Lecture 4

Temporary and Permanent SAS Date Set

Temporary and Permanent SAS Data Set

SAS data sets are available in two different types:

➢Temporary: A temporary SAS data set is one that exists only during the current job and is automatically erased by SAS when you finish and closed the SAS window.

➢Permanent: If a SAS data set is permanent, than it remains when your job is done and SAS window closed.

SAS data set names

All SAS data sets have a two-level name such as

WORK . Students

with the two levels separated by a period. The first level of a SAS data set name, **WORK**, in this case, is called its libref (short for SAS data library reference). The second level, **Students**, is the member name that uniquely identifies the data set with the library.

SAS data set names

Both the libref and member name follow the standard rules, however, librefs can not be longer than 8 characters while member names can be up to 32 characters long.

If you specify a two- level name and libref name is not WORK, then your data set will be permanent. But if you specify just one level of data set name, then your SAS data set will be temporary.

SAS data set names

Data Name	Libref	Member name	Type
student;	WORK	student	Temporary
WORK. student;	WORK	student	Temporary
IN.sale;	IN	sale	Permanent
CC.one;	CC	one	Permanent

Temporary SAS data set

The data sets we created in previous class are all temporary SAS data set.

Notice that the libref "WORK" does not appear in the DATA statement. Because the data set have just the first level name, SAS assigns the default library, WORK as libref name, and uses given name as the member name with that library.

Permanent SAS data sets

To create a permanent SAS data set, we first have to define libraries using the LIBNAME statement. You can also use the New Library window in SAS Explorer.

Create New Data Set Using Old Data

Data libref.Newdata;

Set libref.olderdata;

IF condition;

Keep xxx;

Drop yyy;

Rename oldervar=newvar;

Run;

Common SAS data set Options

1. Keep = *variable-list*   Tell SAS which variables to keep.

2. Drop = *variable-list*   Tell SAS which variables to drop.

3. Rename = (oldvar = newvar) Tell SAS to rename certain variables.