1. Introduction

Aim: Understand SAS® PROC TEMPLATE to customize the output of the reports.
Example: Show a p-value with a "star" in the statistical results when the p-value is smaller than the significance level.

Method: Create a format for the p-value using the PICTURE statement and plug it into the default template for the graph and table.

2. Create a PICTURE Format for the p-value

Since the values for the p-values are not known in advance, it is necessary to use a global format for all possible values. PROC FORMAT with the PICTURE statement...
- ...creates a template that is used to display the values of numeric (only) variables.
- ...does not need to know all possible values of the numeric variable to be formatted.

3. Find a Template for the p-value

Every output from ODS is defined by a template, so we have to find the specific template to alter.

4. Storing Templates

Before creating a template it is important to understand how SAS stores templates.
- Templates are stored in item stores (SAS files).
- SAS main stores (SASUSER.TEMPLAT) stores user created templates.
- SASHELP.TMPLMST contains SAS compiled templates.
- Using ODS PATH allows to identify SAS templates stores.
- With SAS Display Manager read and write templates stores.
- Define the search order of the templates stores.

To list the templates stores:

Working with your own user template store might have more advantages, because it is easier to eliminate the templates saved in your store. It is highly recommended to delete the customized templates once you have finished the SAS session in order to avoid that the templates are used unexpectedly. To create your template store in the work library use:

5. Create a Template

One can program, edit or inherit a template.

6. Final Output

The final output with the new format for the p-value looks like this.

7. Deleting templates

- PROC TEMPLATE eliminates templates specifying the DELETE statement and the location of the template (item path).
- The template procedure will delete elements of a store with update access, thus it will never delete a template of the SASHELP.TMPLMST store.

8. Conclusion

PROC TEMPLATE is a powerful tool that enables you to characterize the overall attributes of an output file such as formats, size, color and fonts. It could seem a bit challenging, but we encourage you to customize your reports by using it!

References


erp, andrew h. (2006), “Getting in to the picture (Format)”, WUSS. Irvine, California.