\*\* Scenario

\* Problem: At the 1st time of loading the original dataset, there were more than 1,000 empty columns.

\* Solution: Found a macro online which could keep the 1st 27 meaningful columns.

\*\* Macro description

\* This macro allows you to specify the index of the 1st variable, the index of the last variable to keep, library name, and name of the new dataset formed

\*\* Macro creation

%macro drop\_vars(num\_first\_vars, num\_end\_vars, lib, dataset); %macro d;%mend d;

proc sql noprint;;

select sum(num\_character,num\_numeric) into:ncolumns

from dictionary.tables

where libname=upcase("&lib") and memname=upcase("&dataset");

select name into: vars\_to\_drop separated by ','

from dictionary.columns

where libname=upcase("&lib") and

memname=upcase("&dataset") and

varnum between %eval(&num\_first\_vars.+1) and %eval(&ncolumns-&num\_end\_vars);

alter table &lib..&dataset

drop &vars\_to\_drop;

quit;

%mend drop\_vars;

\*\* Ex use

\* Keep the 1st 27 columns (27, 0), the library name is cct, and the newly formed dataset is ct.

%drop\_vars(27, 0, cct, ct);