How can I effectively utilize PROC EXPORT in SAS?

Authored by

stats writer

June 23, 2024

PROC EXPORT is a powerful tool in SAS that allows users to efficiently transfer data from SAS to external files, such as Excel spreadsheets or database tables. By using PROC EXPORT, users can easily and accurately export data in various formats, making it easier to share and analyze data with other software programs. This feature also allows for the customization of data exports, such as selecting specific variables or observations to be exported. Overall, utilizing PROC EXPORT in SAS can greatly improve data management and analysis processes by providing a seamless and flexible way to transfer data to different platforms.

The Complete Guide: Use PROC EXPORT in SAS

You can use the PROC EXPORT statement to export datasets in SAS to external files.

This statement uses the following basic syntax:

```
proc export data=my_data
outfile="/home/u13181/my_data.csv"
dbms=csv
replace;
run;
```

Here's what each line does:

data: Name of dataset to exportoutfile: Location to export file todbms: Format to use for exported filereplace: Replace the file if it already exists

You can use this general syntax to export SAS datasets

to various file types. You will only need to change the value for the dbms argument depending on the format you'd like to use for the exported file.

For example:

To export to a CSV file, specify dbms=csvTo export to an Excel file, specify dbms=xlsxTo export to a Text file, specify dbms=tab

The following examples show how to use PROC EXPORT to export SAS datasets to each of these filr formats.

Example 1: Use PROC Export with CSV File

Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS:

```
/*create dataset*/
data my_data;
input A B C;
datalines;
1 4 76
2 3 49
2 3 85
4 5 88
```

```
2 2 90
4 6 78
5 9 80
;
run;

/*view dataset*/
proc printdata=my_data;
```

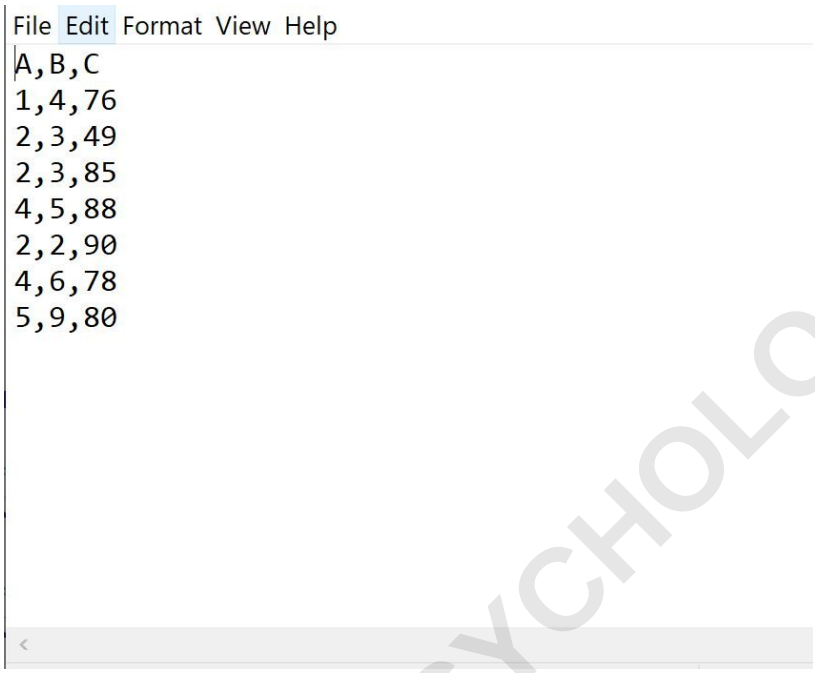
Obs	A	B	C
1	1	4	76
2	2	3	49
3	2	3	85
4	4	5	88
5	2	2	90
6	4	6	78
7	5	9	80

We can use the following code to export this dataset to a CSV file called data.csv:

```
/*export dataset*/
proc exportdata=my_data
outfile="/home/u13181/data.csv"
dbms=csv
replace;
```

run;

I can then navigate to the location on my computer where I exported the file and view it:



Example 2: Use PROC Export with Excel File

Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS:

```
/*create dataset*/
data my_data;
input A B C;
datalines;
1 4 76
2 3 49
```

```
2 3 85
4 5 88
2 2 90
4 6 78
5 9 80
;
run;

/*view dataset*/
proc printdata=my_data;
```

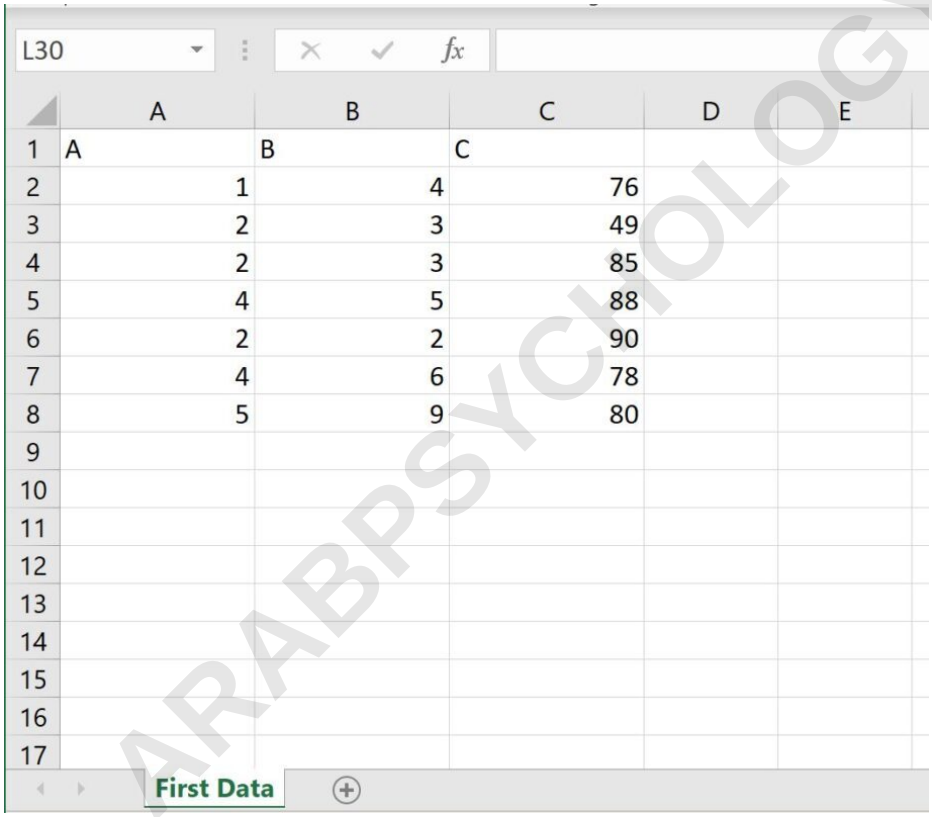
Obs	A	B	C
1	1	4	76
2	2	3	49
3	2	3	85
4	4	5	88
5	2	2	90
6	4	6	78
7	5	9	80

We can use the following code to export this dataset to an Excel file called my_data.xlsx:

```
/*export dataset*/
proc exportdata=my_data
outfile="/home/u13181/my_data.xlsx"
```

```
dbms=xlsx
replace;
sheet="First Data";
run;
```

I can then navigate to the location on my computer where I exported the file and view it in Excel:



	A	B	C	D	E
1	A	B	C		
2	1	4	76		
3	2	3	49		
4	2	3	85		
5	4	5	88		
6	2	2	90		
7	4	6	78		
8	5	9	80		
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

The data in Excel matches the dataset from SAS and the sheet in the Excel workbook is called "First Data" just like I specified in the proc export statement.

Example 3: Use PROC Export with Text File

Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS that contains information about various basketball players:

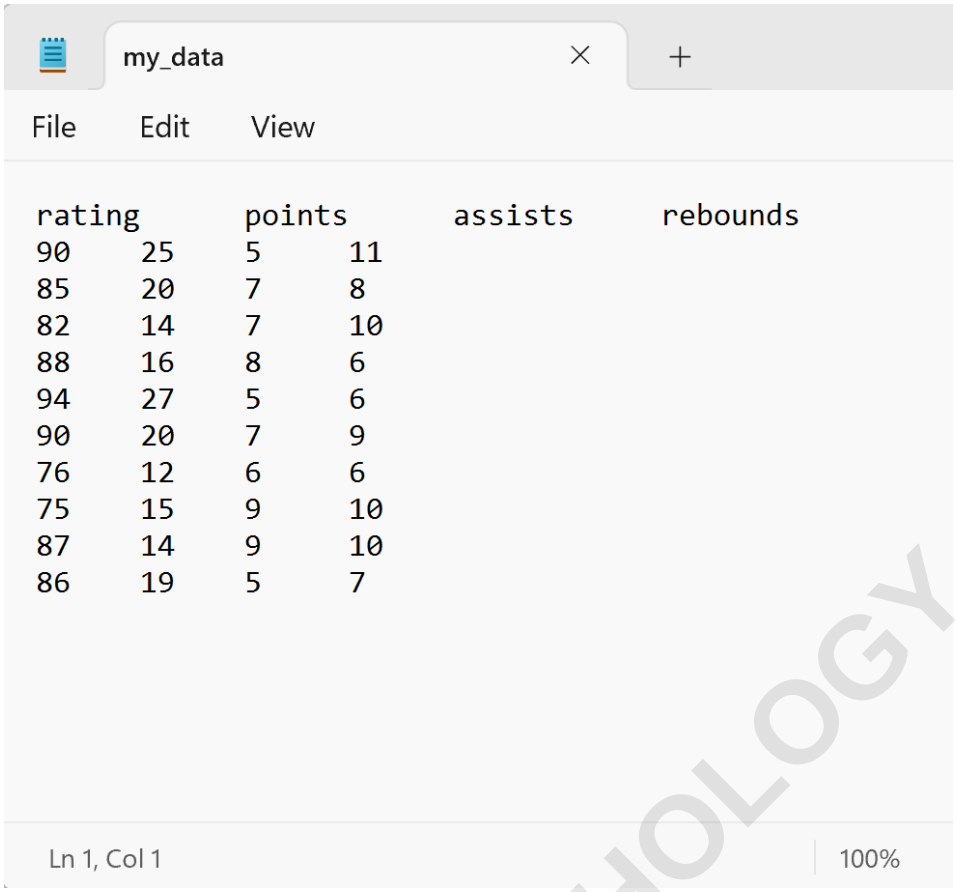
```
/*create dataset*/
data my_data;
input rating points assists rebounds;
datalines;
90 25 5 11
85 20 7 8
82 14 7 10
88 16 8 6
94 27 5 6
90 20 7 9
76 12 6 6
75 15 9 10
87 14 9 10
86 19 5 7
;
run;

/*view dataset*/
proc printdata=my_data;
```

Obs	rating	points	assists	rebounds
1	90	25	5	11
2	85	20	7	8
3	82	14	7	10
4	88	16	8	6
5	94	27	5	6
6	90	20	7	9
7	76	12	6	6
8	75	15	9	10
9	87	14	9	10
10	86	19	5	7

We can use the following code to export this dataset to a text file called my_data.txt:

```
/*export dataset*/
proc exportdata=my_data
outfile="/home/u13181/my_data.txt"
dbms=tab
replace;
run;
```

I can then navigate to the location on my computer where I exported the file and view it:



The data in the text file matches the dataset from SAS.

Note: Refer to the SAS for a complete list of optional arguments you can use when exporting files.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in SAS: