USING SAS and SPSS to Convert SAS System Files to SPSS System Files[1]

Using SAS and SPSS to converting SAS files to SPSS files is a two-step process. First, using SAS, a SAS export file must be created. This exported file can then be converted to an SPSS systems file using the SPSS procedure "GET SAS.

Following are the two programs necessary for the conversion. Lines beginning with an asterisk are comments, and provide explanation and documentation. Comment lines are not essential to the program. Program statements do not begin with asterisks. In the program statements, uppercase words do not need to be changed. File descriptions will need to be changed to fit your file specifications. If you are using the UNIX, remember that it is case sensitive, and case is important in defining directories and files.

I don't know of problems with this conversion, but I do know that problems have occurred in other conversion procedures. Be sure to check the number of cases, means, and ranges for variables in the original and converted file.

```
* STEP 1 – a SAS PROGRAM ;
* sasspss1.sas, STEP 1 in creating SPSS file from a SAS file ;
* Create an export file with a SINGLE SAS systems file in it.
options compress = yes linesize = 72 ;

libname sasdata         'c:\myfiles\' ;
libname sasspss xport  'c:\myfiles\t8.xpt' ;

proc means data = sasdata.t8 ;

** Use the select command to get only ONE systems file. ;
proc copy in= sasdata  out = sasspss ; select t8 ;
run ;

* STEP 2 - an SPSS PROGRAM .

* SASSPSS2.sps, second step, use SPSS to get the SAS file .
get sas data = 'c:\myfiles\t8.xpt' .
desc var = all.
save outfile = 'c:\myfiles\t8.sav' .
execute .
```

SAS files can have formats assigned to variables (similar to value labels in SPSS, see http://staff.washington.edu/glynn/formats.pdf for more information). SPSS cannot convert SAS files from version 7 and above. This is why an xport file was created above. If you want to bring formats along, you must create a version 6 file of the formats. Following is the SAS syntax that you could use (changing file definitions to match your file):

```
libname library  'd:\dl\sas_spss\'  ; * specify where version 8 files are;
libname ver6  v6 'd:\dl\sas_spss\v6'; * specify a new directory - no SAS files in it ;
options compress = no ;  * compression must be off ;

* Write version 6 file of data and formats to new directory, using V6 engine ;
data ver6.w3sf21 ; set library.w3sf21 ;
proc format library = library cntlout = ver6.sas_fmts ;
run ;
```

This will create two files in the directory you have created for your version 6 file. In the above example, they would be called "w3sf21.sd2" and "sas_fmts.sd2".

In SPSS, you would issue the command (changing file definitions to match your file):

```
get sas data='d:\dl\sas_spss\v6\w3sf21.sd2'/ FORMATS='d:\dl\sas_spss\v6\sas_fmts.sd2'
```

Please refer to the following URL for more information. http://www.spss.com/tech/downloads/getsas.pdf

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