

Incrementing Across Cases with SPSS ¹

It is possible to increment values across cases in SPSS by using “create” and “csum” (cumulative sum) commands. Following is an example of how to create a variable that can act as an ID variable. The first case will have the value of 1, the second 2,

```
* Incremnt.sps. Use "create" and "csum" to create an ID variable.
* Create a variable with a value of 1.
compute idvar = 1 .
* Use "create" and "csum" to create an incremented variable.
* The first case will be 1, second 2, and so on.
create idvar = csum(idvar) .
variable label idvar 'Identification Variable' .

** Add up total payroll .
create cumpayr = csum(payload).
variable label cumpayr 'Cumulative Payroll' .

list var = all.
```

***** Results follow *****

PAYROLL	IDVAR	CUMPAYR
100.00	1.00	100.00
600.00	2.00	700.00
200.00	3.00	900.00
300.00	4.00	1200.00

However, “CREATE” uses a lot of resources, and you may run into problems with it if you are using a large file. Another way of incrementing across cases is to use “LEAVE”. Ordinarily, SPSS does not keep a value for a variable when it moves on to the next case. Using a “LEAVE” statement asks SPSS to remember values across cases.

*** The following code shows another way to increment across cases .

```
if missing(lag(PAYROLL)) idvar2 = 0 .
leave idvar2 .
compute idvar2 = idvar2 + 1 .

if missing(lag(PAYROLL)) cumpayr2 = 0 .
leave cumpayr2 .
compute cumpayr2 = cumpayr2 + PAYROLL .
list var = all .
```

***** Results follow *****

PAYROLL	IDVAR	CUMPAYR	IDVAR2	CUMPAYR2
100.00	1.00	100.00	1.00	100.00
600.00	2.00	700.00	2.00	700.00
200.00	3.00	900.00	3.00	900.00
300.00	4.00	1200.00	4.00	1200.00