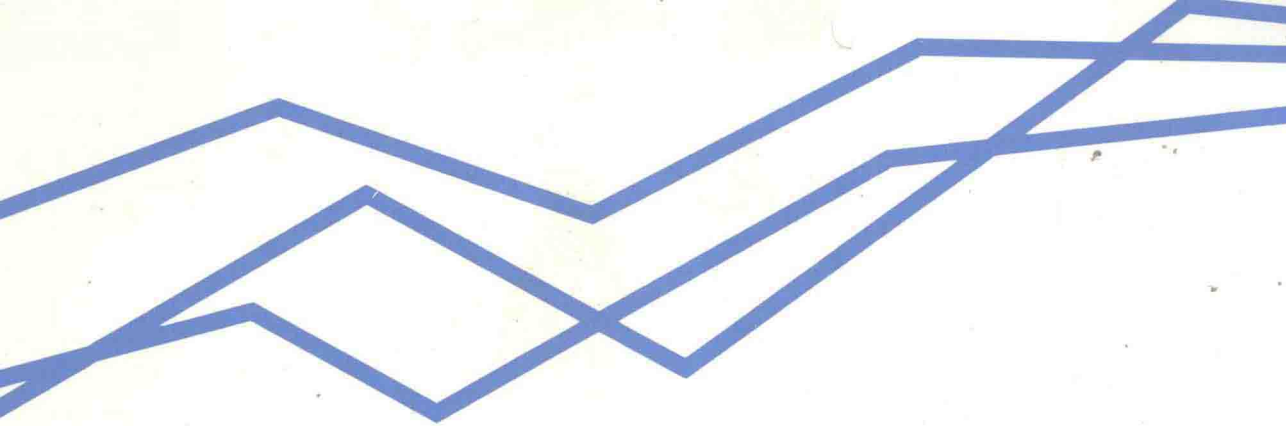

The SPSS GUIDE to Data Analysis for SPSS/PC+™, 2nd Edition

MARIJA J. NORUŠIS

The
SPSS GUIDE to

Data Analysis

for SPSS/PC+™, 2nd Edition

MARIJA J. NORUŠIS
Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center

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SPSS Inc.
444 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: (312) 329-2400
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Preface

"The business of a poet is to examine not the individual but the species; to remark general properties and large appearances. He does not number the streaks of the tulip, or describe the different shades of verdure of the forest; he is to exhibit . . . such prominent and striking features as recall the original to every mind." (Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas.*)

It is not often that anyone compares a statistician to a poet. Yet it is fitting to do so. The statistician, like Johnson's poet, searches for "general properties and large appearances." The goal of data analysis is to describe the species based on observations of individuals. The data analyst must identify patterns from thousands of fragments and then speak of the whole. For that is what is of interest.

In this book we consider how to proceed from individual observations to the whole. There are many ways in which the fragments may be assembled, and these can result in different views of the whole. Statistics books differ in what parts of the assembly process they emphasize. This book tries to give students the skills that they need to become informed consumers or producers of statistical information. Therefore this book emphasizes what the statistical process is all about: how to conduct studies, what the results mean, and what can be said about the whole from the pieces.

With SPSS/PC+ students can practice using the tools for analyzing data that the professionals use, and gain experience in analyzing data the way professional researchers do. They need these skills if they pursue graduate degrees, and equally if they enter the working world.

Using this Book

The book is divided into four main parts: Getting Started, Describing Data, Testing Hypotheses, and Examining Relationships. Examples from the NORC General Social Survey are used throughout. Of course, the best way to learn about anything is to actually do it. That's especially true for data analysis, so each chapter closes with exercises that reinforce and extend the material in three major areas: syntax, statistical concepts, and data analysis. These exercises test understanding of both the mechanics of statistical analysis and the interpretation of the results. The data used in the data analysis exercises, a subset of the General Social Survey data, are available from SPSS Inc. Appendix B contains selected answers to the exercises. Appendix A explains how to correct some of the errors commonly made by users of Studentware. Appendix A explains how to format sum-

mary statistics for presentation. Appendix F presents nonparametric procedures not covered in the main text.

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I wish to thank the members of the SPSS staff who have participated in the preparation of this book. I have benefited from their expertise. I also wish to thank my students and other users of previous versions of this book and software for helpful suggestions. Finally, I wish to thank Liz Adams for her editorial contributions.

Marija J. Norušis

Contacting SPSS Inc.

If you would like to be on our mailing list, write to us at one of the addresses below. We will send you a copy of our newsletter and let you know about SPSS Inc. activities in your area.

SPSS Inc.
444 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: (312) 329-2400
Fax: (312) 329-3668

SPSS Federal Systems
Courthouse Place
2000 North 14th St.
Suite 320
Arlington, VA 22201
Tel: (703) 527-6777
Fax: (703) 527-6866

SPSS Latin America
444 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: (312) 494-3226
Fax: (312) 494-3227

SPSS Benelux BV
P.O. Box 115
4200 AC Gorinchem
The Netherlands
Tel: +31.1830.36711
Fax: +31.1830.35839

SPSS GmbH Software
Rosenheimer Strasse 30
D-81669 Munich
Germany
Tel: +49.89.4890740
Fax: +49.89.4483115

SPSS Hellas SA
5 Ventiri Street
115 28 Athens
Greece
Tel: +30.1.7251925
Fax: +30.1.7291915

SPSS UK Ltd.
SPSS House
5 London Street
Chertsey
Surrey KT16 8AP
United Kingdom
Tel: +44.932.566262
Fax: +44.932.567020

SPSS France SARL
72-74 Avenue Edouard
Vaillant
92100 Boulogne
France
Tel: +33.1.4699.9670
Fax: +33.1.4684.0180

SPSS Hispanoportuguesa S.L.
Paseo Pintor Rosales, 26-4
28008 Madrid
Spain
Tel: +34.1.547.3703
Fax: +34.1.548.1346

SPSS Scandinavia AB
Gamla Brogatan 36-38
4th Floor
111 20 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46.8.102610
Fax: +46.8.102550

SPSS Italia srl
via Collegio di Spagna, 5/2
40123 Bologna
Italy
Tel: +39.51.234574
Fax: +39.51.238446

SPSS Israel Ltd
39 Hagalim Blvd.
Herzlia 46725
Israel
Tel: +972.9.598900
Fax: +972.9.598903

SPSS India Private Ltd.
Ashok Hotel, Suite 223
50B Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110 021
India
Tel: +91.11.600121 x1029
Fax: +91.11.688.8851

SPSS Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.
10 Anson Road, #34-07
International Plaza
Singapore 0207
Singapore
Tel: +65.221.2577
Fax: +65.221.9920

SPSS Japan Inc.
2-2-22 Jingu-mae
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
150 Japan
Tel: +81.3.5474.0341
Fax: +81.3.5474.2678

SPSS Australasia Pty. Ltd.
121 Walker Street
North Sydney, NSW 2060
Australia
Tel: +61.2.954.5660
Fax: +61.2.954.5616

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PART ONE

Getting Started

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