introduction to sas

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introduction

what is sas

SAS is an integrated system of software solutions

It enables:

- data management
- report generation
- plotting
- statistical and mathematical analyses
- and more

products

- Base SAS
- SAS/STAT
- SAS/ETS
- SAS Text Miner
- SAS Energy Forecasting
- and much, much more

Products & Solutions A-Z

base sas

Includes:

- a programming language
- a data management facility
- data analysis and reporting utilities

Base SAS is at the core of the SAS System

programming language

programming language

> *The SAS language contains statements, expressions, functions and CALL routines, options, formats, and informats*

There are two main components:

- data steps
- procedure steps

SAS programs—files ending in the `.sas` file extension—typically include several DATA and PROC steps

programming language

Example of a DATA step

```
data example;
    infile 'path/to/file';
    input x1 x2 x3;
run;
```

programming language

Syntax

One of the most important rules is that **SAS statements must end with a semicolon**

SAS statements can span multiple lines

Multiple SAS statements can appear on the same line, so long as each is separated by a semicolon

A `run;` statement, which creates a "step boundary," marking the end of a step, isn't required between steps in a program, but is recommended

SAS Names

Are used for data sets, variables, and other items

In general, these names must:

- contain only letters, numbers, or underscores (_)
- begin with a letter or underscore
- have a length betwen one and 32 characters
    - maximum length varies by name type (e.g., variable names versus library references)
- not contain blanks

Names are *not* case sensitive

data management

data representation

In SAS, data is organized into rows and columns in what is called a SAS data set

x1	x2	x3
25	m	berkeley
26	f	san francisco
23	f	oakland
24	m	marin

Each row is sometimes called an "observation" and each column a "variable"

data step

DATA steps begin with the `data` statement and are typically used to create, modify, or replace SAS data sets

Data can either be read inline or from external sources, such as `.txt`, `.csv`, or `.sas7bdat` files

SAS data sets can either be temporary or permanent

Temporary data sets are stored in the `WORK` library and are deleted at the end of each SAS session

Permanent data sets are saved to disk

data step

SAS data sets are temporary, by default

In the code above, `example` is a temporary SAS data set

To read or write a *permanent* SAS data set, use dot notation such as `libref.dataset`

The `libref` is a name associated with a SAS library or directory location

It is possible to use `work.dataset` to be explicit about temporary data sets

data step

To set up a `libref` use the `libname` keyword

```
libname mylib 'path/to/dir';
```

In this example, `mylib` is a variable representing the `path/to/dir` location

Note that `libref` names can only be 8 character long and should appear before any references are made to it in your program

data step

```
data mylib.example;
    ...
run;
```

In the code above, the data set `example` will be saved to the location associated with `mylib`

data step

There are several ways to read data into a SAS data set

- `datalines`: for inline data
- `infile`: for data from an external file
- `set`: for a SAS data set

It's important to note that both the `datalines` and `infile` approaches require the use of an `input` statement, which

> *Describes the arrangement of values in the input data record and assigns input values to the corresponding SAS variables*

We'll see these in more detail when we start writing our programs

data analysis

proc step

SAS procedures are built-in programs that use SAS data set values to produce specific output

These are called using PROC Steps, which begin with the `proc` keyword

There are three main types of SAS procedures:

- report writing
- statistics
- utilities

proc step

[Report writing] procedures display useful information, such as data listings (detail reports), summary reports, calendars, letters, labels, multipanel reports, and graphical reports.

proc step

[Statistics] procedures compute elementary statistical measures that include descriptive statistics based on moments, quantiles, confidence intervals, frequency counts, crosstabulations, correlations, and distribution tests. They also rank and standardize data.

proc step

[Utility] procedures perform basic utility operations. They create, edit, sort, and transpose data sets, create and restore transport data sets, create user-defined formats, and provide basic file maintenance such as to copy, append, and compare data sets.

proc step

One of the most basic procedures is PROC PRINT

```
proc print data=example;
run;
```

This prints the SAS data set `example`

proc step

PROC Steps often have several optional arguments

With PROC PRINT, for example, we can specify the number of observations (rows) as well as the variables (columns) we want printed

```
proc print data=example (obs=10);
    var x1 x2;
run;
```

running sas code

ways to run sas programs

There are several ways to execute or run SAS programs

> *They differ in the speed with which they run, the amount of computer resources that are required, and the amount of interaction that you have with the program (that is, the kinds of changes you can make while the program is running).*

The results and output—that is, the data sets and values—are the same regardless of the way the program is executed (although the *appearance* might be different)

ways to run sas programs

Windowing Environment

The SAS windowing environment is a stand-alone desktop application

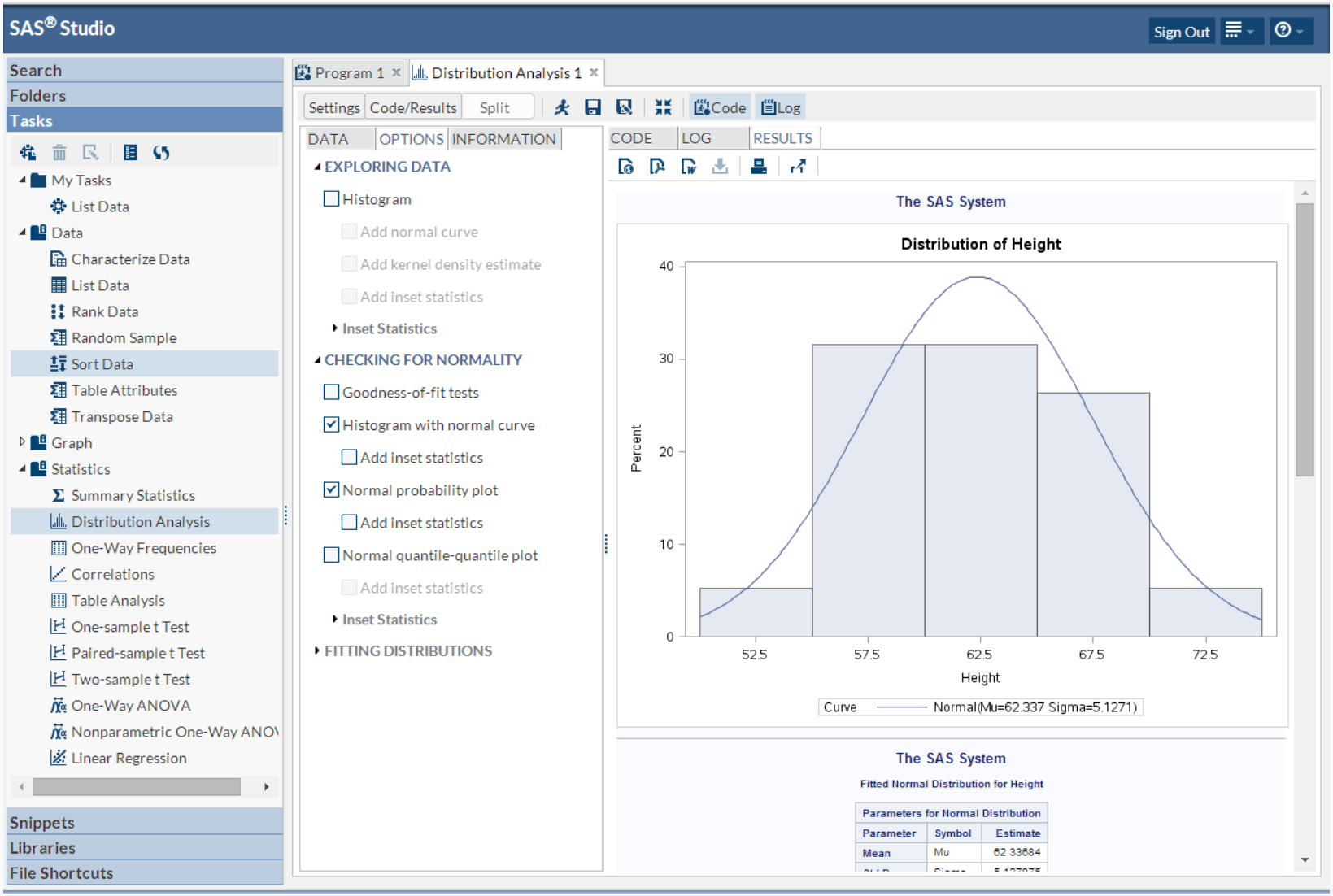
It includes, among other things, an editor for writing code and an output window

Entire programs or individual code blocks can be submitted

Log information and output is typically printed to their corresponding windows instead of being saved to external files

ways to run sas programs

SAS Studio



ways to run sas programs

Noninteractive mode

With this approach, entire SAS programs are submitted

This is the only way to interact with SAS if all you have access to is a command line interface

To run a SAS program from the command line

```
$ sas filename.sas
```

The log information is saved to `filename.log` and the output, if any, to `filename.lst`

coding

your first program

To this point, we've described, at a high level, the two primary components of the SAS language

For the remainder of the workshop, we'll write and modify SAS code in order to get familiar with the details and work through common problems

To start, let's open the file in the `code/` directory named `firstprogram.sas`

Here, we'll create a SAS data set using inline data and print some summary statistics

your first program

In this example, we're creating a SAS data set that we're naming `auto`

We use `datalines` to let SAS know the data will provided inline

Notice that semicolons (`;`) are *not* used at the end of each data line, only at the end of the block

The the `input` statement is used to specify the variable names—in this case, there are five columns, so we list five variable names

You may have noticed a `$` after the `make` variable name

This lets SAS know that `make` is a character variable

your first program

Let's say we're interested in calculating the average mpg for foreign and domestic cars in our data set

We can do this using the means procedure (`proc means`)

Here, we specify the input data (`data=auto`), the variable we want the means for (`var mpg`), and the "by" group (`class foreign`)

As we learned above, we can submit this program in one of several ways

We'll choose batch mode and run the code from the command line using

```
$ sas firstprogram.sas
```

output

If things go well, you won't see any output when you submit this program

So, where does the output go?

Whenever programs (or individual SAS code blocks) are run, SAS always produces a log file (with file extension `.log`)

This gives information about the steps that were executed, how long they took, and messages related to any particular errors

In addition, if there are things that are printed (a lot of `PROC`s produce this type of output), a listing file will be created (with file extension `.lst`)

comments

reading

analyzing

references

links

- http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~spector/s100/sas.pdf
- http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/library/SASRead_os.htm
- http://www2.sas.com/proceedings/sugi31/246-31.pdf
- https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/sscc/pubs/4-18.htm
- https://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/proc/61895/PDF/de