



Life as a New Programmer

Jeremy Gallien, Programmer | PhUSE Conference, October 13, 2014

Disclaimer



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Agenda



What is a statistical programmer?

The beginning : a difficult journey

Tips and tricks

Conclusion

What is a statistical programmer?

■ The Role

Clinical trial
data



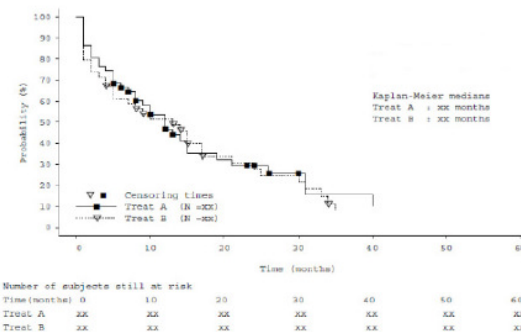
Programming



Results



```
proc sort data = aa out = bb ;  
  by vara varb ;  
run ;  
  
data cc ;  
  set bb ;  
  varc = varb - vara ;  
run ;
```



What is a statistical programmer?



- What is difficult for a beginner?
 - Data can be varied
 - And complex
 - The pharmaceutical industry has its own vocabulary
 - Interaction with lot of different functions

A difficult beginning



■ Communication

Pharma acronyms

Company acronyms

- Acronyms

Dear Jeremy,

The **DRA** group contacted **BDM** about an **FDA** question concerning the **MDD**.
The statistician will send you the **SAP ASAP**, but I can already tell you it is related to **PK** and **AEs**.
Please perform the **QC** of the analyses. I have attached the annotated **CRF** to this e-mail.

Best regards.

I

A difficult beginning

- During the programming
 - Quality, traceability and reproducibility



- Do not rush!



- Believe in yourself



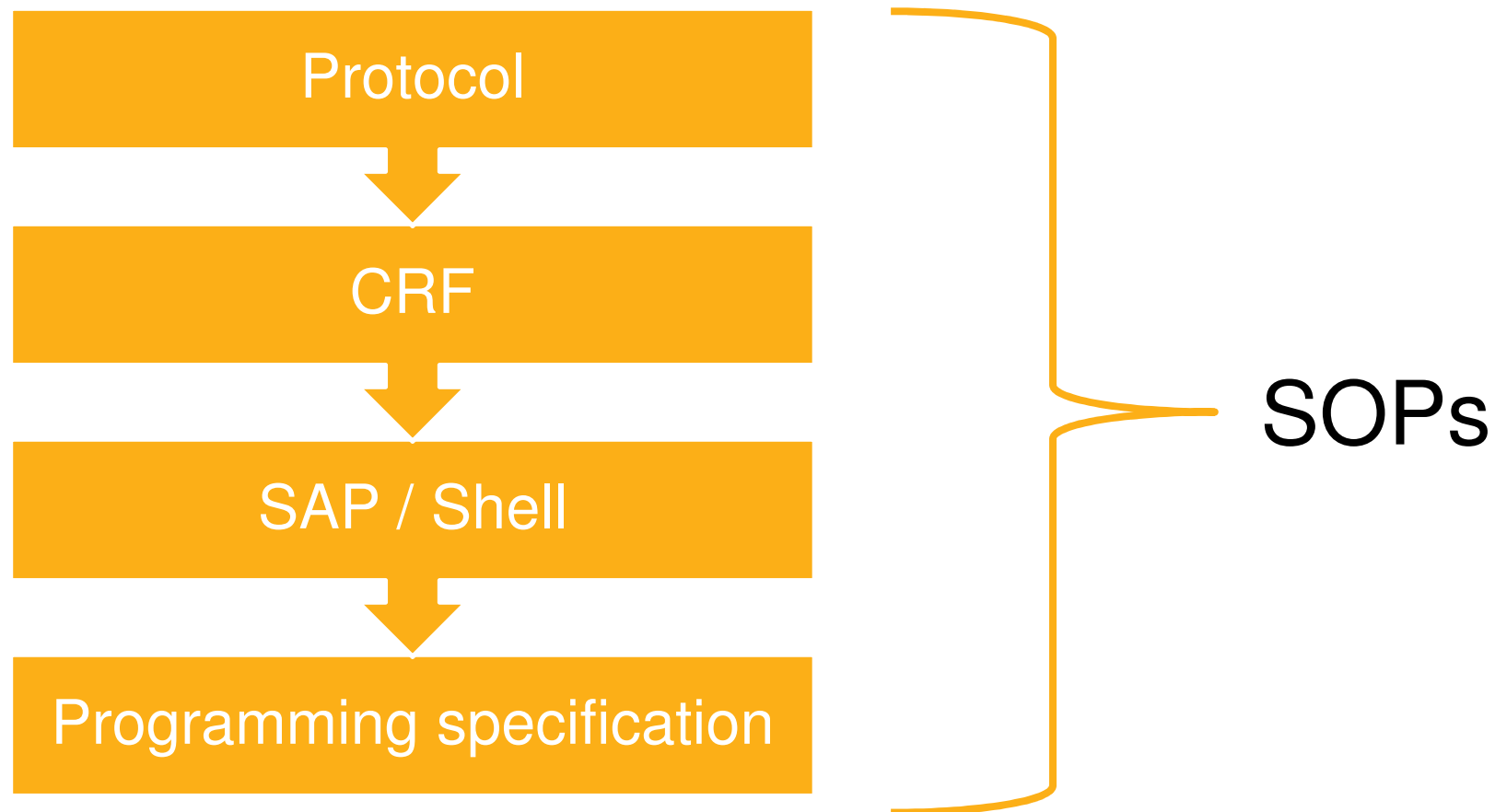
- Ask questions



TIPS AND TRICKS



- Documentation / Know your study



TIPS AND TRICKS



- Improve your programming skills
 - Look into others' programs
 - Attend training
- Learn about statistics
 - Participate to training
 - Or even learn by yourself
- Follow the guidance
 - Take time to understand SOPs, process...

Example

Demographic
Variable

Treat. A
N=xx

Treat. B
N=xx

Age (Year)

Variable Name	Label	Type	Code	Format	Dataset Source	Variable source Derivation
AGE	Age at screening (years)	<u>Num</u>		3.	[DMG]	Direct copy from DMG
AGE_CAT	Age category (years)	<u>Num</u>	1 = '<70' 2 = '>= 70' 99 = 'Missing'	CAT_AGE	Derived	If AGE is lower the 70 then AGE_CAT = 1. If AGE is greater or equal to 70 then AGE_CAT = 2 Else AGE_CAT is missing
	<65			xx (xx.x%)		xx (xx.x%)
	>= 65			xx (xx.x%)		xx (xx.x%)
	Missing			xx (xx.x%)		xx (xx.x%)

Conclusion



- A challenge!
- But also exciting
- I hope this will help!