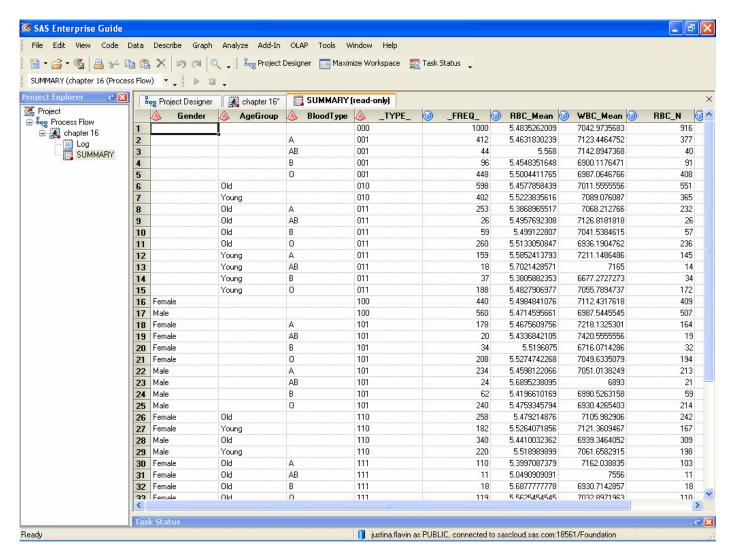
So now _TYPE_ becomes a variable that contains only the digits 0 and 1, with as many digits as there are CLASS variables.

A "0" indicates that the variable's levels are not used to stratify the data in the calculation of the statistics on that observation, while a "1" indicates that the variable's levels are used to stratify the data in the calculation of the statistics on that observation.

So _TYPE_=011 indicates that the levels of the 2nd (AgeGroup) and 3rd (bloodtype) variables on the class statement are used to stratify the data in the calculation of the statistics on that observation.

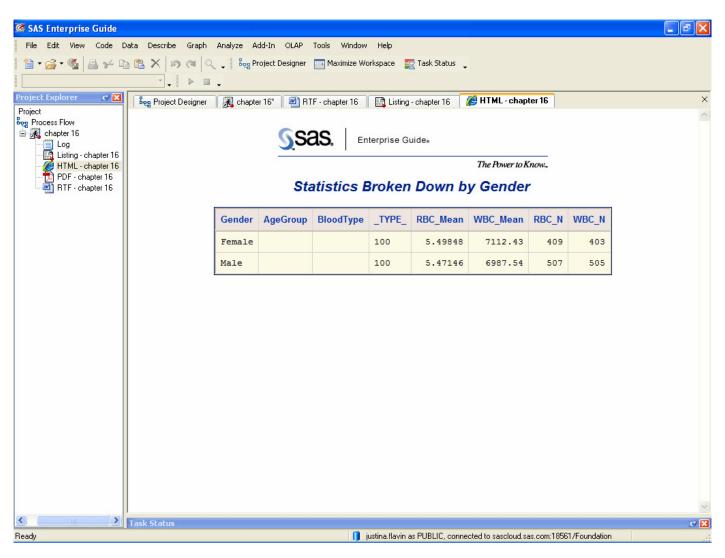
The actual level(s) used for that row are shown in the cell for each variable.

Here is the data set SUMMARY with the character representation of the binary value of _TYPE_.



The _TYPE_ variable can be used to select results of interest

```
*Modified Program 16-14 Using the _TYPE_ variable to select cell means - page 336;
title "Statistics Broken Down by Gender";
proc print data=summary(drop = _freq_) noobs;
   where _TYPE_ = '100';
run;
```



This example illustrates using the _TYPE_ variable to subset the data in creating new data sets.

```
*Modified Program 16-15 Using a DATA step to create separate summary data sets - page 336;
data grand(drop = Gender AgeGroup bloodtype)
    by_gender(drop = AgeGroup bloodtype)
    by_age(drop = Gender bloodtype)
    cellmeans;
set summary;
drop _type_;
rename _freq_ = Number;
if _type_ = '000' then output grand;
else if _type_ = '010' then output by_age;
else if _type_ = '100' then output by_gender;
else if _type_ = '111' then output cellmeans;
run;
```

16.13 Selecting Different Statistics for Each Variable

An output data set does not have to contain every requested statistic for every variable.

To select the variables, place the variable names inside a set of parentheses behind the statistic keyword.

The example in this section uses colon wildcard notation.

The colon modifier ":" used with a character string can be used as shorthand notation to select variables based on pattern matching.

The ":" acts as a wildcard character.

So name: will select all variables that are prefixed with the characters specified in name

i.e. **response:** would select variables response1, response2,...,response_tot i.e. :cat would select variables acat, bcat, ccat, totcat

Syntax:

This is illustrated in Program 16-16 on page 337.