[Commentary by John F Hall]

[Last updated: 8 August 2017]

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)

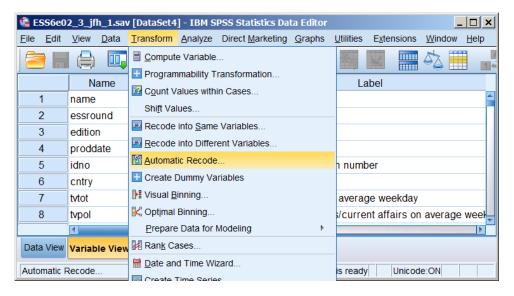
[NB: All video tutorials for chapter 5 are on the same web page and cannot (yet) be disaggregated]

Video 5.1.3: Creating a numeric version of [cntry]

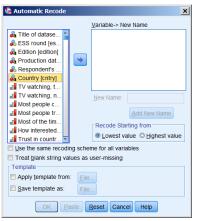
Basically JM repeats the entire practice exercise from chapter 4, but with the addition of copy/paste to use previously generated syntax from that exercise.

[cntry] is a string variable: JM recodes it into a new numeric variable [country] using AUTORECODE as per chapter 4 video 10 in which he used:

Transform >> Automatic Recode



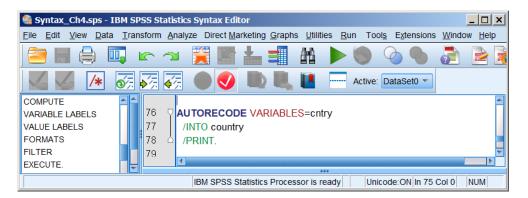
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<u>H</u>ighest value Trust in the le.. Use the same recoding scheme for all variables Treat blank string values as user-missing Apply template from: Save template as: OK Paste Reset Cancel Help



Syntax generated by Paste



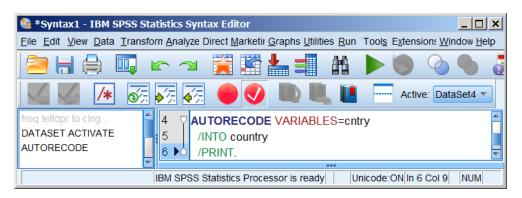
Instead of using the GUI again, "...if you saved the syntax from Ch 4..." he copies the syntax from chapter 4 video 10:

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ANT GARAY	1234567	freq fitdpr to cidging, sort cases cidging (A). AUTORECODE VARIABLES-entry /INTO country /PRINT

. . by highlighting (all three lines of) the command:

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. .and copy/pastes it into the new Syntax Editor:



After running the job, the Output Viewer shows:

Old Value	New Value	Value Label
AL	1	Albania
BE	2	Belgium
BG	3	Bulgaria
CH	4	Switzerland
CY	5	Cyprus
CZ	6	Czech Republic
DE	7	Germany
DK	8	Denmark
EE	9	Estonia
ES	10	Spain
FI	11	Finland
FR	12	France
GB	13	United Kingdom
HU	14	Hungary
IE	15	Ireland
IL	16	Israel
IS	17	Iceland
IT	18	Italy
LT	19	Lithuania
NL	20	Netherlands
NO	21	Norway
PL	22	Poland
PT	23	Portugal
RU	24	Russian Federatio
SE	25	Sweden
SI	26	Slovenia
SK	27	Slovakia
UA	28	Ukraine
XK	29	Kosovo

The new variable [country] is appended to the Data Editor on row 627:

626	pweight	Numeric		
627	country	Numeric		
628				

To find the new variable **[country]** JM uses an extremely laborious route by highlighting the **Name** column and clicking on (which does the same as **CTRL**+**F**):

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6	cntry	String	2		
7	tvtot	Numeric	2	Match case	
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9	ppltrst	Numeric	2		
10	pplfair	Numeric	2		~
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. . writes **country** in the **Find** box

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3	edition	String	3	Find Re	place								
4	proddate	String	10	Column:	Name								
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10	pplfair	Numeric	2										-
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...clicks on Find Next "... and there it is, down at the bottom."

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687	parents1			Note	None	Numeric	Nominal	8
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If you watch the video in full screen, you will see that he is breaking a cardinal rule by working on the original file **ESS6e02_3.sav**, not on a **copy**.

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Comment:

Working on an original file is an **extremely dangerous practice**! In this case JM can always download the original again from the ESS site, but users working on their own data may not be so lucky. Hopefully he copied this file to another folder and worked on that.

End of:5.1.3: Creating a numeric version of [cntry]Back to:MacInnes (2017)