Survey Analysis Workshop

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2.3 Data transformations

Block 2: Analysing one variable

2.3.1.2a2 Recode into new variable

[Draft only: 6 June 2013]

Previous session: 2.3.1.2a1 Select and rename variables

- **Exemplar:** British Social Attitudes 1986
- File:
 bsa86rename1.sav

 [generated in previous session in folder e:\weebly downloads\]
- Task:a) Recode age into a new variable agegroup with four categories:18 -29, 30 44, 45 59, 60 and over.

b) Add variable and value labels to agegroup.

New commands: RECODE ~ ~ ~ INTO ~ ~ ~ VARIABLE LEVEL FORMATS

Step 1: Insert your memory stick from the previous session into drive **e**: and navigate to folder **e:weebly downloads**:

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Removable Disk	🖫 ql4gb1975	03/06/2013 19:37	SPSS Statistics Dat	601 KB
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	🖷 bsa86rename1	05/06/2013 17:54	SPSS Statistics Dat	10 KB
Network	🕞 bsa86rename1	05/06/2013 17:59	SPSS Statistics Syn	1 KB

If you don't have file **bsa86rename1.sav** go back to exercise <u>2.3.1.2a1</u> Select and rename variables

I love you all dearly, but I have neither time nor inclination to take you all the way back to what you should have done by now in previous exercises.

All subsequent steps start on separate pages.

Step 2: In drive e: double click on file bsa86rename1.sav

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Step 4: Recode age into new variable agegroup

Type in:

title 'Recode into new variable exercise'. [Always give your job a title or insert comments] recode age

(18 thru 29 = 1) (30 thru 44 = 2) (45 thru 59 = 3) (60 thru 97 = 4) (else = sysmis) into agegroup.

[Don't forget the primes or the full stops!]



Run > All to get:

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Note that the Measure of agegroup is displayed as Unknown and Decimals as 2.

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There are two quick ways to change Decimals to 0 and Measure to Ordinal

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... but these are not allowed whilst transformations are pending (See message displayed right at the bottom of the Data Editor).

IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready Transformations pending

If you try to change them in the **Data Editor** whilst this is displayed. SPSS will display a message:



If you switch to **Data View**, you will see that there are still no values entered for **agegroup**. This is because SPSS is waiting for a command requiring a data pass.

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Go back to the Syntax Editor and type in :

execute.

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The values for agegroup have now been entered,

Go back to Variable View

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2	sex	Numeric	1	0	Sex of respondent	{1, Men}	None	8	≡ Right	\delta Nominal	ゝ Input	
3	age	Numeric	2	0	Age of respondent	None	99	8	≡ Right	🛷 Scale	🖒 Input	
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In the Measure column for agegroup, Unknown has changed to Nominal. This because SPSS detected only four values and set it to the default Nominal. You can change this to Ordinal in the Data

Editor by clicking on

and changing it to Ordinal:

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The new variable **agegroup** which should have four integer values, has two superfluous decimals. You can change this in the **Data Editor** by clicking on the cell under **Decimals**

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With only one or two variables these modifications are quicker to do manually in the **Data Editor**, but if you have dozens or even hundreds of variables it's much preferable to have some syntax for future use in case you (or someone else) later need to recreate the file.

Step 5: Change measurement level and format of agegroup

Use the VARIABLE LEVEL and FORMATS commands

Go back to your Syntax Editor and type in:

variable level agegroup (ordinal). formats agegroup (f1.0).



Highlight variable level and click on Run > To End

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2		sex	Numeric	1	0	Sex of respondent	{1, Men}	None	8	Right	🚓 Nominal		
3		age	Numeric	2	0	Age of respondent	None	99	8	Right	🖋 Scale		
4		agegroup	Numeric	1	0		None	None	10	Right	🚽 Ordinal 🚽		
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In the Measure column, agegroup is now displayed as Ordinal.

Switch to Data View and you will see that the decimal places have been removed and that the values for agegroup are now displayed as integers.

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2	1	2	60	4	1									
3	1	1	52	:	3									-
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Step 6: Add a variable label for agegroup

Go back to Variable View:

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2	sex	Numeric	1	0	Sex of respondent	{1, Men}	None	8	■ Right	🗞 Nominal		
3	age	Numeric	2	0	Age of respondent	None	99	8	■ Right	🛷 Scale		
4	agegroup	Numeric	1	0		None	None	10	■ Right	d Ordinal		
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With only one variable you can do this manually by typing Age group of respondent into the Data Editor, but it is always good practice to generate and keep syntax for future use.

Go back to the Syntax Editor and type in the following:

variable labels agegroup 'Age group of respondent'.

🔚 *Syntax2	- IBM	SPSS	Sta	tisti	cs S	ynta	x Editor											X
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1 marital Numeric 1 0 Marital status of respondent {1, Married} 8, 9 8 ■ Right & Nominal													
2 sex Numeric 1 0 Sex of respondent {1, Men} None 8 ≣ Right & Nominal													
3	age	Numeric	2	0	Age of respondent	None	99	8	≡ Right	🖋 Scale			
4	agegroup	Numeric	1	0	Age group of respondent	None	None	10	≡ Right	🚽 Ordinal 🚽			
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[NB: Sometimes this doesn't work, so the best thing to do is continue to Step 7. If that doesn't work, add an **execute**. command and run that to add both variable and value labels.] **Step 7:** Add the value labels for agegroup

Type in:

value labels

agegroup 1 '18 - 29' 2 '30 - 44' 3 '45 - 59' 4 '60 or over'.

🔄 *Syntax2 - IBM SPSS Sta	tistics Sy	ntax E	ditor											
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Run to get:

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Variable and value labels have now been added to agegroup:

Step 8: Re-arrange the variable order

The file now needs tidying up a bit. Since analyses with demographic variables are often specified using **<varname> to <varname>** as in marital to agegroup we need to make sure that variables with many values are outside this block. Variable age therefore needs to be moved to the end of the file, well out of harm's way.

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	2	sex	Numeric	1	0	Sex of respondent	{1, Men}	None	8	Right	\delta Nominal
	3	age	Numeric	2	0	Age of respondent	None	99	8	■ Right	🔗 Scale
	4	agegroup	Numeric	1	0	Age group of respondent	{1, 18 - 29}	None	10	■ Right	🚽 Ordinal 🚽
		4									
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We can do this in the **Data Editor**. Left click on row number 3:

Hold the left button down on 3 and drag age to the bottom of the file, below agegroup (a thin red horizontal line will display where the row will be moved):

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3	agegroup	Numeric	1	0	Age group of respondent	{1, 18 - 29}	None	10	■ Right	🚮 Ordinal
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	4			; 	T.					•
Data View	Variable V	'iew								
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Step 9: Check your file

Each time you perform data transformations such as **RENAME** or **RECODE**, you should always check that they have been correctly executed. In this case we need to check the renamed variables **marital** and **sex** and the new variable **agegroup**:

frequencies marital sex agegroup.

tais: *Syntax2 - IBM SPSS Statis	tics Syntax Editor
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Run the FREQUENCIES command to yield:

	Statistics								
		Q.113b: Marital status of respondent	Sex of respondent	Age group of respondent					
Ν	Valid	3024	3025	3015					
	Missing	1	0	10					

There are 3025 cases in the file. One person is missing for marital status and 10 missing for age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Married	1948	64.4	64.4	64.4
	2 Living as married	114	3.8	3.8	68.2
	3 Separated or divorced	183	6.0	6.1	74.2
	4 Widowed	276	9.1	9.1	83.4
	5 Not married	503	16.6	16.6	100.0
	Total	3024	100.0	100.0	
Missing	9	1	.0		
Total		3025	100.0		

sex Sex of respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Men	1393	46.0	46.0	46.0
	2 Women	1632	54.0	54.0	100.0
	Total	3025	100.0	100.0	

agegroup Age group of respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 18 - 29	668	22.1	22.2	22.2
	2 30 - 44	839	27.7	27.8	50.0
	3 45 - 59	725	24.0	24.0	74.0
	4 60 or over	783	25.9	26.0	100.0
	Total	3015	99.7	100.0	
Missing	System	10	.3		
Total		3025	100.0		

If we had left age where it was and used:

frequencies marital to agegroup.

. . there would have been a very large frequency table for age as well!

Best check for age is:

descriptives age.

or:

Analyze > Descriptive Statistics > Descriptives

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2	sex	Numeric	1	Com	pare Means		A Explore	{1, Men}	None	8	圖 Right	\delta Nominal
3	agegroup	Numeric	1	Gene	eral Linear Model		Korosstabs	{1, 18 - 29}	None	10	■ Right	🚽 Ordinal
4	age	Numeric	2	Gene	eralized Linear Mode	ls ⊧	Ratio	None	99	8	≡ Right	Scale
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Press OK to get:

Descriptive Statistics								
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation			
age Age of respondent	3097	18	97	45.23	17.556			
Valid N (listwise)	3097							

A particularly useful way of checking variable properties is:

Data > Define Variable Properties

[NB: It wasn't designed to this, but it's a lot quicker than asking for frequencies.]

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		Nar 32 Set Measurement Level for Unknown		Label	Values	Missing	Columns	Align	Measure
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Ľ		1	Validation •						4
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	efine Vari	iable Pr	🔝 Identify Unusual Cases	IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready					

Move cursor to ress {Shift] click to highlight all four variables and]



[Shift] click on Age. .

click on blue arrow to transfer to right pane . .

click on Continue

눰 Define Variable Properties					×
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눰 Define Variable Properties									×
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ta Define Variable Properties									
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Data > Define Variable Properties is probably one of the most useful facilities in SPSS as it allows not only instant checking of all the main properties of a variable, but also a facility for changing them.

Step 10: Save the new version of the file as bsa86rename2.sav in folder e:\weebly downloads .

From the Data Editor:

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2	sex	Numeric	1	0	Sex of respondent	{1, Men}	None	8	≡ Right	\delta Nominal	ゝ Input	
3	agegroup	Numeric	8	0	Age group of respondent	{1, 18 - 29}	None	10	≡ Right	🚮 Ordinal	ゝ Input	
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File > Save as:

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Change bsa86rename1.sav to bsa86rename2.sav

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	 Write variable names to spreadsheet Save value labels where defined instead of data values Save value labels into a .sas file 	Cancel <u>H</u> elp
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. . and click on Save :

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1	marital	Numeric	1	0	Marital status of respondent	{1, Married}	8, 9	8	≡ Right	\delta Nominal	💊 Input	
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3	agegroup	Numeric	8	0	Age group of respondent	{1, 18 - 29}	None	10	≡ Right	🚮 Ordinal	ゝ Input	
4	age	Numeric	2	0	Age of respondent	None	99	8	≡ Right	🖋 Scale	ゝ Input	Ļ
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Data \	Data View Variable View											
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You also need to save the syntax file as **bsa86rename2.sps**. You should now be able to do this bit by yourself, but in case you can't (or won't):

From your syntax file:

File > Save as:

😘 *bsa86rename2.sps - IBM :	SPSS Statistics Syntax Editor	Syntax2 - IBM SPSS Statistics Syntax Editor
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Encoding:	Unicode (UTF-8)	Help
	Store File To Repository	

. . and click on Save :

Your folder e:\weebly downloads\ should now look something like this:

Comput	er COOLMATE (E:) Weebly downloads									
Organize ▼ Share with ▼ Burn New folder										
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12 items										

End of exercise 2.3.1.2a2

Next session: 2.3.1.2b1 Select, rename and recode homework

Back to page:	2.3 Data transformations
Back to page:	2.3.1.1 Data transformations

[Back to Block 2 menu]

Tutorials in this section are being revised to add more interesting and apposite variables, and to provide incremental steps via conditional frequencies towards some serious data analysis of two or more variables using **CROSSTABS** and **MEANS**.

These will be found in Block 3: Analysing two variables (and sometimes three)