Data Normalization for Dummies Using SAS[®]

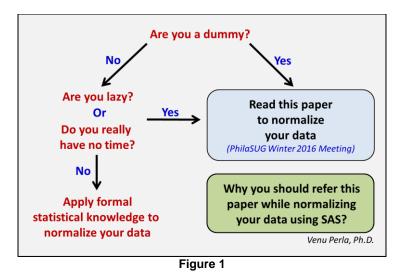
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SAS Certified Base Programmer for SAS 9 SAS Certified Advanced Programmer for SAS 9 SAS Certified Clinical Trials Programmer Using SAS 9 SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst Using SAS 9: Regression and Modeling

Abstract

Life scientists often struggle to normalize non-parametric data or ignore normalization prior to data analysis. Based on statistical principles, logarithmic, square-root and arcsine transformations are commonly adopted to normalize non-parametric data for parametric tests. Several other transformations are also available for normalizing data. However, for many, identification of right transformation for non-parametric data is a tricky job. The objective of this paper is to develop a SAS program that identifies right transformation and normalize non-parametric data for regression analysis. To achieve this objective, PROC SQL, PROC TRANSREG, PROC REG, PROC UNIVARIATE, PROC STDIZE, PROC CORR, PROC SGPLOT, PROC IMPORT and PROC PRINT of SAS are utilized in this paper. Finally, SAS MACROS are developed on this code for reuse without hassles.

1. Introduction



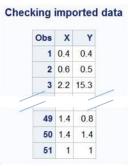
Are you a dummy? Are you lazy? Do you really have no time? If your answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, and if you are performing regression analysis, read this paper and apply steps mentioned here to normalize your data using SAS. If your answer is 'No' to all the questions, and if you are performing regression analysis, then you may have to apply formal statistical knowledge to normalize your data (**Figure 1**). Formal statistics include several transformations (logarithmic, square-root, arcsine etc) that are based on certain rules. However, SAS programming steps mentioned in in this paper are not intended to replace formal statistical knowledge existing elsewhere. In other words, this paper is intended for true or conditional dummies. Parametric tests, such as an ANOVA, t-test or linear regression, can be applied to a dataset if it meets certain assumptions. One of the assumptions is that the data should be normally distributed. Parametric tests on non-normal data produce false results. The objective of this paper is to show how '**6**-*step'* protocol transforms a dataset from non-parametric to parametric for regression analysis. It is important to note that the variables used in the parametric analysis must be continuous in nature (quantitative, interval or ratio values). Discrete variables (categorical, qualitative, nominal or ordinal values) are not right candidates for parametric analysis.

A raw data on two interrelated plant metabolites (X and Y) is tested and normalized in this paper. There are 51 observations in this replicated data. Data analysis is carried out by SAS[®] 9.4 software with windows operating

system. Data used in this paper is imported from a sheet (XY_Data) of Microsoft[®] Office Excel 97-2003 file (data1.xls) (see **XY_Data** in **Appendix**). PROC IMPORT is utilized to import 'XY_Data' and renamed it as 'HEALTH' (**Table 1**).

```
%let path= C:\Users\Perla\Desktop\;
title "Importing data from excel";
proc import file="&path.data1.xls"
        out=health replace
        dbms=xls;
        sheet=XY_Data;
        getnames=yes;
run;
title "Checking imported data";
proc print data=health;
run;
```

Table 1



For importing XY_Data, macro EXCEL_IMPORT is developed on above code (see *Appendix*). This macro can be utilized in future for analysis of similar data by running following code:

%excel_import (excel file= , excel sheet= , dataset=);

2. Data Normalization

After importing data into SAS, a '6-step' protocol for normalization of data for regression analysis using SAS is presented in **Figure 2**. Programming aspects of each step are also discussed in this section.

Step 1: Check Scatter Plot and Correlation Matrix

Relationship between X- and Y-variables can be visualized using PROC SGPLOT and PROC CORR.

```
ods graphics on;
title "Scatter plot of X and Y";
proc sgplot data= health;
    scatter x=x y=y;
run;
title "Correlation between X and Y";
proc corr data = health;
    var x y;
run;
ods graphics off;
```

Scatter plot of X and Y indicates that there is no clear relationship between these two variables (**Figure 3**). Results on Pearson correlation coefficients indicate a weak correlation between X- and Y-variables (**Table 2**).

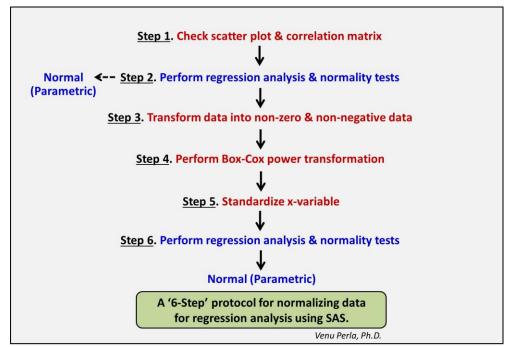
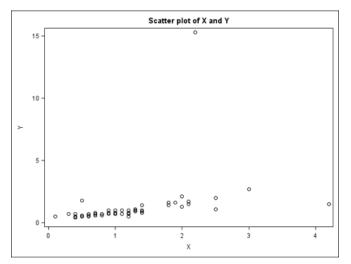


Figure 2







	n Correlation Coeffic Prob > r under H0:			
	х	Y		
х	1.00000	0.35175		
X		0.0114		
Y	0.35175	1.00000		
Y	0.0114			

Above code is utilized to develop a macro, 'SCATTER_CORR' (See *Appendix*). This macro can be utilized in future for analysis of similar data by running following code:

%scatter_corr (dataset= , xvar= , yvar=);

Step 2: Perform Regression Analysis and Normality Tests

There is an indication of a weak correlation between X and Y (Pearson correlation coefficient: 0.35). Further analysis is carried out on this raw data using PROC REG and PROC UNIVARIATE. LACKFIT option of MODEL statement in PROC REG determines whether this linear model is a good fit for this replicated data or not? Residual analysis and normality tests are carried out using PROC UNIVARIATE with NORMAL option. If data is normal after 2nd step, no further steps are required to execute to normalize the data.

```
ODS graphics on;
title "Regression analysis";
proc reg data = health plots(only)=diagnostics (unpack);
        model y = x/lackfit;
        output out =mdlres r=resid;
run;
ODS graphics off;
proc univariate data= mdlres normal;
        var resid;
run;
```

Analysis of variance indicates that LACK OF FIT for the linear model is significant (**Table 3**). This suggests that further in-depth analysis has to be carried out on this raw data before rejecting the model.

Table 3

	Analysis of Variance									
Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F					
Model	1	26.39738	26.39738	6.92	0.0114					
Error	49	186.95008	3.81531							
Lack of Fit	19	184.35341	9.70281	112.10	<.0001					
Pure Error	30	2.59667	0.08656							
Corrected Total	50	213.34745								

 Pure Error
 30
 2.59667
 0.08656

 Corrected Total
 50
 213.34745

Parameter estimates and adjusted R^2 value for the raw data are provided in **Table 4A** and **4B**, respectively. Adjusted R^2 value is negligible (0.11).

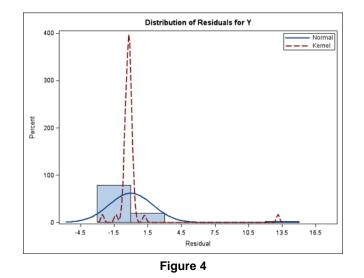
Tabl	e 4A
------	------

		Par	rameter Esti	mates		
Variable	Label	DF	Parameter Estimate		t Value	Pr > t
Intercept	Intercept	1	0.12362	0.50780	0.24	0.8087
х	х	1	0.93325	0.35480	2.63	0.0114

Та	bl	e	4B	

Root MSE	1.95328	R-Square	0.1237
Dependent Mean	1.24902	Adj R-Sq	0.1058
Coeff Var	156.38516		

Distribution of residuals for Y is not normal for the raw data (Figure 4).



Furthermore, significant p values for four tests of normality are the true testimony of non-normal distribution of data (**Table 5**).

	Tak	ole 5		
T	ests for	Normality	/	
Test	St	atistic	p Val	ue
Shapiro-Wilk	w	0.293089	Pr < W	< 0.0001
Kolmogorov-Smirnov	D	0.399871	Pr > D	<0.0100
Cramer-von Mises	W-Sq	2.459645	Pr > W-Sq	<0.0050
Anderson-Darling	A-Sq	12.24508	Pr > A-Sq	<0.0050

Above code is utilized to develop a macro 'REG_NORMALITY' (See **Appendix**). This macro can be utilized in future for analysis of similar data by running following code:

%reg normality (dataset=health, xvar=x, yvar=y);

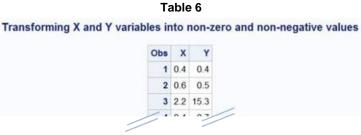
Step 3: Transform Data into Non-zero and Non-negative Data

Box-Cox power transformation can be adopted to normalize this raw data. Data should be converted to non-zero and non-negative values before testing for Box-Cox power transformation. Following code transforms X- and Y-variables into non-zero and/or non- negative variables only when '0' or negative values are encountered in the data.

PROC SQL is used to transform X- and Y-variable data into non-zero and non-negative data. Table HEALTH_COX is created from dataset HEALTH in this procedure. Proc SQL reproduced original data as there are no zeros and no negative values (**Table 6**).

```
title "Transforming X and Y values into non-zero and non-negative values";
proc sql;
    create table health_cox as
    select case
        when min(x) <=0 then (-(min(x))+x+1)
        else x
        end as X,
        case
        when min(y) <=0 then (-(min(y))+y+1)
        else y
        end as Y
    from health;
quit;
proc print data=health_cox;</pre>
```

run;



Macro 'TRANSFORM_ZERO_NEG' is developed for above PROC SQL code (See *Appendix*). This macro can be invoked in future by following statement:

```
%transform zero_neg (dataset= ,xvar= ,yvar= ,pre trans dataset= );
```

Step 4: Perform Box-Cox Power Transformation

Box-Cox power transformation on non-zero and non-negative data is performed using PROC TRANSREG with ODS GRAPHICS on.

```
title "Box-Cox power transformation: Identification of right exponent
(Lambda)";
ods graphics on;
proc transreg data= health_cox;
    model boxcox(y) = identity(x);
run;
ods graphics off;
```

Above code generated Box-Cox analysis for Y (Figure 5). Selected lambda (-0.75 at 95% CI) is the exponent to be used to transform the data into normal shape.

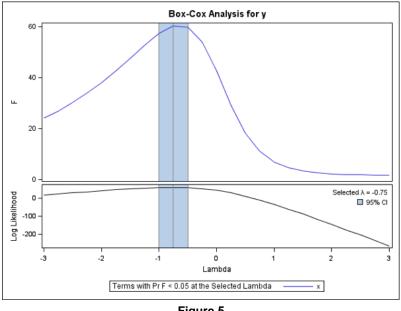


Figure 5

In order to get convenient lambda value, above SAS code is executed without ODS GRAPHICS statement.

```
proc transreg data = health_cox;
    model boxcox(y)=identity(x);
run;
```

This code generated best lambda, lambda with 95% confidence interval, and convenient lambda (**Table 7**). Convenient lambda is used for transforming Y-variable in this analysis.

Box-Cox	Tra	insformation for y	n Informati	or
Lambda		R-Square	Log Like	
-				-
-1.00	+	0.54	58.758	*
-0.75		0.55	59.996	<
-0.50		0.55	58.952	*
2				-

Macro 'BOX_COX_LAMBDA' is developed on above code (See **Appendix**). This macro can be utilized in future for

analysis of similar data by running following code:

%box_cox_lambda (pre trans dataset=, xvar= ,yvar=);

PROC SQL program is used to transform Y-variable. Code for common convenient lambda values (-2, -1, -0.5, 0, 0.5, 1 and 2); respective Y-transformations $(1/Y^2, 1/Y, 1/sqrt (Y), log (Y), sqrt (Y), Y and Y^2)$; and respective transformed-Y variable names (neg_2_y, neg_1_y, neg_half_y, zero_y, half_y, one_y, and two_y) are incorporated in the program.

```
title "Transformation of Y-values with convenient lambda";
proc sql;
       create table health trans as
       select
                    х, у,
             1/(y**2) as neg_2_y,
             1/(y**1) as neg_1_y,
             1/(sqrt(y)) as neg_half_y,
             log(y) as zero_y,
             sqrt(y) as half_y,
             y**1 as one y,
             y**2 as two y
       from health cox;
quit;
proc print data=health trans;
run;
```

PROC SQL generated 'HEALTH_TRANS' table (**Table 8**). 'neg_1_y' is the corresponding transformed Y-variable for the convenient lambda -1. This 'neg_1_y' variable is used for further analysis.

Table 7

i able 8

Transformation of y-variable with convenient lambda

Obs	х	У	neg_2_y	neg_1_y	neg_half_y	zero_y	half_y	one_y	two_y
1	0.4	0.4	6.25000	2.50000	1.58114	-0.91629	0.63246	0.4	0.16
2	0.6	0.5	4.00000	2.00000	1.41421	-0.69315	0.70711	0.5	0.25
3	2.2	15.3	0.00427	0.06536	0.25565	2.72785	3.91152	15.3	234.09

Macro 'TRANSFORM_LAMBDA' is defined on above PROC SQL code (See *Appendix*). This macro can be utilized in future for analysis of similar data by running following code:

%**transform_lambda** (pre trans dataset= , xvar= , yvar= , trans dataset=);

Step 5: Standardize X-variable

After transformation of Y-variable, in order to obtain meaningful Y-intercept, X-variable is standardized using PROC STDIZE. Dataset 'HEALTH2' is generated from table 'HEALTH_TRANS' in this procedure. OPREFIX option is used to prefix the original X-variable name with the word, 'Unstdized_'. On the other hand, standardized X-values are stored under X.

Generated dataset 'HEALTH2' is shown below with standardized X-variable in the last column as X (Table 9).

Table 9

Standardized X-variable after Y-transformation

Х	two_y	one_y	half_y	zero_y	neg_half_y	neg_1_y	neg_2_y	Y	Unstdized_X	Obs
-0.80588	0.16	0.4	0.63246	-0.91629	1.58114	2.50000	6.25000	0.4	0.4	1
-0.60588	0.25	0.5	0.70711	-0.69315	1.41421	2.00000	4.00000	0.5	0.6	2
0.99412	234.09	15.3	3.91152	2.72785	0.25565	0.06536	0.00427	15.3	2.2	3
0 00500	0.40	0.7	0 00000	0 05007	4 40500	4 40057	0.04000	07	0.4	1.

Macro 'STDIZE_X' is defined on above code (See *Appendix*). It can be invoked in future by calling following statement:

%stdize_x (trans dataset= , trans stdize dataset= , xvar=);

Step 6: Perform Regression Analysis and Normality Tests

Regression analysis and normality tests are again performed on the transformed and standardized dataset 'HEALTH2' by calling previously defined macro 'REG_NORMALITY'. Variable X is the standardized X, and 'neg_1_y' is the transformed Y.

%reg_normality (dataset=health2, xvar=x, yvar=neg 1 y);

With transformed data, LACK OF FIT for linear model is turned out to be non-significant, which indicates that the linear model is acceptable for X and Y (**Table 10**). Parameter estimates for intercept and X are significant (**Table 11**). As compared to the raw data, adjusted R^2 value with transformed data is improved from 0.11 to 0.53 (**Table 12**).

Other results indicate that transformed data is normally distributed (**Figure 6**; **Table 13**). Non-significant p-value with Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test further confirms that data is normally distributed (**Table 13**).

		Table	10		
	An	alysis of V	ariance		
Source	DF	Sum of Squares		F Value	Pr > F
Model	1	8.00630	8.00630	57.29	<.0001
Error	49	6.84719	0.13974		
Lack of Fit	19	3.18401	0.16758	1.37	0.2135
Pure Error	30	3.66317	0.12211		
Corrected Total	50	14.85349			

		Tab	le 11		
		Parameter	Estimates		
Variable	DF	Parameter Estimate		t Value	Pr > t
Intercept	1	1.24012	0.05234	23.69	<.0001
x	1	-0.51397	0.06790	-7.57	<.0001

Table 12

Root MSE	0.37382	R-Square	0.5390
Dependent Mean	1.24012	Adj R-Sq	0.5296
Coeff Var	30.14346		

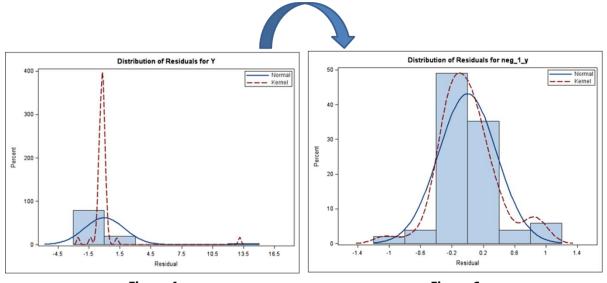


Figure 4

Figure 6

Table	13
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Te	ests for	Normality	1	
Test	St	atistic	p Value	
Shapiro-Wilk	w	0.948413	Pr < W	0.0271
Kolmogorov-Smirnov	D	0.106341	Pr > D	>0.1500
Cramer-von Mises	W-Sq	0.131357	Pr > W-Sq	0.0424
Anderson-Darling	A-Sq	0.92551	Pr > A-Sq	0.0188

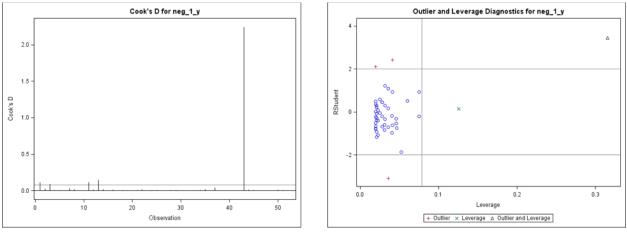
3. Normalization Eliminates Misleading Results

Negligible positive correlation exists between X and Y in raw data (Adjusted R^2 : 0.11). After normalization, there is a moderate positive correlation between X and Y (Adjusted R^2 : 0.53). In other words, normalization eliminates misleading results.

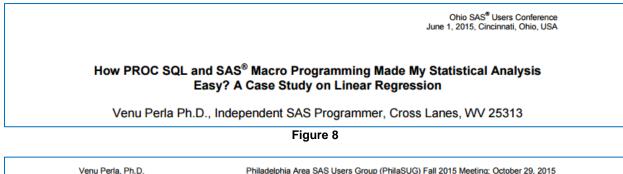
Raw data (non-parametric):	Y = 0.124 + 0.933X (Adjusted R ² : 0.11)
Normalized data:	Y = 1.240 - 0.514X (Adjusted R ² : 0.53)

4. Limitations and Solutions

Outliers in a data may drastically affect normalization. Three out of four tests of normality are still significant in this analysis (**Table 13**). It indicates that there is a room for further improvement of data with respect to normalization. In general, non-parametric nature of data after step 6 indicates presence of outliers in the dataset. There is at least one outlier and leverage observation that is influencing the normal distribution here (**Figure 7**). Techniques to isolate and rescue outliers while normalizing the data were presented at the Ohio SAS Users Group Conference (Perla, 2015A), and at the Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group Fall Meeting (Perla, 2015B) (**Figure 8** and **9**). Another potential limitation for '6-step' protocol is the field of study. Perhaps, '6-step' protocol can be applied in any filed. However, sometimes, it may be more meaningful to adopt a transformation that is commonly used in that field of study.







Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group (PhilaSUG) Fall 2015 Meeting; October 29, 2015 Penn State Great Valley School of Graduate Professional Studies, Malvern, PA, USA

A Technique to Rescue Non-Parametric Outlier Data Using SAS®

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Figure 9

5. Conclusions

In summary, misleading results are produced if parametric tests, such as t-test, ANOVA or linear regression, are applied on non-parametric data. A '6-step' protocol discussed in this paper is a good option for normalizing data for

regression analysis. In the real world, outliers are the major limitation while normalizing the data. I have recently explained a technique to isolate and rescue outliers while normalizing the data. Refer Perla (2005A and B) for more details and macro definitions.

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Author Biography



Venu Perla, Ph.D. is a SAS Certified Advanced Programmer, Clinical Programmer and Statistical Business Analyst for SAS 9. Dr. Perla is also a biomedical researcher with about 14 years of research and teaching experience in an academic environment. He served the Purdue University, Oregon Health & Science University, Colorado State University, West Virginia State University R&D Corporation, Kerala Agricultural University (India) and Mangalayatan University (India) at different capacities. Dr. Perla has published 15 scientific papers and 2 book chapters, obtained 1 international patent on orthopaedic implant device, gave 9 talks and presented 18 posters at national and international scientific conferences in his professional career. Dr. Perla was invited to serve as an editorial board member for several national and international scientific journals. He was trained in clinical trials and clinical data management. Currently, he is

actively employing SAS[®] programming techniques in clinical data analysis.

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Appendix

XY_Data sheet of data1.xls (Microsoft Excel 97-2003 file).

at Cell
at Call
le - Styles

Macro 'EXCEL_IMPORT':

Macro 'EXCEL_IMPORT' is defined below for importing Excel files. Where, 'EXCEL_FILE=' is name of the excel file to be used; 'EXCEL_SHEET=' is name of the excel sheet to be imported; and 'DATASET=' is name of the output dataset. File extension and DBMS statement in the code may be modified according to the Excel version used.

```
%macro excel_import (excel_file= , excel_sheet= , dataset= );
title "Importing data from excel";
proc import file="&path.&excel_file..xls"
        out=&dataset replace
        dbms=xls;
        sheet=&excel_sheet;
        getnames=yes;
run;
title "Dataset from imported excel data";
proc print data=&dataset;
run;
%mend excel import;
```

This macro can be invoked by calling following code for this paper:

%excel import (excel file=data1, excel sheet=XY Data, dataset=health);

Macro 'SCATTER_CORR':

Macro 'SCATTER_CORR' is defined below . Where, 'DATASET=' is name of the dataset to be used for analysis; and 'XVAR=' and 'YVAR=' are the names of the X- and Y-variables, respectively.

```
%macro scatter_corr (dataset= , xvar= , yvar= );
    ods graphics on;
    title "Scatter plot of &xvar and &yvar";
    proc sgplot data= &dataset;
        scatter x=&xvar y=&yvar;
    run;
    title "Correlation between &xvar and &yvar";
    proc corr data = &dataset;
        var &xvar &yvar;
    run;
    ods graphics off;
%mend scatter corr;
```

This macro can be invoked by following statement for this paper:

%scatter_corr (dataset=health, xvar=x, yvar=y);

Macro 'REG_NORMALITY':

Macro 'REG_NORMALITY' is defined below for regression analysis and normality tests. Where, 'DATASET=' is name of the dataset to be used for analysis; and 'XVAR=' and 'YVAR=' are names of the X- and Y-variables, respectively.

```
proc univariate data= mdlres normal;
        var resid;
run;
ODS graphics off;
```

%mend reg_normality;

This macro can be invoked by following statement for this paper:

%reg_normality (dataset=health, xvar=x, yvar=y);

Macro 'TRANSFORM_ZERO_NEG':

Macro 'TRANSFORM_ZERO_NEG' is defined below. Where, 'DATASET=' is the name of the input dataset to be used for transforming X- and Y-values; 'XVAR=' and 'YVAR=' are names of the X- and Y-variables to be transformed, respectively; and 'PRE_TRANS_DATASET=' is name of the output dataset to be created with transformed X- and Y-variables.

```
%macro transform_zero_neg (dataset= ,xvar= ,yvar= ,pre_trans_dataset=);
```

```
title "Transforming &xvar and &yvar values into non-zero and non-negative
values";
proc sql;
   create table &pre trans dataset as
   select case
            when min(&xvar) <=0 then (-(min(&xvar))+&xvar+1)</pre>
            else &xvar
            end as &xvar,
          case
            when min(\&yvar) <=0 then (-(min(\&yvar))+\&yvar+1)
            else &yvar
            end as &yvar
   from &dataset;
quit;
proc print data=&pre trans dataset;
run;
```

```
%mend transform_zero_neg;
```

This macro can be invoked by following statement for this paper:

```
%transform_zero_neg
(dataset=health,xvar=x,yvar=y,pre_trans_dataset=health_cox);
```

Macro 'BOX_COX_LAMBDA':

Macro 'BOX_COX_LAMBDA' is defined below. Where, 'PRE_TRANS_DATASET=' is name of the input dataset with non-zero and non-negative values; and 'XVAR=' and 'YVAR=' are names of the X- and Y-variables, respectively.

```
%macro box_cox_lambda (pre_trans_dataset= ,xvar= ,yvar= );
    title "Box-Cox power transformation: Identification of right exponent
(Lambda)";
    ods graphics on;
    proc transreg data= &pre_trans_dataset;
        model boxcox(&yvar) = identity(&xvar);
    run;
    ods graphics off;
    proc transreg data = &pre_trans_dataset;
        model boxcox(&yvar)=identity(&xvar);
    run;
```

```
%mend box_cox_lambda;
```

This macro can be invoked by following statement for this paper:

```
%box cox lambda (pre trans dataset=health cox, xvar=x ,yvar=y);
```

Macro 'TRANSFORM_LAMBDA':

Macro 'TRANSFORM_LAMBDA' is defined below. Where, 'PRE_TRANS_DATASET=' is name of the input dataset with non-zero and non-negative X- and Y-values; 'XVAR=' and 'YVAR=' are names of the X- and Y-variables, respectively; and 'TRANS_DATASET=' is name of the output dataset with transformed data.

```
%macro transform_lambda (pre_trans_dataset= ,xvar= ,yvar= ,trans_dataset= );
      title "Transformation of &yvar.-values with convenient lambda";
      proc sql;
             create table &trans dataset as
                    &xvar, &yvar,
1/(&yvar**2) as neg_2_&yvar,
             select
                    1/(&yvar**1) as neg_1_&yvar,
                    1/(sqrt(&yvar)) as neg half &yvar,
                    log(&yvar) as zero &yvar,
                    sqrt(&yvar) as half_&yvar,
                    &yvar**1 as one &yvar,
                    &yvar**2 as two &yvar
              from &pre trans dataset;
      quit;
      proc print data=&trans dataset;
      run;
```

```
%mend transform_lambda;
```

This macro can be invoked by following statement for this paper:

```
%transform_lambda (pre_trans_dataset=health_cox, xvar=x, yvar=y,
trans_dataset=health_trans);
```

Macro 'STDIZE_X':

Macro 'STDIZE_X' is defined below. Where, 'TRANS_DATASET=' is name of the input dataset; 'TRANS_STDIZE_DATASET=' is name of the output dataset; and 'XVAR=' is name of the X-variable to be standardized.

%mend stdize_x;

This macro can be invoked by following statement for this paper:

%stdize x (trans dataset=health trans, trans stdize dataset=health2, xvar=x);