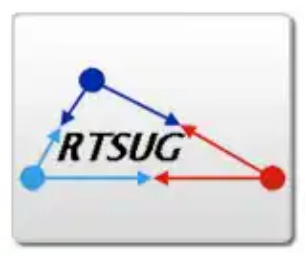


Applications of PROC COMPARE to parallel programming and other projects

Jay Iyengar is director of Data Systems Consultants LLC. He is a SAS consultant, trainer, and SAS Certified Advanced Programmer. He was co-leader and organizer of the Chicago SAS Users Group (WCSUG) from 2015-19.

He's presented papers and training seminars at SAS Global Forum (SGF), and other regional and local SAS users groups. His main industry experience is in Health care, Public Health and Pharmaceutical. He obtained his Bachelor's in Public Policy and Economics from Syracuse University and his master's degree from the American University. 🔊



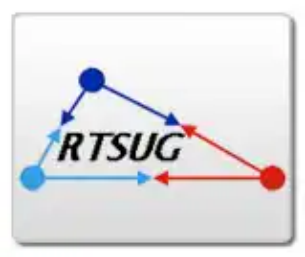
Applications of PROC COMPARE to Parallel Programming and other projects

Jay Iyengar, Data Systems Consultants LLC

Research Triangle SAS Users Group

July 17, 2025





INTRODUCTION

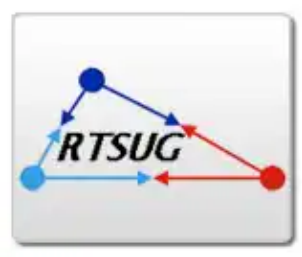
PROC COMPARE is an data validation tool with extensive capabilities.

PROC COMPARE compares the data values and variable attributes of two SAS data sets; The BASE= and COMPARE= data sets.

It compares the data portion as well as the descriptor portion of SAS data sets.

By Default, PROC COMPARE will compare every matching variable and observation in both data sets.





The Basics of PROC COMPARE

PROC COMPARE compares observations by position.

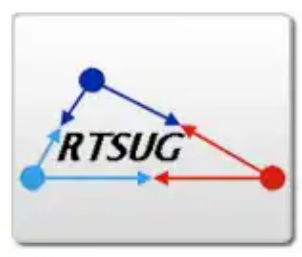
- 1st record in BASE data set with 1st record in COMPARE data set
- 2nd record in BASE data set with 2nd record in COMPARE data set

Base Data Set

	Obs	COUNTRY	STATE	COUNTY	ACTUAL	PREDICT	PRODTYPE	PRODUCT	YEAR	QUARTER
→	1	U.S.A.	California		\$987.36	\$692.24	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	1
→	2	U.S.A.	California		\$1,782.96	\$568.48	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	1
→	3	U.S.A.	California		\$32.64	\$16.32	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	1
	4	U.S.A.	California		\$1,825.12	\$756.16	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	2
	5	U.S.A.	California		\$750.72	\$723.52	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	2
	6	U.S.A.	California		\$2,426.24	\$2,428.96	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	2
	7	U.S.A.	California		\$1,791.12	\$2,250.80	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	3
	8	U.S.A.	California		\$2,282.08	\$350.88	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	3
	9	U.S.A.	California		\$2,518.72	\$1,736.72	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	3
	10	U.S.A.	California		\$1,436.16	\$2,167.84	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	4
	11	U.S.A.	California		\$2,314.72	\$62.56	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	4
	12	U.S.A.	California		\$1,410.32	\$1,670.08	FURNITURE	SOFA	1995	4
	13	U.S.A.	California		\$369.92	\$1,365.44	FURNITURE	BED	1995	1
	14	U.S.A.	California		\$2,014.16	\$2,358.24	FURNITURE	BED	1995	1
	15	U.S.A.	California		\$85.68	\$2,594.88	FURNITURE	BED	1995	1
	16	U.S.A.	California		\$2,694.16	\$1,403.52	FURNITURE	BED	1995	2
	17	U.S.A.	California		\$2,014.16	\$707.20	FURNITURE	BED	1995	2
	18	U.S.A.	California		\$1,500.08	\$2,461.60	FURNITURE	BED	1995	2
	19	U.S.A.	California		\$2,133.84	\$2,486.08	FURNITURE	BED	1995	3
	20	U.S.A.	California		\$1,834.64	\$2,884.56	FURNITURE	BED	1995	3

Compare Data Set

	Obs	COUNTRY	STATE	COUNTY	ACTUAL	PREDICT	PRODTYPE	PRODUCT	YEAR	QUARTER
→	1	U.S.A.	California		\$726.00	\$509.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	1
→	2	U.S.A.	California		\$1,311.00	\$418.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	1
→	3	U.S.A.	California		\$24.00	\$12.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	1
	4	U.S.A.	California		\$1,342.00	\$556.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	2
	5	U.S.A.	California		\$552.00	\$532.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	2
	6	U.S.A.	California		\$1,784.00	\$1,786.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	2
	7	U.S.A.	California		\$1,317.00	\$1,655.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	3
	8	U.S.A.	California		\$1,678.00	\$258.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	3
	9	U.S.A.	California		\$1,852.00	\$1,277.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	3
	10	U.S.A.	California		\$1,056.00	\$1,594.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	4
	11	U.S.A.	California		\$1,702.00	\$46.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	4
	12	U.S.A.	California		\$1,037.00	\$1,228.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1997	4
	13	U.S.A.	California		\$1,923.90	\$222.20	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	1
	14	U.S.A.	California		\$975.70	\$990.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	1
	15	U.S.A.	California		\$973.50	\$949.30	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	1
	16	U.S.A.	California		\$566.50	\$902.00	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	2
	17	U.S.A.	California		\$1,456.40	\$1,710.50	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	2
	18	U.S.A.	California		\$848.10	\$214.50	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	2
	19	U.S.A.	California		\$1,203.40	\$69.30	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	3
	20	U.S.A.	California		\$1,933.80	\$674.30	FURNITURE	SOFA	1998	3



PROC COMPARE – The Basic Example

Comparing All Variables In Different Data Sets

```
Proc Compare Base=SASHELP.PRDSAL2 Compare=SASHELP.PRDSAL3;  
Run;
```

Data Set Summary / Variable Summary

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of SASHELP.PRDSAL2 with SASHELP.PRDSAL3
(Method=EXACT)

Data Set Summary

Dataset	Created	Modified	NVar	NObs	Label
SASHELP.PRDSAL2	05AUG20:21:05:49	05AUG20:21:05:49	11	23040	Furniture sales data
SASHELP.PRDSAL3	05AUG20:21:05:48	05AUG20:21:05:48	11	11520	Furniture sales data

Variables Summary

Number of Variables in Common: 10.
Number of Variables in SASHELP.PRDSAL2 but not in SASHELP.PRDSAL3: 1.
Number of Variables in SASHELP.PRDSAL3 but not in SASHELP.PRDSAL2: 1.

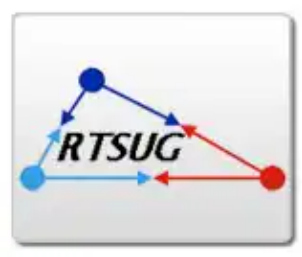
Observation Summary

Observation Summary

Observation	Base	Compare
First Obs	1	1
First Unequal	1	1
Last Unequal	11520	11520
Last Match	11520	11520
Last Obs	23040	.

Number of Observations in Common: 11520.
Number of Observations in SASHELP.PRDSAL2 but not in SASHELP.PRDSAL3: 11520.
Total Number of Observations Read from SASHELP.PRDSAL2: 23040.
Total Number of Observations Read from SASHELP.PRDSAL3: 11520.

Number of Observations with Some Compared Variables Unequal: 11520.
Number of Observations with All Compared Variables Equal: 0.



PROC COMPARE OUTPUT

Values Comparison Summary

Values Comparison Summary

Number of Variables Compared with All Observations Equal: 1.
Number of Variables Compared with Some Observations Unequal: 9.
Number of Variables with Missing Value Differences: 1.
Total Number of Values which Compare Unequal: 73727.
Maximum Difference: 3450.6.

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of SASHELP.PRDSAL2 with SASHELP.PRDSAL3
(Method=EXACT)

Variables with Unequal Values

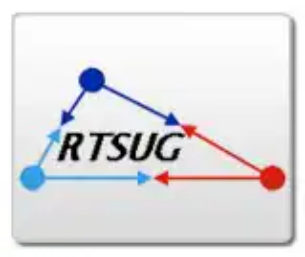
Variable	Type	Len	Label	Ndif	MaxDif	MissDif
COUNTRY	CHAR	10	Country	4608		0
STATE	CHAR	22	State/Province	9792		0
COUNTY	CHAR	20	County	7488		6336
ACTUAL	NUM	8	Actual Sales	11520	3417	0
PREDICT	NUM	8	Predicted Sales	11519	3451	0
PRODTYPE	CHAR	10	Product Type	5760		0
PRODUCT	CHAR	10	Product	8640		0
YEAR	NUM	8	Year	8640	3.000	0
MONTH	NUM	8	Month	5760	365	0

Values Comparison Results For Variables

Value Comparison Results for Variables

Obs	Clean STATENAME for geocoding	
	Base Value StateName1	Compare Value STATENAME2
		+
1	NEW YORK	NEWYORK
2	NEW YORK	NEWYORK
3	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
4	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
5	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
6	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
7	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
8	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
9	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
10	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
11	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
12	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
13	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
14	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
15	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
16	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
17	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
18	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
19	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
20	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
21	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO
22	PUERTO RICO	PUERTORICO





PROC COMPARE CAPABILITIES

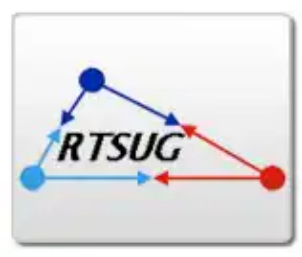
Comparing Specific Variables In Data Sets

```
Proc Compare Base = HLTHDAT.ip2010claim Compare=HLTHDAT.ip2010line;  
    Var CLM_ID;  
    With CLM_ID;  
Run;
```

Different Variables Within The Same Data Set

```
Proc Compare Base=ZIPCODE;  
    Var StateName1;  
    With StateName2;  
Run;
```





PROC COMPARE Options

Option	Description
ALLOBS	includes the values for all matching observations.
ALLSTATS	prints a table of summary statistics for all pairs of matching variables.
ALLVARS	includes in the report the values and differences for all matching variables.
BRIEFSUMMARY	prints only a short comparison summary.
MAXPRINT=	restricts the number of differences to be printed.
NOSUMMARY	suppresses the data set, variable, observation, and values comparison summary reports.
NOVALUES	suppresses the report of the value comparison results.
PRINTALL	invokes the following options: ALLVARS, ALLOBS, ALLSTATS, LISTALL, and WARNING.
STATS	prints a table of summary statistics for all pairs of matching numeric variables that are judged unequal.
TRANSPOSE	prints the reports of value differences by observation instead of by variable.
LISTALL	lists all variables and observations that are found in only one data set.
LISTBASE	lists all observations and variables that are found in the base data set but not in the comparison data set.
LISTBASEOBS	lists all observations that are found in the base data set but not in the comparison data set.
LISTBASEVAR	lists all variables that are found in the base data set but not in the comparison data set.
LISTCOMP	lists all observations and variables that are found in the comparison data set but not in the base data set.
LISTCOMPOBS	lists all observations that are found in the comparison data set but not in the base data set.
LISTCOMPVAR	lists all variables that are found in the comparison data set but not in the base data set.
LISTEQUALVAR	prints a list of variables whose values are judged equal at all observations in addition to the default list of variables whose values are judged unequal.
LISTOBS	lists all observations that are found in only one data set.
LISTVAR	lists all variables that are found in only one data set.
METHOD=ABSOLUTE EXACT PERCENT RELATIVE <{δ}>	specifies the method for judging the equality of numeric values.
OUT=SAS-data-set	names the output data set which contains differences between matching variables.
OUTALL	writes an observation for each observation in the BASE= and COMPARE= data sets.
OUTBASE	writes an observation to the output data set for each observation in the base data set, creating observations in which _TYPE_=BASE.
OUTCOMP	writes an observation to the output data set for each observation in the comparison data set, creating observations in which _TYPE_=COMP.
OUTDIF	writes an observation to the output data set for each pair of matching observations.
OUTNOEQUAL	suppresses the writing of an observation to the output data set when all values in the observation are judged equal.
OUTPERCENT	writes an observation to the output data set for each pair of matching observations.
OUTSTATS=SAS-data-set	writes summary statistics for all pairs of matching variables to the specified SAS-data-set.

OPTIONS WHICH LIMIT SECTIONS OF OUTPUT

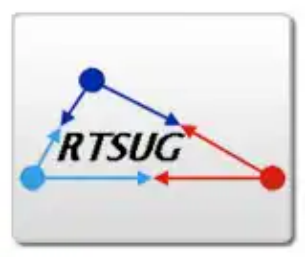
The NOSUMMARY Option

```
Proc Compare Base=PRDSAL2 Compare=PRDSAL3 NOSUMMARY;  
Run;
```

The BRIEFSUMMARY Option

```
Proc Compare Base=PRDSAL2 Compare=PRDSAL3 BRIEFSUMMARY;  
Run;
```





PROC COMPARE Options

The MAXPRINT Option

- Sets the number of data value differences which appear in the values comparison results for variables section

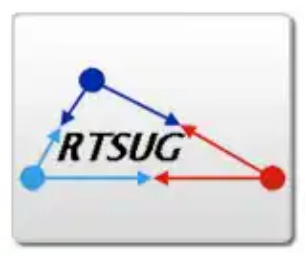
```
Proc Compare Base=PRDSAL2 Compare=PRDSAL3 MAXPRINT=25;  
Run;
```

The NOVALUES Option

- Suppresses the Values Comparison Report.

```
Proc Compare Base=PRDSAL2 Compare = PRDSAL3 NOVALUES;  
Run;
```



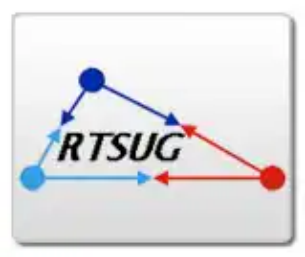


PROC COMPARE Options

OPTIONS WHICH RESTRICT OBSERVATIONS AND VARIABLES DISPLAYED

<u>OPTION</u>	<u>OUTPUT</u>
LISTBASE	VARIABLES AND OBSERVATIONS FOUND ONLY IN THE BASE DATA SET
LISTBASEVARS	VARIABLES FOUND IN THE BASE DATA SET ONLY
LISTBASEOBS	OBSERVATIONS FOUND IN THE BASE DATA SET ONLY
LISTCOMP	VARIABLES AND OBSERVATIONS FOUND ONLY IN THE COMPARE DATA SET
LISTCOMPVARS	VARIABLES IN THE COMPARE DATA SET ONLY
LISTCOMPOBS	OBSERVATIONS IN THE COMPARE DATA SET ONLY





PARALLEL PROGRAMMING

Each programmer writes code independently from scratch using specifications.

Frequently used in Clinical Trials Programming / Observational Research

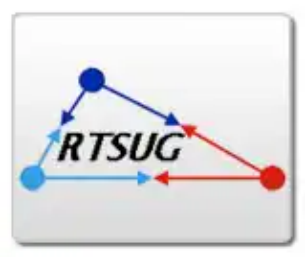
Data sets need to match in all aspects; Variable, Observations, Data Values, Attributes

Variable Attributes: Variable Type, Length, Format, Label

```
104      Proc Compare Base=Prdsal2a Compare=Prdsal2b;
105      Run;

NOTE: There were 23040 observations read from the data set WORK.PRDSAL2A.
NOTE: There were 23040 observations read from the data set WORK.PRDSAL2B.
NOTE: PROCEDURE COMPARE used (Total process time):
      real time           0.10 seconds
      user cpu time       0.10 seconds
      system cpu time     0.01 seconds
      memory              5542.59k
      OS Memory           35760.00k
```





PARALLEL PROGRAMMING

Observation discrepancies might point to data sets being incorrectly merged, or subset.

Value discrepancies might mean variable was derived or re-coded incorrectly.

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of WORK.PRDSAL2A with WORK.PRDSAL2B
(Method=EXACT)

Value Comparison Results for Variables

Obs	State/Province Base Value STATE	Compare Value STATE
9217	New York	NewYork
9218	New York	NewYork
9219	New York	NewYork
9220	New York	NewYork
9221	New York	NewYork
9222	New York	NewYork
9223	New York	NewYork
9224	New York	NewYork
9225	New York	NewYork
9226	New York	NewYork
9227	New York	NewYork
9228	New York	NewYork
9229	New York	NewYork
9230	New York	NewYork
9231	New York	NewYork
9232	New York	NewYork
9233	New York	NewYork
9234	New York	NewYork
9235	New York	NewYork
9236	New York	NewYork
9237	New York	NewYork
9238	New York	NewYork
9239	New York	NewYork
9240	New York	NewYork
9241	New York	NewYork
9242	New York	NewYork
9243	New York	NewYork
9244	New York	NewYork
9245	New York	NewYork
9246	New York	NewYork
9247	New York	NewYork
9248	New York	NewYork
9249	New York	NewYork
9250	New York	NewYork
9251	New York	NewYork
9252	New York	NewYork
9253	New York	NewYork
9254	New York	NewYork
9255	New York	NewYork
9256	New York	NewYork
9257	New York	NewYork
9258	New York	NewYork
9259	New York	NewYork
9260	New York	NewYork

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of WORK.PRDSAL2A with WORK.PRDSAL2B
(Method=EXACT)

Value Comparison Results for Variables

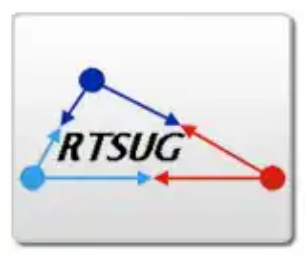
Obs	Product Base Value PRODUCT	Compare Value PRODUCT
3556	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3557	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3558	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3559	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3560	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3561	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3562	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3563	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3564	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3601	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3602	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3603	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3604	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3605	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3606	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3607	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3608	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3609	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3610	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3611	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3612	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3649	SOFA	Coffee Tab
3650	SOFA	Coffee Tab

NOTE: The MAXPRINT=50 printing limit has been reached for the variable PRODUCT. No more values will be printed for this comparison.

When there are a lot of value discrepancies, use the OUT= option to send the results to an output SAS data set.

```
Proc Compare Base=Prdsal2a  
             Compare=Prdsal2b  
             Out=PrdSal_Results Outnoequal OutDif=Noprint;  
Run;
```





MERGING SAS DATA SETS

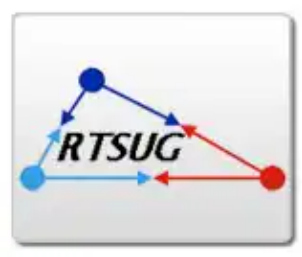
In a DATA STEP Match-Merge, the BY variables need to have the same name, and they should have the same attributes; Length, Type, Format, etc.

You can run PROC COMPARE to confirm that BY variables have the same attributes; Length, Type, etc.

Prior to the DATA STEP Merge, we'd like to know whether we have a one-to-one, one-to-many, or many-to-many relationship.

Using the ID statement, PROC COMPARE informs us if one or more data sets have duplicates.





MERGING SAS DATA SETS

Using the ID statement, we can compare observations based on the values of BY variables, instead of position of observation or observation number.

```
81 Proc Sort Data = hlthcare.ip2010claim Out=ip2010claim;
82   By Bene_ID;
83 Run;
```

NOTE: There were 13916 observations read from the data set HLTHCARE.IP2010CLAIM.

NOTE: The data set WORK.IP2010CLAIM has 13916 observations and 36 variables.

NOTE: PROCEDURE SORT used (Total process time):

real time 0.04 seconds
user cpu time 0.05 seconds

```
85 Proc Sort Data = hlthcare.finder_attrib Out=finder_attrib;
86   By Bene_ID;
87 Run;
```

NOTE: There were 85872 observations read from the data set HLTHCARE.FINDER_ATTRIB.

NOTE: The data set WORK.FINDER_ATTRIB has 85872 observations and 2 variables.

NOTE: PROCEDURE SORT used (Total process time):

real time 0.04 seconds
user cpu time 0.04 seconds

```
89 Proc Compare Base=ip2010claim Compare=finder_attrib LISTBASEOBS LISTCOMPOBS;
90   ID Bene_ID;
91   Var AT_NPI;
92   With PRFNPI;
93 Run;
```

WARNING: The data set WORK.IP2010CLAIM contains a duplicate observation at observation number 4.

NOTE: At observation 4 the current and previous ID values are: BENE_ID=0007F12A492FD25D.

NOTE: Further warnings for duplicate observations in this data set will not be printed.

NOTE: There were 13916 observations read from the data set WORK.IP2010CLAIM.

NOTE: There were 85872 observations read from the data set WORK.FINDER_ATTRIB.

NOTE: PROCEDURE COMPARE used (Total process time):

real time 0.77 seconds
user cpu time 0.75 seconds

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of WORK.IP2010CLAIM with WORK.FINDER_ATTRIB
(Method=EXACT)

Observation Summary

	Observation	Base	Compare	ID
First Obs	1	1		BENE_ID=00013D2EFD8E45D1
First Unequal	1	1		BENE_ID=00013D2EFD8E45D1
Last Unequal	13916	85865		BENE_ID=FFFA950301FCA748
Last Match	13916	85865		BENE_ID=FFFA950301FCA748
Last Obs	.	85872		BENE_ID=FFFF7C107A4E385A

Number of Observations in Common: 11347.

Number of Observations in WORK.IP2010CLAIM but not in WORK.FINDER_ATTRIB: 2569.

Number of Observations in WORK.FINDER_ATTRIB but not in WORK.IP2010CLAIM: 74525.

Number of Duplicate Observations found in WORK.IP2010CLAIM: 1947.

Total Number of Observations Read from WORK.IP2010CLAIM: 13916.

Total Number of Observations Read from WORK.FINDER_ATTRIB: 85872.

Number of Observations with Some Compared Variables Unequal: 11335.

Number of Observations with All Compared Variables Equal: 12.

Values Comparison Summary

Number of Variables Compared with All Observations Equal: 0.

Number of Variables Compared with Some Observations Unequal: 1.

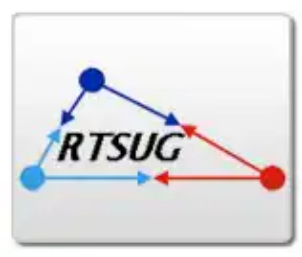
Number of Variables with Missing Value Differences: 1.

Total Number of Values which Compare Unequal: 11335.

All Variables Compared have Unequal Values

Variable	Type	Len	Compare	Len	Label	Ndif	Maxdif
AT_NPI	CHAR	10	PRFNPI	12	Attending Physician - National Provider Identifier No.	11335	9





CONCATENATING SAS DATA SETS

Properly appending SAS data sets requires using data sets with the same variable attributes;

- Type, Length, Format, and Label.

Inconsistent variable attributes will impact data integrity and validity.

Use PROC COMPARE to confirm consistent variable attributes.

Best Practice, run PROC COMPARE before concatenating using PROC APPEND or DATA STEP

```
125 Proc Compare Base=US Compare=Mexico;  
126 Run;
```

NOTE: There were 18432 observations read from the data set WORK.US.

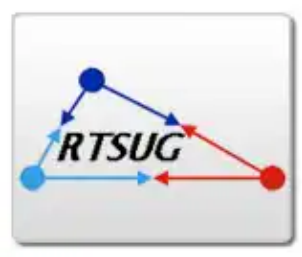
NOTE: There were 4608 observations read from the data set WORK.MEXICO.

NOTE: PROCEDURE COMPARE used (Total process time):

real time	0.15 seconds
user cpu time	0.15 seconds
system cpu time	0.01 seconds
memory	4640.68k
OSMemory	37696.00k

Appending Sales Records from The US
to Sales Records in Mexico.





CONCATENATING SAS DATA SETS

Discrepancies in observations should be expected
The data sets should have mutually exclusive records.

PROC COMPARE Output shows discrepancies to resolve.

1- Missing Variables.

- Variables present on one data set but missing from the other.

2. Variables with conflicting types (numeric vs. character)

- Might involve missing values generated

3. Variables with incongruent lengths.

- Could lead to truncation of data values.

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of WORK.US with WORK.MEXICO
(Method=EXACT)

Data Set Summary

Dataset	Created	Modified	NVar	NObs
WORK.US	07JUL25:20:10:27	07JUL25:20:10:27	11	18432
WORK.MEXICO	07JUL25:20:10:27	07JUL25:20:10:27	11	4608

Variables Summary

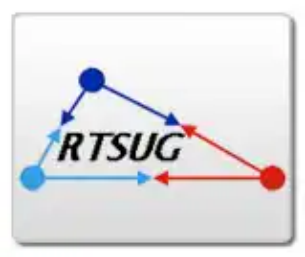
Number of Variables in Common: 10.
Number of Variables in WORK.US but not in WORK.MEXICO: 1.
Number of Variables in WORK.MEXICO but not in WORK.US: 1.
Number of Variables with Conflicting Types: 2.
Number of Variables with Differing Attributes: 2.

Listing of Common Variables with Conflicting Types

Variable	Dataset	Type	Length	Format	Label
MONTH	WORK.US	Num	8	MONNAME3.	Month
	WORK.MEXICO	Char	3		
Actual	WORK.US	Char	12		
	WORK.MEXICO	Num	8	DOLLAR12.2	Actual Sales

Listing of Common Variables with Differing Attributes

Variable	Dataset	Type	Length	Format	Label
COUNTRY	WORK.US	Char	10	\$10.	Country
	WORK.MEXICO	Char	10	\$CHAR10.	Country
STATE	WORK.US	Char	22	\$CHAR22.	State/Province
	WORK.MEXICO	Char	10		



RECONCILING VERSIONS OF SAS DATA SETS

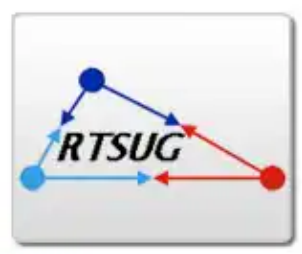
A Master data set may be kept on a server and updated periodically with a transaction data set. A new version of the master data set is created.

Master data set updated on a monthly or quarterly basis.

SAS allows you to create generation data sets which are updated versions of master data sets.

With PROC COMPARE you can reconcile the versions of master data sets and document the changes and differences between them.





RECONCILING VERSIONS OF SAS DATA SETS

Mass shootings database – Updated every Quarter

```
105 Proc Compare Base=Everytown_2023 Compare=Everytown_2025;  
106 Run;
```

NOTE: There were 284 observations read from the data set WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023.

NOTE: There were 299 observations read from the data set WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025.

NOTE: PROCEDURE COMPARE used (Total process time):

real time	0.09 seconds
user cpu time	0.09 seconds
system cpu time	0.01 seconds
memory	2063.40k
OS Memory	32984.00k

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023 with WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025
(Method=EXACT)

Data Set Summary

Dataset	Created	Modified	NVar	NObs
WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023	08JUL25:17:17:20	08JUL25:17:17:20	14	284
WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025	08JUL25:17:17:20	08JUL25:17:17:20	14	299

Variables Summary

Number of Variables in Common: 7.

Number of Variables in WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023 but not in WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025: 7.

Number of Variables in WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025 but not in WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023: 7.

Observation Summary

Observation	Base	Compare
First Obs	1	1
First Unequal	1	1
Last Unequal	229	229
Last Match	284	284
Last Obs	.	299

Number of Observations in Common: 284.

Number of Observations in WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025 but not in WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023: 15.

Total Number of Observations Read from WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023: 284.

Total Number of Observations Read from WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025: 299.

Number of Observations with Some Compared Variables Unequal: 16.

Number of Observations with All Compared Variables Equal: 268.

Values Comparison Summary

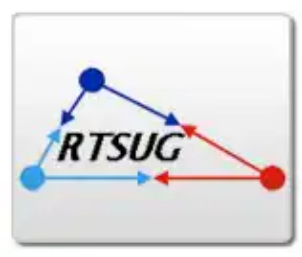
Number of Variables Compared with All Observations Equal: 1.

Number of Variables Compared with Some Observations Unequal: 6.

Total Number of Values which Compare Unequal: 68.

Maximum Difference: 34.429.





RECONCILING VERSIONS OF SAS DATA SETS

Output shows differences

Understanding source of the differences

The COMPARE Procedure
Comparison of WORK.EVERYTOWN_2023 with WORK.EVERYTOWN_2025
(Method=EXACT)

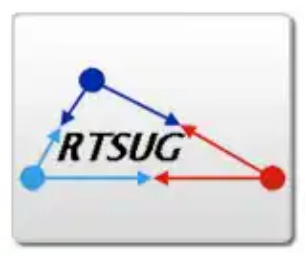
Variables with Unequal Values

Variable	Type	Len	Label	Ndif	MaxDif
City	CHAR	24	City	12	
State	CHAR	2	State	10	
Latitude	NUM	8	Latitude	12	13.419
Longitude	NUM	8	Longitude	12	34.429
Narrative	CHAR	764	Narrative	12	
Last updated	CHAR	24	Last updated	10	

Value Comparison Results for Variables

Obs	City	Compare Value
	City	City
90	Clarksburg	Hialeah
91	Hialeah	Clarksburg
106	Alturas	Indianapolis
107	Indianapolis	Alturas
146	Pike County	Appling
147	Appling	Pike County
148	Roswell	Orlando
149	Orlando	Roswell
176	Reading	Melcroft
177	Melcroft	Reading
228	Springfield	Moncure
229	Moncure	Springfield

Obs	Latitude	Compare	Diff.	% Diff
	Latitude	Latitude		
90	39.2832	25.864	-13.4192	-34.1601
91	25.864	39.2832	13.4192	51.8837
106	41.4909	39.717	-1.7739	-4.2754
107	39.717	41.4909	1.7739	4.4663
146	39.0201	33.5989	-5.4212	-13.8934
147	33.5989	39.0201	5.4212	16.1351
148	33.3931	28.5195	-4.8736	-14.5946
149	28.5195	33.3931	4.8736	17.0887
176	40.3331	40.0521	-0.2810	-0.6967
177	40.0521	40.3331	0.2810	0.7016
228	37.210283	35.588419	-1.6219	-4.3586
229	35.588419	37.210283	1.6219	4.5573



CONCLUSION

PROC COMPARE has broad applications in a variety of project tasks in SAS Programming.

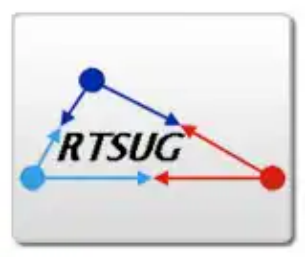
Use PROC COMPARE options to control summary sections and volume of output.

Use PROC COMPARE with ID statement prior to running DATA STEP Merge

Use PROC COMPARE prior to appending data sets to check for discrepancies in attributes.

Carefully review all sections of PROC COMPARE output to properly validate your data sets.





CONTACT INFORMATION

Thanks for Attending!

Questions?

Jay Iyengar

Data Systems Consultants LLC

Email: datasyscon@gmail.com

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/datasysconsult/>

