

## Overview

IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) is a data management and analysis product produced by IBM SPSS, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois. Among its features are modules for statistical data analysis, including descriptive statistics such as plots, frequencies, charts, and lists, as well as sophisticated inferential and multivariate statistical procedures like analysis of variance (ANOVA), factor analysis, cluster analysis, and categorical data analysis. SPSS is particularly well-suited to survey research, though by no means is it limited to just this topic of exploration.

SPSS is a modular product. That is, it requires the Base System module to run, but you may wish to use other modules to carry out specific analyses not supported by the Base product. The current version is 20.0. Lehman College has a site license for a much earlier version which is serviceable and has all the features you might need to handle your data.

Many of the features we will use in this beginner session are intended to introduce you to some common sense data manipulation. These include:

Starting SPSS

Entering small sets of data directly into SPSS

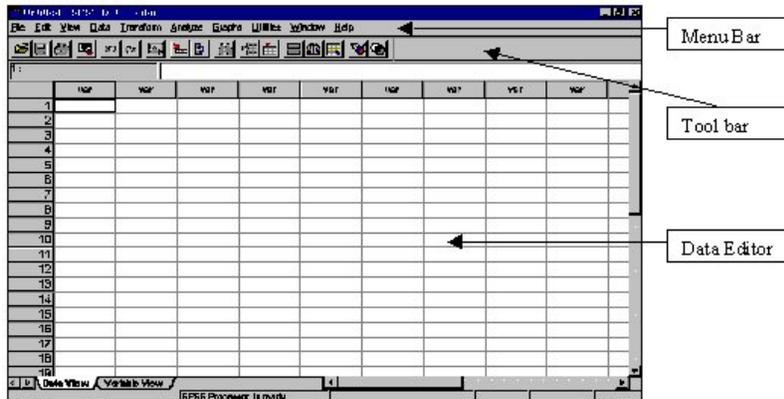
Importing larger sets of data from Excel spreadsheets into SPSS

Using SPSS to create descriptions of your data (frequencies, descriptions, central tendency, variability, correlations)

# Starting SPSS

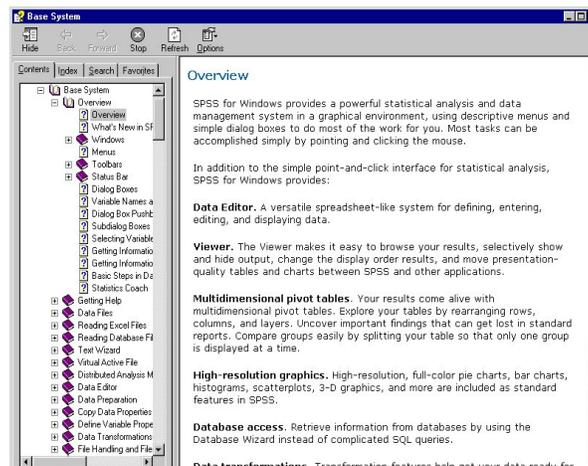
Click the **Start** button, **Programs**, the relevant software group, SPSS, and click on the SPSS icon.

The initial SPSS screen should appear, showing the *Data Editor* window, with the *Data View* window on top, and a tab at the foot of the screen giving access to the *Variable View* window. This is superimposed by a smaller window headed SPSS for Windows which you can temporarily discard by clicking on the **Cancel** button. You can switch between *Data View* and *Variable View* by clicking the appropriate tab.



# Getting help

You can obtain help on SPSS at any time during your SPSS session. Features such as being able to search for specific topics are included. To access the online help system, click on the **Help** menu and **Topics** to display the following window:



The *Contents* panel contains a list of broad topics, represented by icons of books. Double-clicking on any book will expand the contents. Selecting any one of these topics by double-clicking will provide you with the information in that topic.

If you know exactly what you want, or you wish to refer to a statistical term or a specific piece of jargon, you may prefer to use the *Index* tab. An alphabetic list of terms and topics will appear, and you can enter a term to search for. If too many similar topics are shown, use the vertical scroll bar to view the rest of the list, and double-click the topic you want.

Use **Search** to locate a **Help** topic. Within the **Search** box, enter a keyword that you would like to find help on. All **Help** topics that contain the keyword will be displayed, not just topics that begin with that word (as in the **Index**).

Opening/Importing files from Excel and opening existing SPSS files

## Data organization and the Data Editor

### Opening a data file

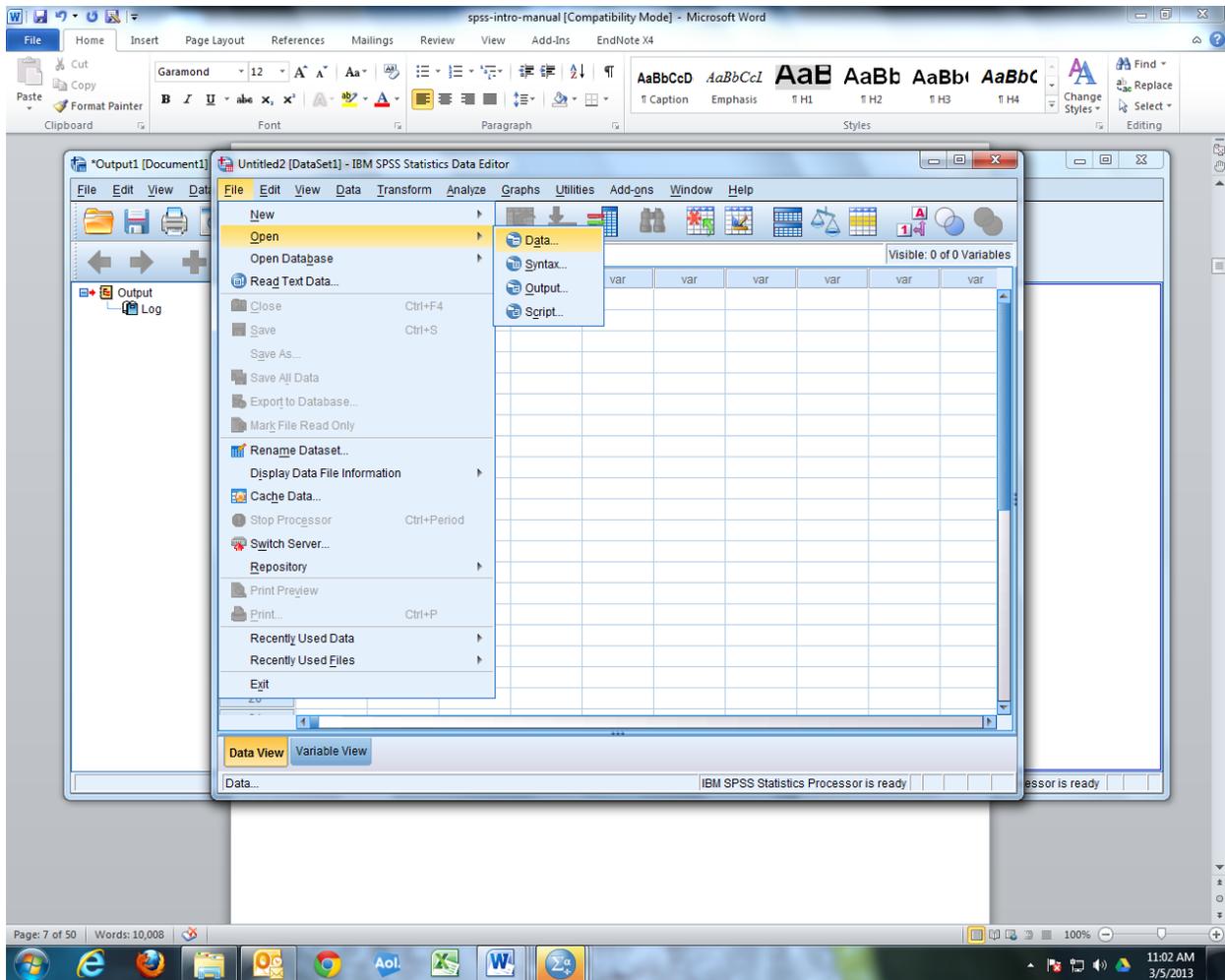
The first task will be to retrieve a simple data file to see how data is organized within SPSS. To do this using the menu:

- From the **File** menu, select **Open**, then select the **Data** from the resulting sub-menu.

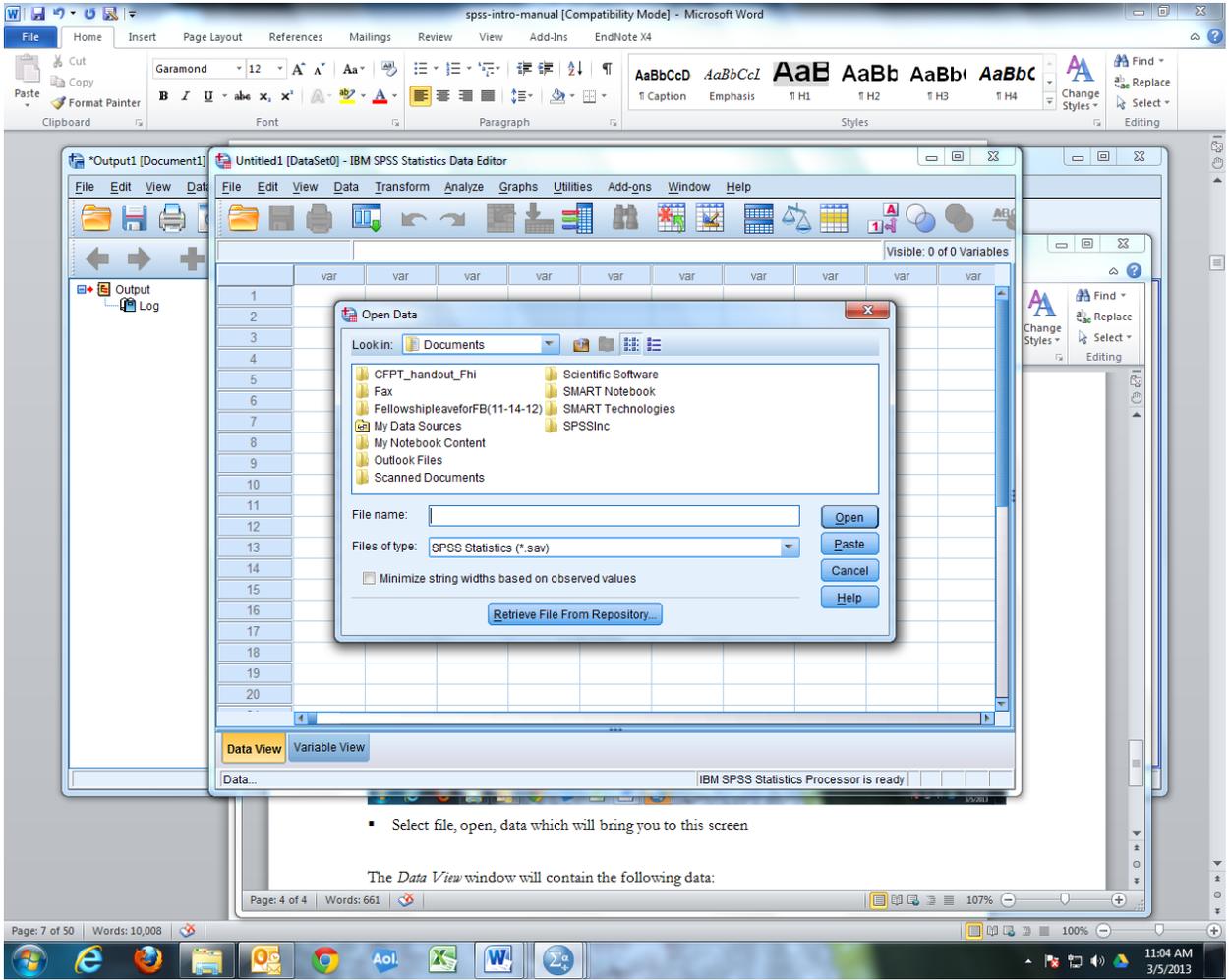
The following dialog box will appear:

In the dialog box pictured opposite, you select the file from the list of files. You can select different drives and directories by clicking the drop-down arrow next to the *Look in* box.

You can retrieve files created by software packages such as Excel by selecting one of the file types from the pull down list in the *Files of Type* box. This will be covered later in the course. The first file we are going to use is called **sample.xls**



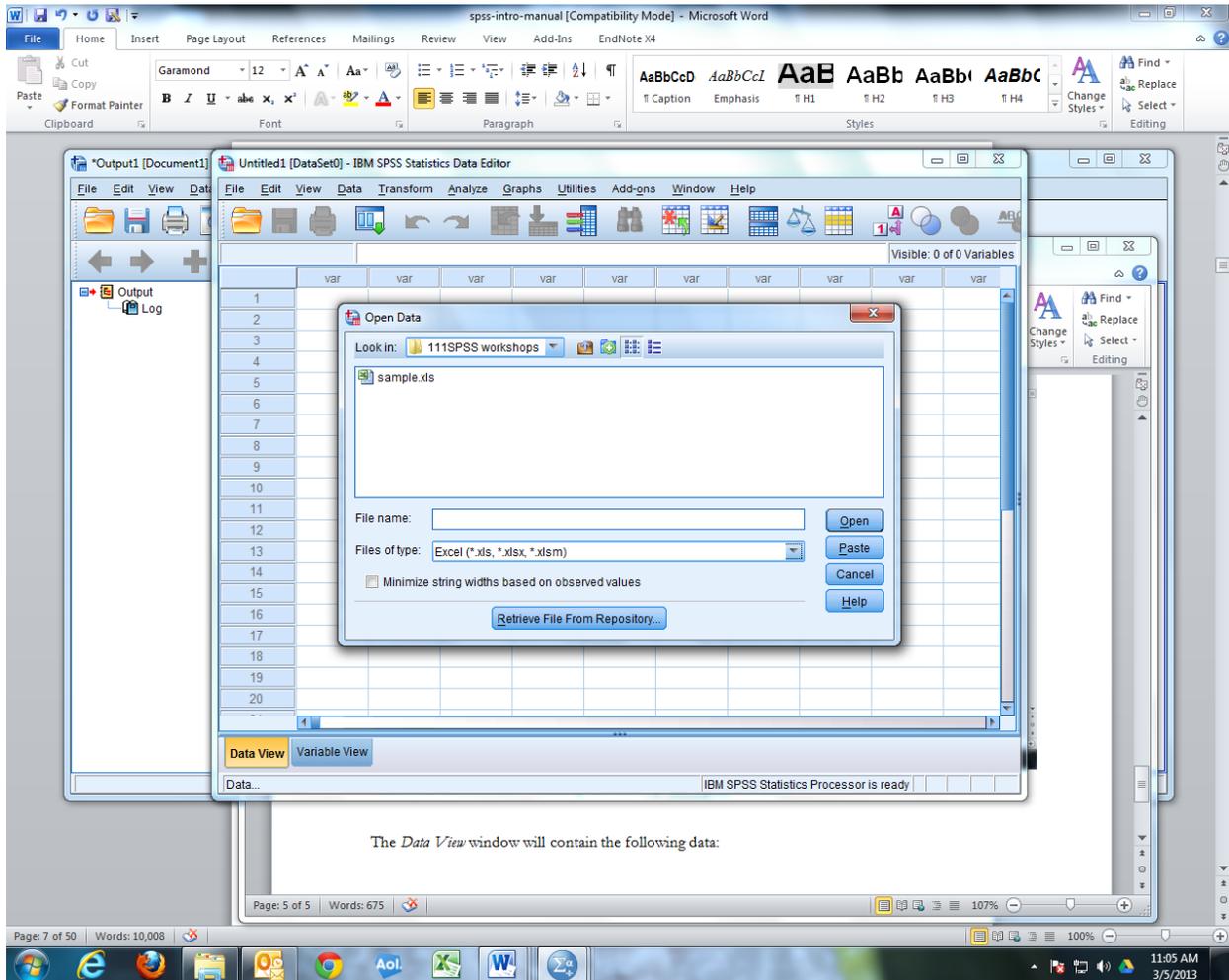
- Select file, open, data which will bring you to this screen



- Select file, open, data which will bring you to this screen

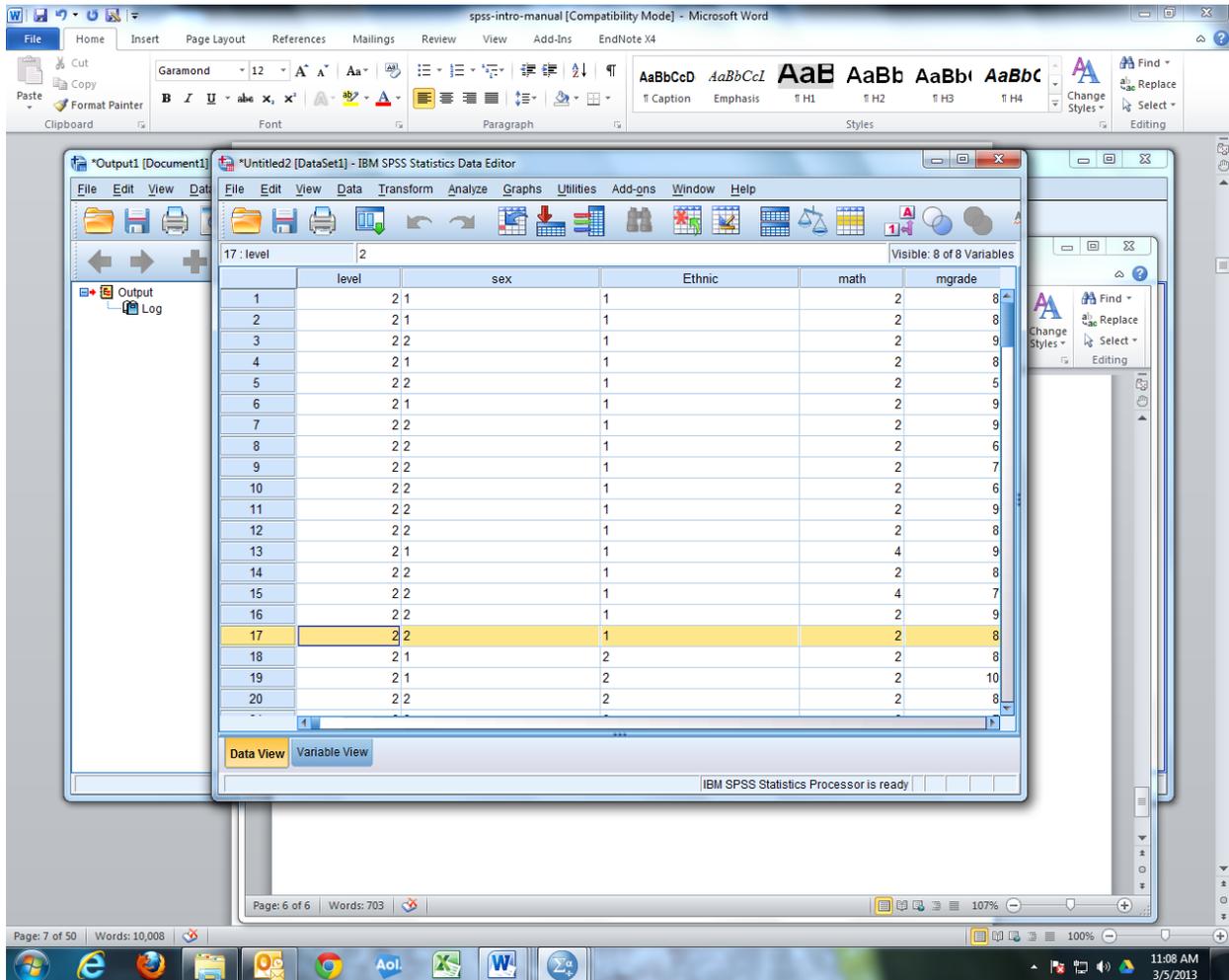
The Data View window will contain the following data:

Since your files for this workshop are on a flash/thumb drive, pick the drive and type of file and click OPEN.



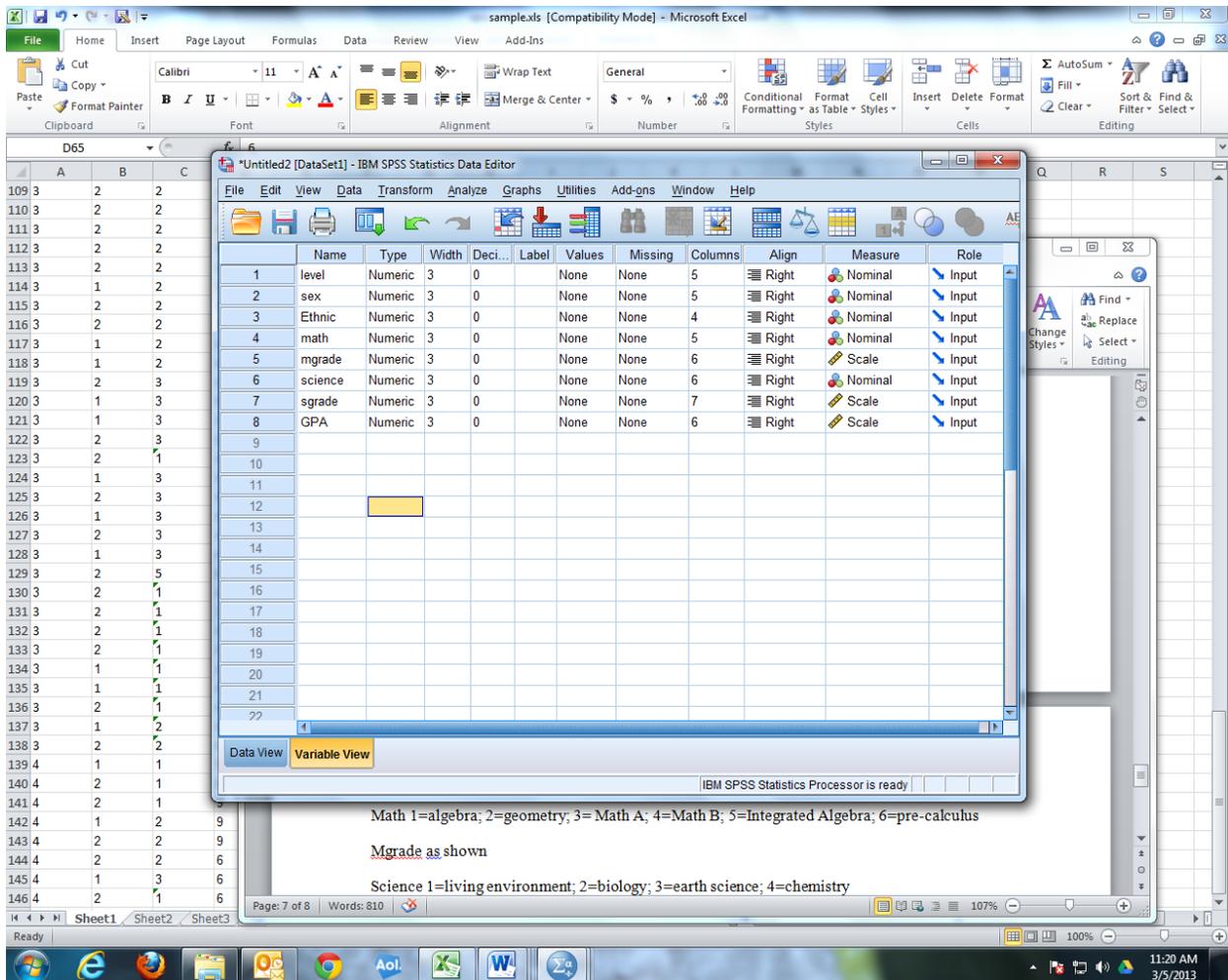
You will see the following asking you if you want to include column heads as variable names, say yes and OK

The *Data View* window will contain the following data:



You can switch between variable view and data view by clicking on the tabs.

I have adjusted the width of the variables in the data view so that all columns are in view by dragging the cells that have the variable names to make them smaller and the variable widths to 3.



We now need to label the variables and indicate the values.

The variable label can be the same as the variable name as the names are already explicit.

The values must be added in the values column using the numbers assigned and the names as in the codes given below. (It is good to have a code book/sheet to remind you of the codes assigned at the beginning of the development of the survey/database.)

Level 1=freshman; 2=sophomore; 3=junior; 4=senior

Sex 1= male; 2=female

Ethnic 1=AA/Black; 2=Latino/Hispanic; 3=White; 4=Asian; 5 = Other

Math 1=algebra; 2=geometry; 3= Math A; 4=Math B; 5=Integrated Algebra; 6=pre-calculus

Mgrade as shown

Science 1=living environment; 2=biology; 3=earth science; 4=chemistry

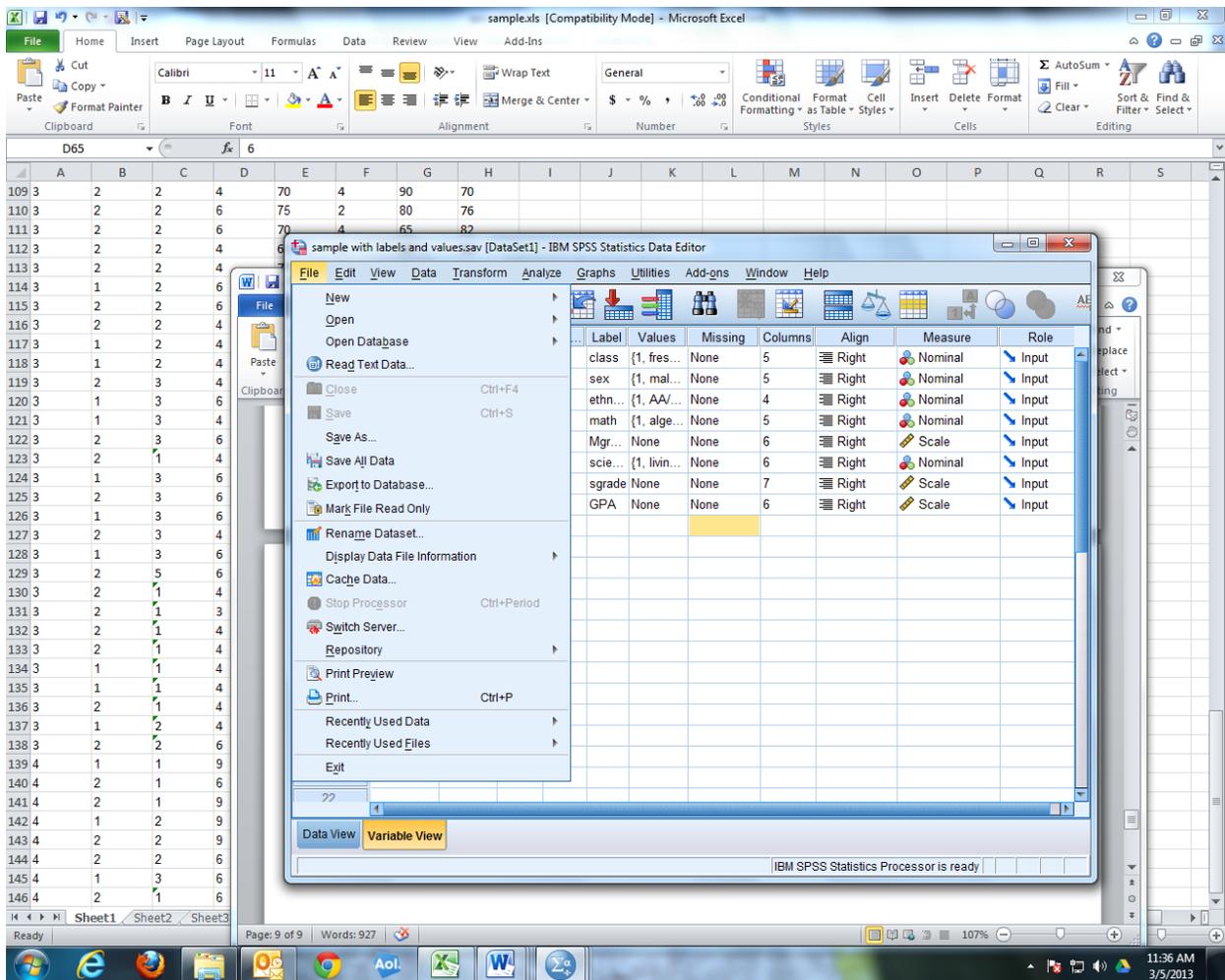
Sgrade as shown

GPA as shown

Once the labels and values are in the SPSS file you should save it. SPSS will save it as a .sav file so that it can be opened for further work in SPSS without having to re-label, etc.

The next step is to explore the data using the various descriptive tools afforded by SPSS.

Let's look at some of the tabs: File

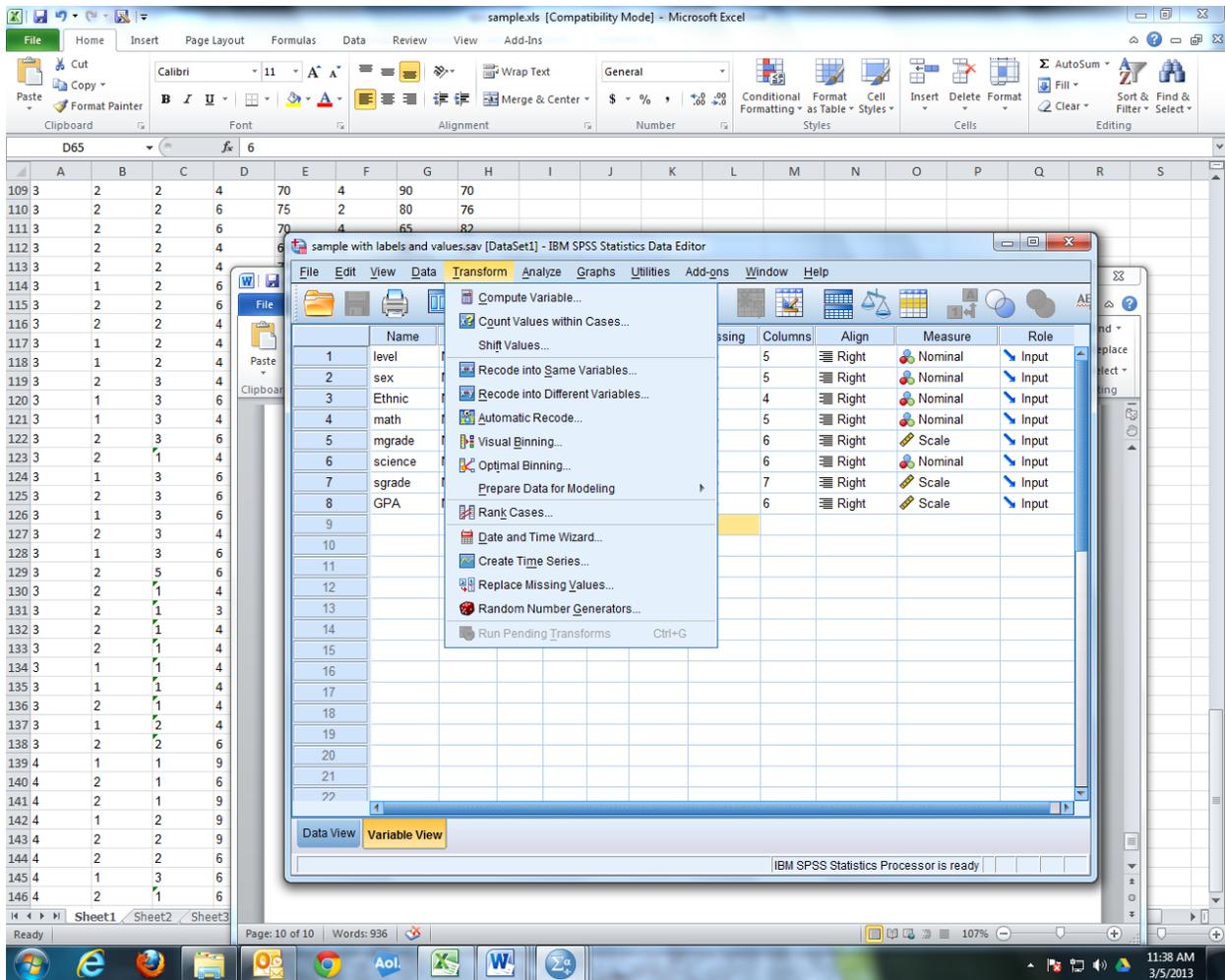


Data:

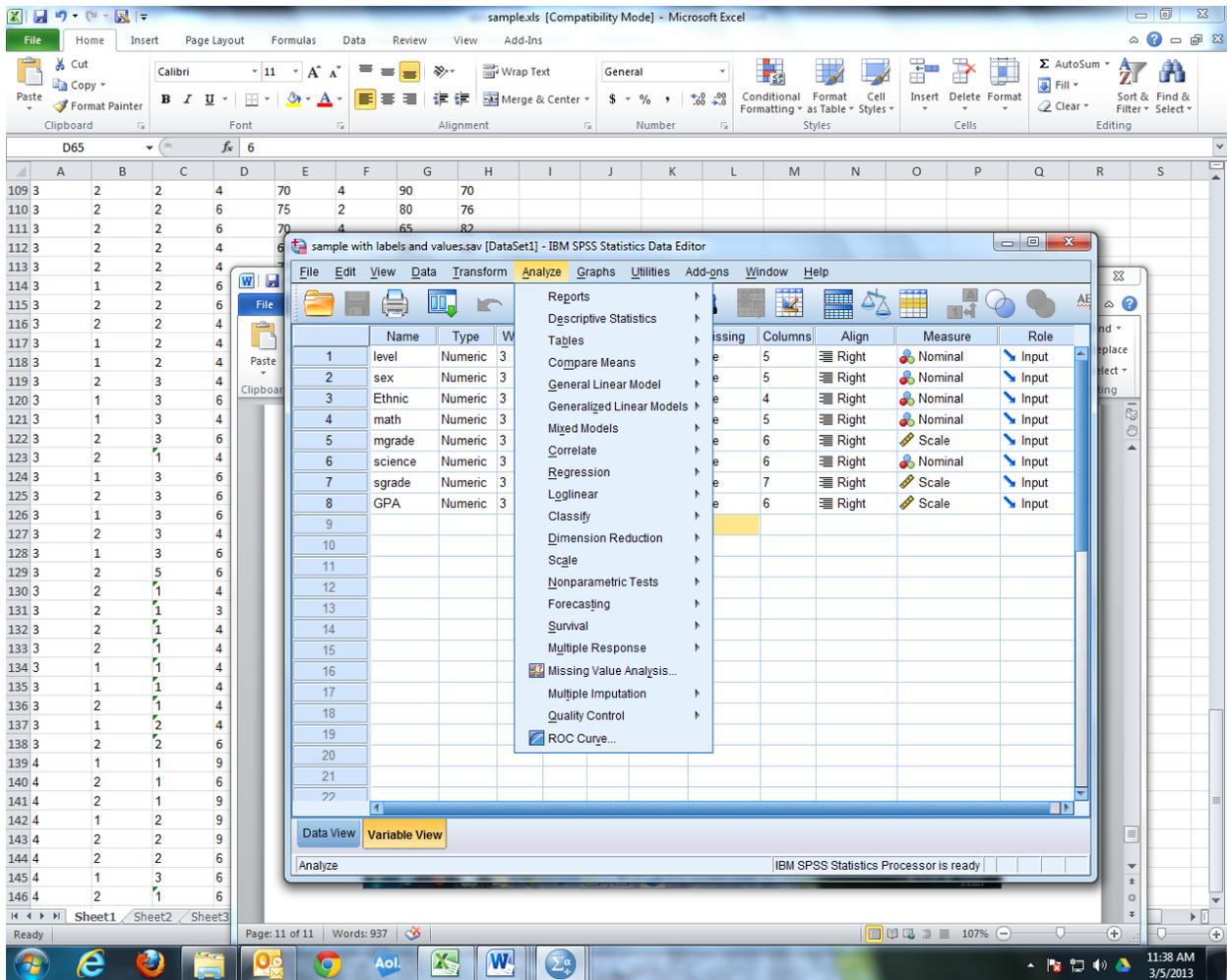
The image shows two overlapping windows. The background window is Microsoft Excel, displaying a spreadsheet with columns labeled A through S and rows numbered 109 to 146. The data in the spreadsheet consists of numerical values. The foreground window is the IBM SPSS Statistics Data Editor, titled 'sample with labels and values.sav [DataSet1]'. The 'Data' menu is open, showing options like 'Define Variable Properties...', 'Set Measurement Level for Unknown...', 'Copy Data Properties...', 'New Custom Attribute...', 'Define Dates...', 'Define Multiple Response Sets...', 'Validation', 'Identify Duplicate Cases...', 'Identify Unusual Cases...', 'Sort Cases...', 'Sort Variables...', 'Transpose...', 'Merge Files', 'Restructure...', 'Aggregate...', 'Copy Dataset', 'Split File...', 'Select Cases...', and 'Weight Cases...'. The 'Variable View' tab is active, showing a table of variable properties:

Variable	Missing	Columns	Align	Measure	Role
level	None	5	Right	Nominal	Input
sex	None	5	Right	Nominal	Input
Ethni	None	4	Right	Nominal	Input
math	None	5	Right	Nominal	Input
mgra	None	6	Right	Scale	Input
scien	None	6	Right	Nominal	Input
sgrad	None	7	Right	Scale	Input
GPA	None	6	Right	Scale	Input

Transform:



Analyze



Graphs:

sample.xls [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Add-Ins

Calibri 11 Font Wrap Text General

Clipboard Paste Copy Format Painter Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

D65 fx 6

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
109	3	2	2	4	70	4	90	70											
110	3	2	2	6	75	2	80	76											
111	3	2	2	6	70	4	65	82											
112	3	2	2	4	6														
113	3	2	2	4	6														
114	3	1	2	6	6														
115	3	2	2	6	6														
116	3	2	2	4	6														
117	3	1	2	4	6														
118	3	1	2	4	6														
119	3	2	3	4	6														
120	3	1	3	6	6														
121	3	1	3	4	6														
122	3	2	3	6	6														
123	3	2	1	4	6														
124	3	1	3	6	6														
125	3	2	3	6	6														
126	3	1	3	6	6														
127	3	2	3	4	6														
128	3	1	3	6	6														
129	3	2	5	6	6														
130	3	2	1	4	6														
131	3	2	1	3	6														
132	3	2	1	4	6														
133	3	2	1	4	6														
134	3	1	1	4	6														
135	3	1	1	4	6														
136	3	2	1	4	6														
137	3	1	2	4	6														
138	3	2	2	6	6														
139	4	1	1	9	6														
140	4	2	1	6	6														
141	4	2	1	9	6														
142	4	1	2	9	6														
143	4	2	2	9	6														
144	4	2	2	6	6														
145	4	1	3	6	6														
146	4	2	1	6	6														

sample with labels and values.sav [DataSet1] - IBM SPSS Statistics Data Editor

File Edit View Data Transform Analyze Graphs Utilities Add-ons Window Help

	Name	Type	Width	Dec		Align	Measure	Role
1	level	Numeric	3	0		Right	Nominal	Input
2	sex	Numeric	3	0	sex {1, mal... None	Right	Nominal	Input
3	Ethnic	Numeric	3	0	ethn... {1, AA/... None	Right	Nominal	Input
4	math	Numeric	3	0	math {1, alge... None	Right	Nominal	Input
5	mgrade	Numeric	3	0	Mgr... None	Right	Scale	Input
6	science	Numeric	3	0	scie... {1, livin... None	Right	Nominal	Input
7	sgrade	Numeric	3	0	sgrade None	Right	Scale	Input
8	GPA	Numeric	3	0	GPA None	Right	Scale	Input
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								

Data View Variable View

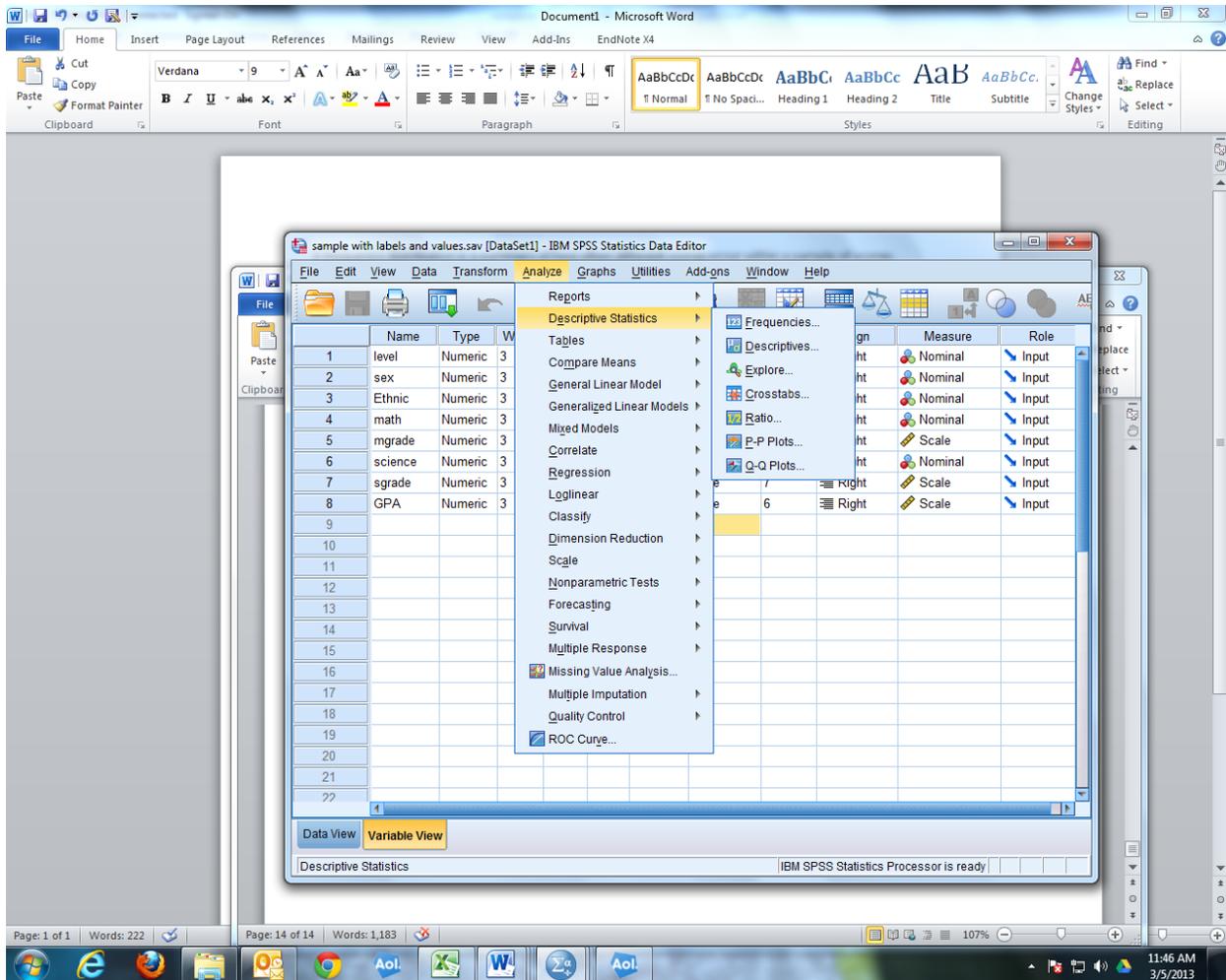
IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready

Page: 12 of 12 Words: 939 107%

11:39 AM 3/5/2013

## Using SPSS to create descriptions of your data (Frequencies, Descriptions, Charts)

Under the Analyze Tab/Descriptive Statistics you will find: Frequencies, Descriptives, Explore, Crosstabs and Ratio.



### Frequencies

A frequency distribution is a summary of how often different scores occur within a sample of scores.

For example, let's suppose that you are collecting data on how many hours of sleep college students get each night. After conducting a survey of 30 of your classmates, you are left with the following set of scores:

7, 5, 8, 9, 4, 10, 7, 9, 9, 6, 5, 11, 6, 5, 9, 10, 8, 6, 9, 7, 9, 8, 4, 7, 8, 7, 6, 10, 4, 8

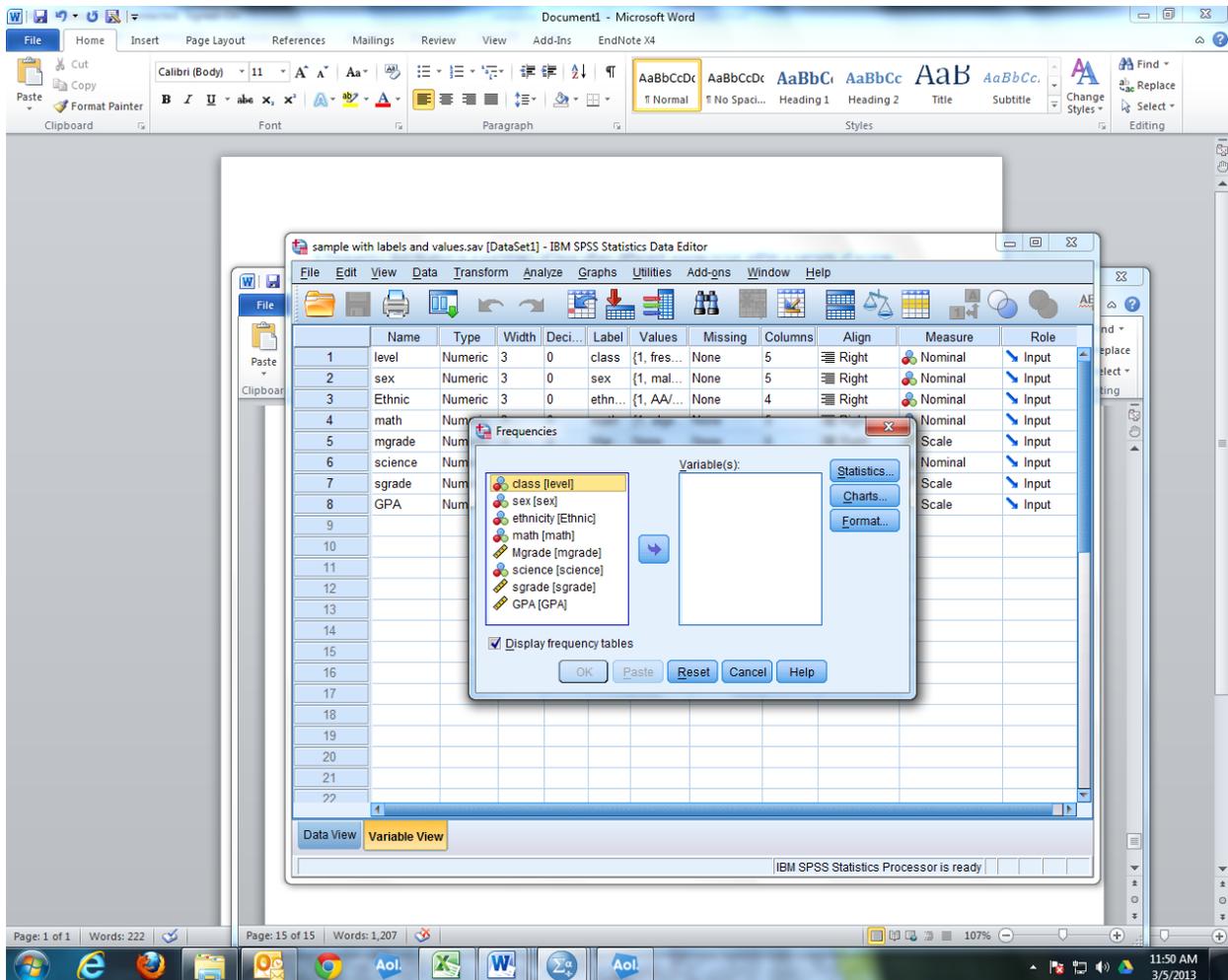
In order to make sense of this information, you need to find a way to organize the data. A frequency distribution is commonly used to categorize information so that it can be interpreted quickly in a visual way. In our example above, the number of hours each week serves as the categories and the occurrences of each number are then tallied.

Using the information from a frequency distribution, researchers can then calculate the [mean](#), [median](#), [mode](#), range and standard deviation. Frequency distributions are often displayed in a table format (as you can see in the example found below), but they can also be presented graphically using a histogram.

### Example of a Frequency Distribution

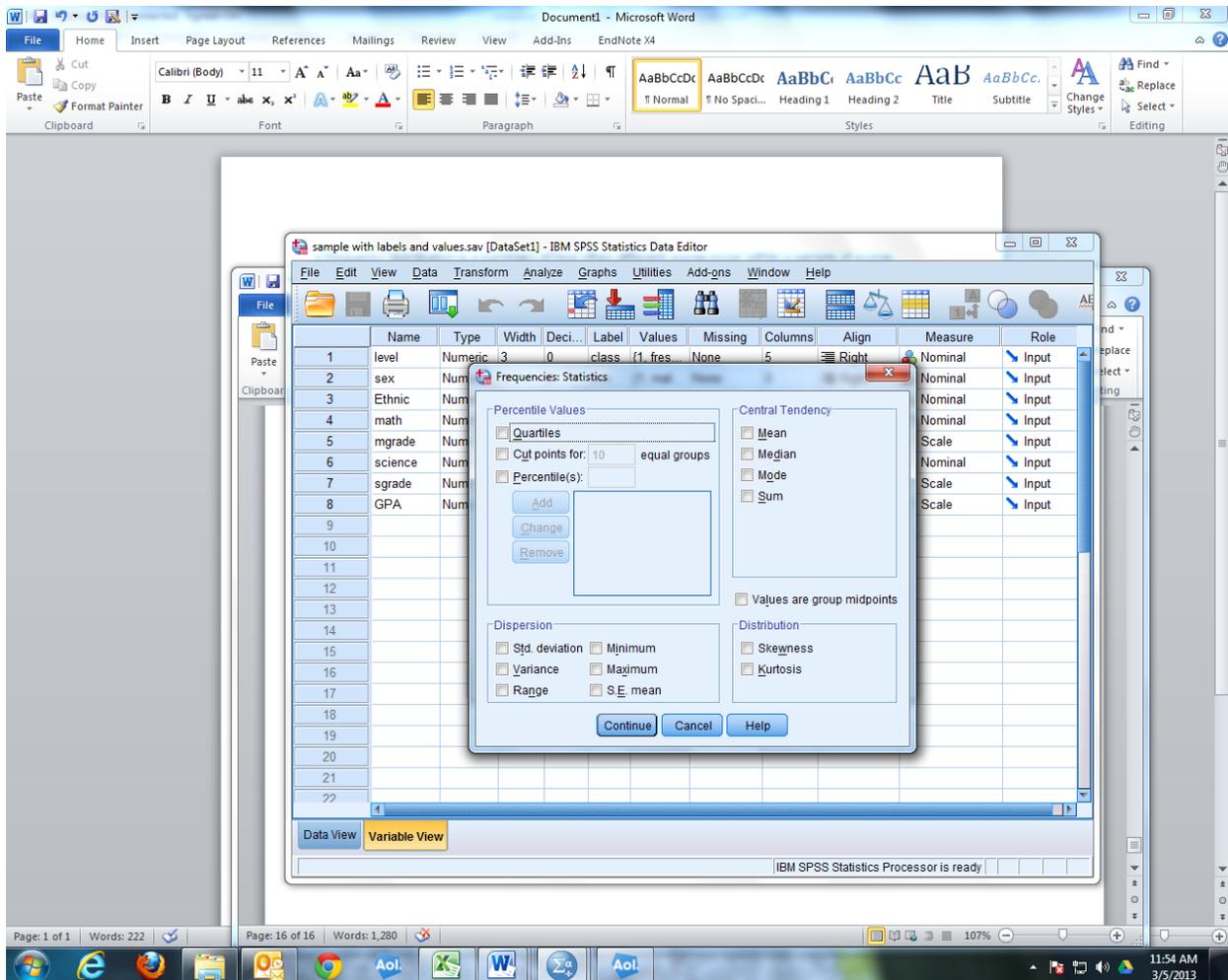
Hours of Sleep Each Night	Frequency
4	3
5	3
6	4
7	5
8	5
9	6
10	3
11	1
Total	30

In order to generate a frequency distribution for the data we are working with you select Analyze/Descriptives/Frequencies and will see the following selection box.



This enables you to select any or all variables by highlighting those you wish to plot and using the arrow in the middle to move them to the right box for use. The program does not care if the variables are nominal or scaled. It will do the same process for all.

After you have moved the variables of interest over you can also select statistics



For some of the variables (scaled) these are relevant for the nominal variables the statistics are not relevant. So let's not choose this now but choose Continue and go back to run the frequencies.

The output is on the next several pages

NEW FILE.

DATASET NAME DataSet1 WINDOW=FRONT.

GET

FILE='F:\111SPSS workshops\sample with labels and values.sav'.

DATASET NAME DataSet2 WINDOW=FRONT.

FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=level sex Ethnic math mgrade science sgrade GPA  
/ORDER=ANALYSIS.

## Frequencies

Notes		05-Mar-2013 12:04:57
Output Created		
Comments		
Input	Data	F:\111SPSS workshops\sample with labels and values.sav
	Active Dataset	DataSet2
	Filter	<none>
	Weight	<none>
	Split File	<none>
	N of Rows in Working Data File	145
Missing Value Handling	Definition of Missing	User-defined missing values are treated as missing.
	Cases Used	Statistics are based on all cases with valid data.
Syntax		FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=level sex Ethnic math mgrade science sgrade GPA /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
Resources	Processor Time	00 00:00:00.015
	Elapsed Time	00 00:00:00.077

[DataSet2] F:\111SPSS workshops\sample with labels and values.sav

		Statistics					
		class	sex	ethnicity	math	Mgrade	science
N	Valid	145	145	145	144	145	145
	Missing	0	0	0	1	0	0

		Statistics	
		sgrade	GPA
N	Valid	145	145
	Missing	0	0

## Frequency Table

### class

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	sophomore	48	33.1	33.1	33.1
	junior	89	61.4	61.4	94.5
	senior	8	5.5	5.5	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

### sex

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	male	53	36.6	36.6	36.6
	female	92	63.4	63.4	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

### ethnicity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	AA/Black	60	41.4	41.4	41.4
	Latino/Hispanic	62	42.8	42.8	84.1
	White	19	13.1	13.1	97.2
	Asian	1	.7	.7	97.9
	Other	3	2.1	2.1	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

### math

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	algebra	2	1.4	1.4	1.4
	geometry	44	30.3	30.6	31.9
	Math A	2	1.4	1.4	33.3
	Math B	48	33.1	33.3	66.7
	Pre-calculus	42	29.0	29.2	95.8
	7	2	1.4	1.4	97.2
	9	4	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	144	99.3	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.7		
Total		145	100.0		

**Mgrade**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	45	1	.7	.7	.7
	55	8	5.5	5.5	6.2
	65	20	13.8	13.8	20.0
	68	1	.7	.7	20.7
	70	12	8.3	8.3	29.0
	74	1	.7	.7	29.7
	75	14	9.7	9.7	39.3
	79	2	1.4	1.4	40.7
	80	16	11.0	11.0	51.7
	85	14	9.7	9.7	61.4
	87	1	.7	.7	62.1
	88	1	.7	.7	62.8
	89	4	2.8	2.8	65.5
	90	17	11.7	11.7	77.2
	91	1	.7	.7	77.9
	92	3	2.1	2.1	80.0
	93	2	1.4	1.4	81.4
	94	3	2.1	2.1	83.4
	95	2	1.4	1.4	84.8
	96	4	2.8	2.8	87.6
	97	1	.7	.7	88.3
	98	4	2.8	2.8	91.0
	99	3	2.1	2.1	93.1
	100	10	6.9	6.9	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

**science**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	living environment	29	20.0	20.0	20.0
	biology	47	32.4	32.4	52.4
	earth science	16	11.0	11.0	63.4
	Chemistry	52	35.9	35.9	99.3
	5	1	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

sgrade

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	50	2	1.4	1.4	1.4
	55	2	1.4	1.4	2.8
	65	6	4.1	4.1	6.9
	68	1	.7	.7	7.6
	70	3	2.1	2.1	9.7
	74	1	.7	.7	10.3
	75	8	5.5	5.5	15.9
	77	1	.7	.7	16.6
	79	2	1.4	1.4	17.9
	80	21	14.5	14.5	32.4
	82	1	.7	.7	33.1
	84	1	.7	.7	33.8
	85	33	22.8	22.8	56.6
	88	3	2.1	2.1	58.6
	89	2	1.4	1.4	60.0
	90	26	17.9	17.9	77.9
	91	1	.7	.7	78.6
	92	4	2.8	2.8	81.4
	93	2	1.4	1.4	82.8
	94	1	.7	.7	83.4
	95	5	3.4	3.4	86.9
	96	3	2.1	2.1	89.0
	97	1	.7	.7	89.7
	98	6	4.1	4.1	93.8
	99	2	1.4	1.4	95.2
	100	7	4.8	4.8	100.0
	Total	145	100.0	100.0	

**GPA**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 65	1	.7	.7	.7
70	8	5.5	5.5	6.2
74	2	1.4	1.4	7.6
75	7	4.8	4.8	12.4
76	2	1.4	1.4	13.8
78	1	.7	.7	14.5
79	5	3.4	3.4	17.9
80	11	7.6	7.6	25.5
81	3	2.1	2.1	27.6
82	5	3.4	3.4	31.0
83	10	6.9	6.9	37.9
84	5	3.4	3.4	41.4
85	9	6.2	6.2	47.6
86	5	3.4	3.4	51.0
87	11	7.6	7.6	58.6
88	7	4.8	4.8	63.4
89	10	6.9	6.9	70.3
90	18	12.4	12.4	82.8
91	4	2.8	2.8	85.5
92	7	4.8	4.8	90.3
93	3	2.1	2.1	92.4
94	1	.7	.7	93.1
95	1	.7	.7	93.8
96	5	3.4	3.4	97.2
97	1	.7	.7	97.9
98	3	2.1	2.1	100.0
Total	145	100.0	100.0	

Now it is clear that in cases where we have an extensive range of values it is difficult to interpret the output. Therefore you can recode the variables so that you get ranges. In the case of grades you can **recode** into categories of grades:

<65

65-74

75-84

85-94

95-100

This is done under the Transform tab. Since we may later want to use the scaled grades as they are we should recode into new variables. We will name these variables as follows:

Mgrade = mathgr  
 Sgrade = sciegr  
 GPA = average

Then we can rerun the data for the mathgr, sciegr and average and will get the following

```
FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mathgr sciegr average
/ORDER=ANALYSIS.
```

## Frequencies

		Notes	
Output Created			05-Mar-2013 13:06:19
Comments			
Input	Data	F:\111SPSS workshops\sample with labels and values.sav	
	Active Dataset	DataSet1	
	Filter	<none>	
	Weight	<none>	
	Split File	<none>	
	N of Rows in Working Data		145
	File		
Missing Value Handling	Definition of Missing	User-defined missing values are treated as missing.	
	Cases Used	Statistics are based on all cases with valid data.	
Syntax		FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=mathgr sciegr average /ORDER=ANALYSIS.	
Resources	Processor Time		00 00:00:00.000
	Elapsed Time		00 00:00:00.000

[DataSet1] F:\111SPSS workshops\sample with labels and values.sav

		Statistics		
		mathgr	sciegr	average
N	Valid	145	145	145
	Missing	0	0	0

## Frequency Table

mathgr

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	9	6.2	6.2	6.2
2	34	23.4	23.4	29.7
3	32	22.1	22.1	51.7
4	46	31.7	31.7	83.4
5	24	16.6	16.6	100.0
Total	145	100.0	100.0	

#### sciegr

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 1	4	2.8	2.8	2.8
2	11	7.6	7.6	10.3
3	34	23.4	23.4	33.8
4	72	49.7	49.7	83.4
5	24	16.6	16.6	100.0
Total	145	100.0	100.0	

#### average

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 2	11	7.6	7.6	7.6
3	49	33.8	33.8	41.4
4	75	51.7	51.7	93.1
5	10	6.9	6.9	100.0
Total	145	100.0	100.0	

## Descriptives

Once your data is in SPSS you may want to be able to characterize the set as to central tendency (including the mean, median and mode) and variability (standard deviation, range).

### Central Tendency

**MEAN.** Score that represents the balance point of the distribution. The sum of all scores divided by the number of scores.

**MEDIAN.** The middle score in the distribution; 50% of scores fall above this score and 50% fall below.

**MODE.** The mode is the score which appears the most frequently. Distributions may be bi- or tri-modal.

### Variability

**RANGE.** The range is the total distance in scores from the highest to the lowest score. It can be affected by spurious scores and outliers; unusually low or high scores.



DESCRIPTIVES VARIABLES=mgrade sgrade GPA  
 /STATISTICS=MEAN STDDEV MIN MAX.

## Descriptives

Notes		05-Mar-2013 13:09:32
Output Created		
Comments		
Input	Data	F:\111SPSS workshops\sample with labels and values.sav
	Active Dataset	DataSet1
	Filter	<none>
	Weight	<none>
	Split File	<none>
	N of Rows in Working Data	145
	File	
Missing Value Handling	Definition of Missing	User defined missing values are treated as missing.
	Cases Used	All non-missing data are used.
Syntax		DESCRIPTIVES VARIABLES=mgrade sgrade GPA /STATISTICS=MEAN STDDEV MIN MAX.
Resources	Processor Time	00 00:00:00.000
	Elapsed Time	00 00:00:00.000

[DataSet1] F:\111SPSS workshops\sample with labels and values.sav

### Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Mgrade	145	45	100	80.70	13.042
sgrade	145	50	100	84.86	9.980
GPA	145	65	98	85.04	6.864
Valid N (listwise)	145				