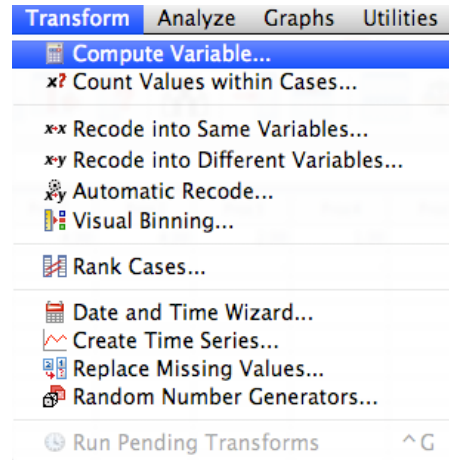


Computing New Variables in SPSS

Oftentimes, researchers want to calculate total scores (a.k.a., scales scores, summed scores, factor scores, etc.). A very common example is when a researcher uses a scale that is comprised of multiple items.

How do we compute total scores in SPSS?

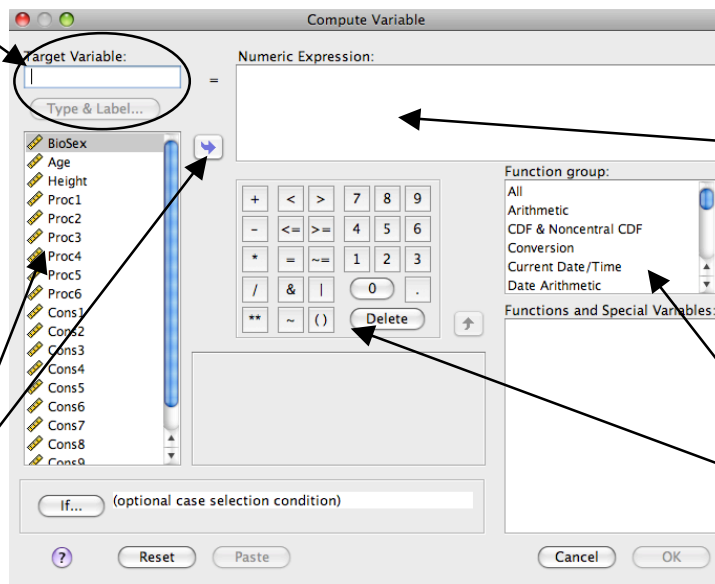
[Transform] → [Compute Variable...]



Target Variable:
Give your new variable a name here (remember, less than 8 characters is best). You can give a more thorough description or 'Label' by clicking on **Type & Label**.

A new box opens...

Select variables that you want to include in the numeric expression, and then click the arrow to move them over.



In this space, you enter the **Numeric Expression** for your new variable. Possibilities are almost endless, but the most common is a summation of other variables.

The built-in keypad facilitates creation of the numeric expression. Specific commands can be found under **Function Group**.

When you are finished, click on "OK". An example is On the following page.

The following example would be one way to compute a total score for the Conscientiousness scale. Notice the following...

- “Cons8” did not fit on the first line, but SPSS will still read it correctly
- recoded values are included as appropriate (e.g., Cons2r, Cons4r)

