

Saturday, January 26, 2013

## How to use MISSING(), NMISS() and the CMISS() functions

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SAS provides several functions to test for missing values but in this post we will focus on MISSING(), CMISS() and NMISS() functions. The NMISS() function is reserved for numeric variables. The MISSING() and CMISS() functions can be used with either character or numeric variables. The CMISS() and NMISS() functions are designed by SAS to count the number of arguments with missing values whereas the MISSING function checks whether or not a variable is missing. The MISSING(), CMISS(), and NMISS() functions provide a simple approach to check for missing values and these functions let you write few lines of code by avoiding large if-statements when you need to check for missing values in several values at the same time.

MISSING() function is very useful when you need to check any variable has a missing value or not, but not sure if it's a character or numeric? MISSING function works for either character or numeric variables and it also checks for the special numeric missing values (.A, .B, .C, .\_, etc) as well. The MISSING() function produces a numeric result (0 or 1) if the data point is present or missing. MISSING(varname) is the same as MISSING(varname)=1. MISSING(varname)=0 specifies when the data point is present.

The MISSING function is particularly useful if you use special missing values since 'if varname=.' will not identify all missing values in such cases.

**NOTE:** Missing value is not consistent in SAS as it changes between numeric and character variables. A single period (.) represents the Numeric missing value. A single blank enclosed in single or double quotes (' ' or " ") represents the Character missing value. A single period followed by a single letter or an underscore (ex: .A, .B, .Z, .\_) represents Special numeric missing values. Please note that these special missing values are available for numeric variables only.

The NMISS() function will count the number of arguments with missing values in the specified list of numeric variables. NMISS() function is very useful if you want to make sure if at least one variable in the list is not missing.

The CMISS() is available with SAS 9.2 and SAS Enterprise Guide 4.3 and is similar to the NMISS() function. The only difference is that it counts the number of arguments that are missing for both character and numeric variables.

The NMISS() function returns the number of argument variables which have missing values. NMISS works with multiple numeric values, whereas MISSING works with only one value that can be either numeric or character.

### Examples:

```
* count the number of the variables A, B, and C which have missing values;  
count=nmiss(A, B, C);  
count=nmiss(of A B C);
```

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\* count the number of the variables from Var1 to Var10 which have missing values;  
 count=nmiss(of var1-var10);

Examples:

x1=nmiss(1,0,.,2,5,.);	2
x2=nmiss(1,0);	0
x3=nmiss(of x1-x2);	0

For more details refer to this page. ([USING the CMISS, NMISS and MISSING FUNCTIONS](#))

For more details regarding the special missing values, please also refer to Special Missing Values in SAS (<http://studysas.blogspot.com/2010/04/special-missing-values.html>).

References:

- 1) Missing values in SAS (<http://www.pauldickman.com/teaching/sas/missing.php>);
- 2) MISSING! - Understanding and Making the Most of Missing Data: SUGI 31: Suzanne M. Humphreys, PRA International, Victoria, BC (Canada).
- 3) Special Missing Values in SAS (<http://studysas.blogspot.com/2010/04/special-missing-values.html>)
- 4) Usage Note 36480 KNOWLEDGE BASE / [SAMPLES & SAS NOTES from support.sas.com](#)
- 5) SAS(R) 9.2 Language Reference: Dictionary, Fourth Edition.
- 6) Carpenter's Guide to Innovative SAS Techniques, Art Carpenter (Page:99)

Posted by sarath at [Saturday, January 26, 2013](#)



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