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Who We Are

The Puget Sound SAS Users Group (PUGSUG) helps SAS users learn more about SAS and network with other SAS users. We serve the SAS community all along the Puget Sound, from Bellingham to Olympia. We have meetings every spring and fall and social events every two months. Any SAS user is welcome to attend our events. Check us out at pugsug.org.

Sponsors

We are grateful for the support of [Amazon.com](#), [SAS Institute](#), [Qualex](#), [SAS Canada](#) and the [Pacific Northwest SAS Users Group](#).

Newsletter Inputs

This newsletter gives information for/by the Puget Sound SAS community. If you would like to provide input to a future newsletter, please email us at newsletter@pugsug.org. We would love to hear from you!

Executive Team

Sara Beck
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Hello and Welcome

The PUGSUG Executive Team: exec@pugsug.org

Hello and welcome! This is the first edition of *The PUGSUG Post*, distributed at the first PUGSUG meeting. We hope that you find something fun at our events. We will have meetings at least twice per year, and social events every two months or so. To keep track of all our events, regularly check our website at pugsug.org. If you use Google Calendar, you can subscribe to have our events listed on your calendar. The first event after this meeting is a PUGSUG Evening Social on January 11, for networking with the Puget Sound SAS community. Come join us!

If you like this newsletter and would like to contribute an article to the next issue, we'd love to hear from you! We especially need tips and tricks. Please contact us at newsletter@pugsug.org.

TIPS & TRICKS: Expand SAS Functionality with R

Isabella Ghement: isabella@ghement.ca

SAS users can benefit from exploiting the functionality offered by the freely available statistical software package R (r-project.org), which is known for its powerful graphics, add-on packages implementing state-of-the-art statistical methodology, and object-oriented programming flexibility. Several resources are available for streamlining the SAS-to-R-to-SAS transition process, and this newsletter item will present the most salient ones.

SAS/IML Studio 3.2 (previously known as SAS Stat Studio) now provides SAS users the capability to interface with R. SAS users who already have SAS 9.2 (Base SAS, SAS/STAT, and SAS/IML) installed can visit the website support.sas.com/rnd/app/studio/Rinterface2.html for instructions on how to download the latest release of SAS/IML Studio and will find relevant documentation at support.sas.com/rnd/app/studio/statr.pdf.

The book *SAS and R: Data Management, Statistical Analysis, and Graphics* by Ken Kleinman and Nicholas J. Horton (CRC Press, 2009) is an excellent reference of equivalent SAS and R commands for achieving the same task. The book covers topics such as data management, basic statistical modeling and advanced statistical modeling. The accompanying website, math.smith.edu/sasr, provides access to data sets and SAS and R code presented in the book, as well as book excerpts.

Another potentially useful book is *R for SAS and SPSS Users* by Robert Muenchen (Springer, 2009). This book can help SAS users solidify their understanding of R and is accompanied by the website r4stats.com.

In the article "SAS to R to SAS," Phillip Holland explains how one can export data from SAS to R, use R to create a graph and then pass the graph back to SAS for inclusion in an ODS document. The article can be viewed at hollandnumerics.co.uk/pdf/SAS2R2SAS_paper.pdf.

Presenters Wanted

Are you interested in giving a talk at the next PUGSUG meeting? Or maybe you're interested in contributing SAS tips and tricks to the newsletter? Please email us at exec@pugsug.org by **January 14, 2011** to discuss talk ideas or tips and trick contributions. We would love to hear from you!

TIPS & TRICKS: The PVALUEX. Format

Ryan Woods: rwoods@bccancer.bc.ca

When programming table output, numeric formats on p -values that are very small (e.g. 0.0000125) result in the problem that the displayed p -value rounds to 0; for example, for the data set:

variable	group_a	group_b	p_value
x	15.7	16.4	0.0000125
y	9.2	9.6	0.2517214

applying a format of 6.4 to the p -value column to round p -values to 4 decimals yields the following:

variable	group_a	group_b	p_value
x	15.7	16.4	0.0000
y	9.2	9.6	0.2517

A similar result occurs if you ask SAS to create a new variable which is the p -value rounded to the 4th decimal using the ROUND() function. A better approach is to make use of the PVALUEX. formats SAS has available. For example, applying the format PVALUE6. to the p -value column would yield the following table:

variable	group_a	group_b	p_value
x	15.7	16.4	<.0001
y	9.2	9.6	0.2517

TIPS & TRICKS: Sound at the End of a Program

Nate Derby: nderby@stakana.com

When running PC SAS on Windows, CALL SOUND(x , y) produces a note of frequency x for a duration of y milliseconds. Thus, we can define the macro endJob as the following, which produces some music:

```
%MACRO endJob;

DATA _NULL_;
  CALL SOUND( 500, 80 );
  CALL SOUND( 650, 80 );
  CALL SOUND( 850, 80 );
  CALL SOUND( 1000, 80 );
  CALL SOUND( 850, 80 );
  CALL SOUND( 1000, 80 );
RUN;

%MEND endJob;
```

Adding %endJob to the end of a program notifies us with this sound when the program is done. This can be useful if you're doing something else (email, solitaire, ...) while the program is running.

Bellevue and Tacoma SAS Users Wanted

Are you a SAS user in Bellevue or Tacoma? Would you like to help PUGSUG set up a future meeting there? If so, we want to hear from you! Please contact us at exec@pugsug.org.

Our first networking social event, the **PUGSUG Evening Social**, will be 5-7pm on Tuesday, **January 11, 2011** at the Terrace Garden Lounge, 5th floor of the Red Lion Hotel at 1415 5th Avenue. More information is at pugsug.org. Come join us!

Our next meeting will be on **March 16, 2011**. Check out the PUGSUG website at pugsug.org later for more information. And contact us at exec@pugsug.org if you are potentially interested in giving a talk!

The **SAS Users Groups of Victoria (SUAVe) and Vancouver, BC (VanSUG)** have half-day meetings November 16 (Victoria) and 17 (Vancouver). Presentations will be made about PROC LOGISTIC, PROC SQL and graphing. Each meeting is free and open to Americans! Check out sas.com/victoria or sas.com/vancouver.

SAS Global Forum 2011 will be held on April 4-7 in Las Vegas, NV. More information is at sasglobalforum.com. Student scholarships are also available! Students should contact Elizabeth Ceranowski at elizabeth.ceranowski@sas.com for details.

Plans are now starting for the **2011 Pacific Northwest SAS Users Group (PNWSUG) Conference** in Seattle and Portland (one day in each city) in the fall. Would you like to be involved? Contact board@pnwsug.org for details.