

[Commentary by [John F Hall](#)]

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John MacInnes[An Introduction to Secondary Data Analysis with IBM SPSS Statistics](#)**(Sage, Dec. 2017)****5.1 [Chapter 5 video tutorials](#)** (direct link to companion website)**[NB:** All video tutorials for chapter 5 are on the same web page and cannot (yet) be disaggregated.**Video 5.1.11: (4'48") Creating a filepath to the GSS command file**Create new folder **GSS files** and drag files from download into it:

The data file looks like this:

1972	1	5	23	16	2	0	0	1.0
1972	2	1	70	10	1	0	0	1.0
1972	3	1	48	12	2	0	0	1.0
1972	4	1	27	17	2	0	0	1.0
1972	5	1	61	12	2	0	0	1.0

The first part of the SPSS syntax file looks like this:

```

DATA LIST FILE='C:\Users\John Hall\Desktop\MacInnes 2017\GSS files\gss.dat'
/ FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE /
YEAR 1 - 20
ID_ 21 - 40
MARITAL 41 - 60
AGE 61 - 80
EDUC 81 - 100
SEX 101 - 120
WRKBABY 121 - 140
BALLOT 141 - 160
WTSS 161 - 180

```

The next bit can be quite complicated.



The general format of the DATA LIST command is:

DATA LIST FILE= '<pathname>' \ '<filename>' .

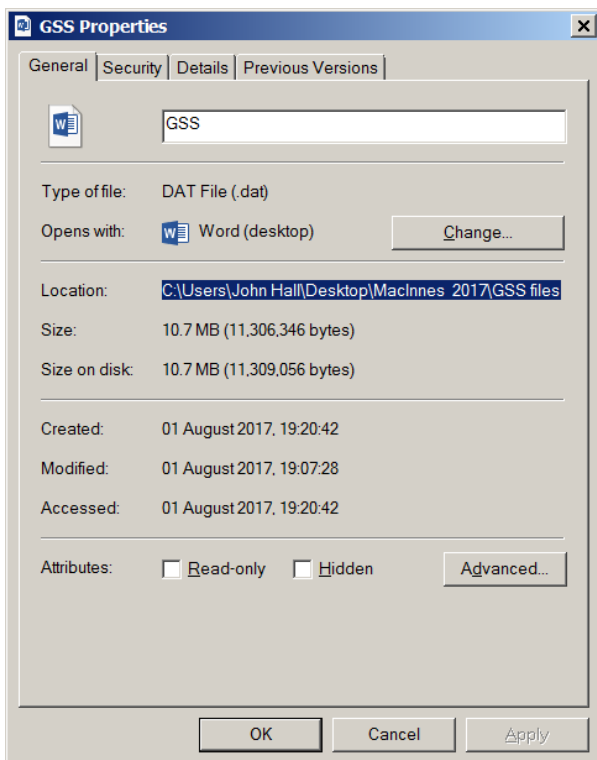
The first line of GSS.SPS reads:

DATA LIST FILE=TEMP / FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE /

As supplied this command won't work: for SPSS to read the data, the word **TEMP** has to be replaced by a full file path name enclosed in quotes. JM does it with the SPSS text import wizard, but you can also do it by right-clicking on the GSS.DAT file

Name ^	Date modified	Type
 GSS	01/08/2017 19:07	DAT File
 GSS	01/08/2017 19:06	SPSS Statistics Syntax File

and then on Properties:



Highlight location: **C:\Users\John Hall\Desktop\MacInnes 2017\GSS files** and click on **Ctrl +C** to copy path.

In the **Syntax Editor** delete TEMP

. . and insert opening quote:

```
DATA LIST FILE= |  
/ FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE / .
```

```
DATA LIST FILE= '  
/ FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE / .
```

The text in the **DATA LIST** command turns red as the subcommand is incomplete.

Click on **Ctrl** + **C** to paste in the file path:

```
DATA LIST FILE='C:\Users\John Hall\Desktop\MacInnes 2017\GSS files'
 / FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE / .
```

Add a backslash \ and the file name **GSS.DAT**

```
DATA LIST FILE='C:\Users\John Hall\Desktop\MacInnes 2017\GSS files\gss.dat'
 / FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE / .
```

and add a closing quote: the text in the **DATA LIST** command turns black as the subcommand is now complete.

```
1 DATA LIST FILE='C:\Users\John Hall\Desktop\MacInnes 2017\GSS files\gss.dat'
2 / FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE / .
```

```
DATA LIST FILE = 'C:\Users\John Hall\Desktop\MacInnes 2017\GSS files\gssdat'
  FIXED RECORDS=1 TABLE /
  YEAR 1 - 20
  ID_ 21 - 40
  MARITAL 41 - 60
  AGE 61 - 80
  EDUC 81 - 100
  SEX 101 - 120
  WRKBABY 121 - 140
  BALLOT 141 - 160
  WTSS 161 - 180 .
```

The screenshot shows the IBM SPSS Statistics Data Editor window with the variable list for the dataset 'Ch5_GSS.sav [DataSet12]'. The table below represents the data shown in the screenshot.

	Name	Type	Width	Decimals	Label	Values	Missing	Columns	Align	Measure	Role
1	YEAR	Numeric	4	0	Gss year for t...	None	None	6	Right	Scale	Input
2	ID_	Numeric	10	0	Respondent id...	None	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
3	MARITAL	Numeric	10	0	Marital status	{1, Married...	None	12	Right	Nominal	Input
4	AGE	Numeric	10	0	Age of respon...	{89, 89 or ...	None	12	Right	Scale	Input
5	EDUC	Numeric	10	0	Highest year o...	{97, Not ap...	None	12	Right	Nominal	Input
6	SEX	Numeric	10	0	Respondents sex	{1, Male}...	None	12	Right	Nominal	Input
7	RACE	Numeric	20	0	Race of respo...	{0, Not appl...	None	22	Right	Nominal	Input
8	WRKBABY	Numeric	10	0	Shld woman wi...	{0, Not appl...	None	12	Right	Nominal	Input
9	BALLOT	Numeric	10	0	Ballot used for...	{0, Not appl...	None	12	Right	Nominal	Input
10	WTSSALL	Numeric	20	15	Weight	None	None	22	Right	Scale	Input

Extract from GSS (what year?) Seems to be all years?
 Downloads as data file and syntax file using DATA LIST.
 [NB: Syntax from NORC lists value labels in descending order.]

End of: 5.1.11 Creating a filepath to the GSS command file