



Data not sorted

The data must be sorted in each data file. If not, an attempt to make an MDM file will result in messages like

It looks like your level-1 file is not sorted. Please sort this file by the row ID and re-run

or

It looks like your level-2 file is not sorted. Please sort this file and re-run

in the Command Prompt screen. No MDM will be made until this problem is attended to. Below we give an example of how HLM expects the data to be sorted.

Example of data sorting

Repeated observations on a measure of classroom instruction are contained in this file. These observations are nested occasions, nested within teachers, who are again nested within schools. The level-2 ID representing the occasions is represented in the data by the variable `occasid`, the teachers' or level-3 ID by the variable `tchrid` and the schools' or level-4 ID by `schid`. For this data to be imported successfully into HLM, the data should be sorted by school. Within each school it should be sorted by teacher, and then within teacher by occasion.

measure.sav [DataSet1] - IBM SPSS Statistics Data Editor

File Edit View Data Transferr Analyze Direct Marketin Graphs Utilities Add-ons Window Help

Visible: 5 of 5 Variables

	schid	tchrid	occasid	expertis	invstderr
1	1100	1100002	11000026	-2.862	4.472
2	1100	1100002	11000027	-1.850	5.000
3	1100	1100002	11000028	-2.182	4.642
4	1100	1100011	11000116	5.750	5.000
5	1100	1100011	11000117	4.105	5.263
6	1100	1100011	11000118	7.150	5.000
7	1100	1100012	11000123	2.227	4.545
8	1100	1100012	11000124	.591	4.545
9	1100	1100012	11000125	2.913	4.348
10	1100	1100013	11000136	.400	5.000
11	1100	1100013	11000137	6.227	4.545
12	1100	1100013	11000138	2.373	4.746
13	1100	1100020	11000206	.938	6.250
14	1100	1100020	11000207	.778	5.556
15	1100	1100020	11000208	-1.437	5.321

Data View Variable View

IBM SPSS Statistics Processor is ready

The correct way to sort this data within SPSS is to select the **Sort Cases** option from the **Data** menu. On the **Sort Cases** dialog box, first select **schid**, followed by **tchrid** and **occasid** as shown below. Click **OK** and make sure to resave the *.sav file.

