

Paper 222-25

If _n_=1 then SET

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Web: <http://www.SPIKEware.com/>**ABSTRACT**

This paper and its accompanying poster is prepared for SAS Users and SAS Programmers of any experience level. They review basic applications of the "IF _N_=1 THEN SET dsname" feature of the SAS Data Step. It allows merging one record-datasets to multiple-record datasets

INTRODUCTION

Ever have a one-record SAS dataset and you want that one record attached to every record of another dataset? This idea is for you!

HOW IT WORKS**THE CODE (EXAMPLE)**

Simply put, you have two "set" statements. The first one is encountered only on the first record (if _n_=1) and is for the data set of one record—in the example, AVGSALES. The second is the main dataset that you want to add the one observation of the first on to every observation—in the example, TOTSALES.

```
data national;
  if _n_=1 then set avgsales;
  set totsalses;
run;
```

There is a real good description of this example in the [SAS Language Guide \(Reference\) Version 6 First Edition](#) on page 487.

WHAT IT DOES

The conditional SET statement creates an implied RETAIN statement for every variable in the dataset AVGSALES. The data is then "retained" across every observation of TOTSALES. That's it!

VARIATIONS--JUST IN CASE SOMEONE ASKS (AND SOMEONE PROBABLY WILL...)

The table shown reflects the expected results from the following source code:

```
data out ;
  if _n_ = <value> then set data1 ;
  set data2 ;
run ;
```

CONCLUSION

The conclusion summarizes your paper and ties together any loose ends. You can use the conclusion to make any final points such as recommendations predictions, or judgments.

REFERENCES

[SAS Language Guide \(Reference\) Version 6 First Edition](#), page 487.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Table: Variations on normal application of "If _n_=1 then SET"

<value>	Nobs1 = 1	1 < NOBS1 < NOBS2	NOBS1 >= NOBS2
1	Normal Operation	Uses first record of DATA1 only	Use first record of DATA1 only
Greater than 1 and less than nobs2	Skips the first _n_ observations	Skips the first _n_ observations and uses the first record of DATA1 only	Initializes all variabls in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing
Greater than nobs2	Initializes all variabls in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing	Initializes all variabls in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing	Initializes all variabls in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing