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# The CAT, CATT, CATS, CATX functions in SAS



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The CAT function concatenates character variables similar to the concatenation operator (||).

col2	col3
concatenates	character variables.
concatenates trimmed	character variables.

character columns: COL1, COL2 and COL3.

Data Columns2;

Set Columns;



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in the parameters:



The 3 columns are concatenated into one.  
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Please note that there are leading and trailing spaces in all of the COL1, COL2

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concatenates character variables.

concatenates trimmed character variables.

The spaces are captured in the concatenated variable:



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In order to remove the leading and trailing spaces, we can make use of the CATT



## The CATT Function

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The CATT function is similar to the CAT function. However, it removes the trailing

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### Example

```
Data Columns2;
```

```
Set Columns;
```

```
Col_all = catt(col1, col2, col3);
```



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## The CATS Function

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The CATS function removes both the leading and trailing spaces before

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### Example

```
Data Columns2;
```

```
Set Columns;
```

```
Col_all = cats(col1, col2, col3);
```

```
Run;
```



variables before the variables are being concatenated.

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There is no space between the 3 character values in the concatenated variable.



This doesn't look good: we do need a space between the 3 columns.

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We can use the CATX function to separate the values with a delimiter.

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Example

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tion

Leading and trailing spaces, the CATX function inserts

a delimiter between the character values when concatenating the variables.

Data Columns2;

Set Columns;

Col\_all = **catx(' ', col1, col2, col3);**

Run;



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Col all = catx(' ', col1, col2, col3);



between COL1 and COL2 as well as COL2 and COL3

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The 3 columns are now combined and become a complete sentence.  
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SAS Institute affirms that [REDACTED] has fulfilled all exam requirements and is recognized as a:

**SAS Certified Base Programmer for SAS 9**

Name: [REDACTED]  
Certificate No: [REDACTED]

*[Signature]*  
Jill Morgan  
SAS Executive Officer

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