[New tutorial: 23 November 2010]

Block 1: From questionnaire to SPSS saved file

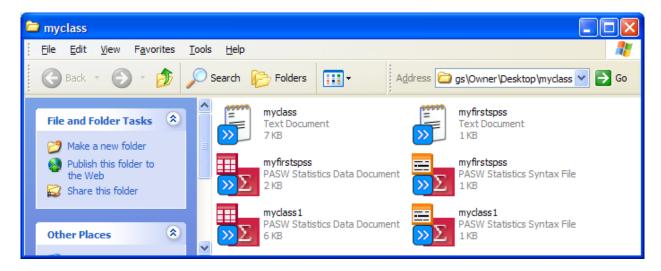
1.3.3.8 Checking your data (again)

Previous session: 1.3.3.7 [Exercise] SPSS for real - my first saved file

It's always advisable to have to hand hard copies of documentation such as the questionnaire, summary details of file contents and (if there is one) a copy of the user manual.

It is also good practice to run checks to see if SPSS has done what you want. For instance you can ask SPSS to **list** the contents of the first few cases or to **display** the names of the variables.

Open folder myclass:

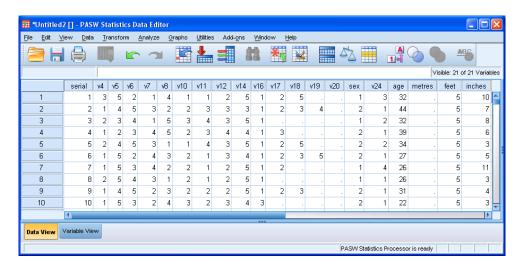


Double click on myclass1.sav (the one with the red check design) and wait for SPSS to open.

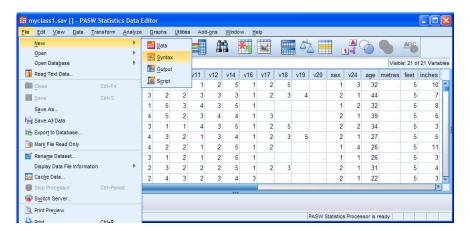
SPSS automatically generates related syntax and displays it in the output file:

```
GET
FILE='C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Desktop\myclass\myclass1.sav'.
DATASET NAME DataSet2 WINDOW=FRONT.
```

Go back to the Data Editor:



... and open a new syntax file by clicking (top left corner) File > New > Syntax

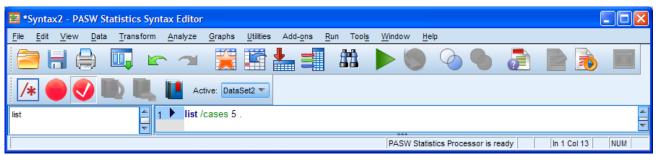




Blank syntax editor

To see the data for the first 5 cases type in:

list /cases 5.



Syntax file showing list command

Note that the **list** command (not available via drop-down menus) has now been recorded in the left pane and the specification for the number of cases is coloured green. If you don't limit the cases to 5, you will get a listing of all 169 cases in the file! **Don't forget the full stop!**

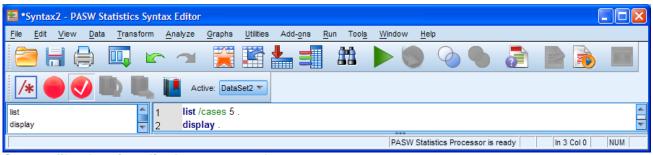
Leave the cursor on the line, click on the green triangle ▶ and SPSS will produce the following output:

C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Desktop\myclass\myclass1.sav

serial	v4	v5	v6	v7	v8	v10	v11	v12	v14	v16	v17	v18	v19	v20	sex	v24	age	metres	feet	inches
1	3	5	2	1	4	1	1	2	5	1	2	5			1	3	32		5	10
2	1	4	5	3	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	3	4		2	1	44		5	7
3	2	3	4	1	5	3	4	3	5	1			•		1	2	32		5	8
4															2		39		5	6
5	2	4	5	3	1	1	4	3	5	1	2	5			2	2	34		5	3
Number	aber of cases read: 5 Number of cases listed:									ed:	5									

As a check on the contents of the file you can use the SPSS command **display** (not available in drop-down menus) to obtain a list of the variables in the file. Go back to your syntax file and write:

display.



Syntax file showing display command

Leave the cursor on the line, click on the green triangle ▶ and SPSS will produce the following output:

Variable Names serial v4 ٧5 v6 ν7 v8 v10 v11 v12 v14 v16 v17 v18 v19 v20 sex v24 age metres feet inches

Currently defined variables

Not particularly informative, but that's all the information there is until you've extended the data dictionary by adding variable labels and value labels.

End of session

Next session: 1.3.3.9 Some general advice on file building in SPSS

[Back to Block 1 menu]