SAS Informats

▶ Informats are built-in instructions that tell SAS how to read a data value. The choice of which informat to use is determined by the data.

▶ For standard numeric and character values, two basic informats are *w.d* and *$w.*

   ▶ The w.d format: reads standard numeric values. The w tells SAS how many columns to read. The optional d tells SAS that there is a decimal point in the value, the decimal point counts as one of the columns to be read. For example, the variable Weight containing 3 digits values (such as 145 lbs) has an informat of 3. ; Another example, value 2.1 takes up 3 column spaces, 2 digits + 1 decimal point, so it has an informat of 3.1

   ▶ The *$w.* informat: tells SAS to read *w* columns of character data. In this tutorial, the variable Name is read as character data and takes up five columns, and has informat of $5.; values of Gender take up a single column, and has informat of $1.

▶ For date: the MMDDYY10. informat tells SAS that the date you are reading is in the *mm/dd/yyyy* form, 10 means this form takes up 10 columns including 8 digits and 2 slash signs. For example, the variable DOB has values like 10/21/1978. SAS reads the date and converts the value into a SAS date. SAS stores dates as numeric values equal to the number of days from January 1, 1960. So, if you read the value **01/01/1960** with the MMDDYY10. informat, SAS stores a date value of 0. The date **01/02/1960** read with the same informat would result in a date value of 1, and so forth.

▶ For complete list of SAS informats, Please see SAS language, reference :

http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/lrdict/64316/HTML/default/viewer.htm#a001239776.htm