Interleaving

If you use a BY statement when you concatenate data sets, the result is interleaving. Interleaving intersperses observations from two or more data sets, based on one or more common variables.

To interleave SAS data sets, specify a list of data set names in the SET statement, and specify one or more BY variables in the BY statement.

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General form, basic DATA step for interleaving:

DATA output-SAS-data-set;

    SET SAS-data-set-1 SAS-data-set-2;

    BY variable(s);

RUN;

where

□   output-SAS-data-set names the data set to be created

□   SAS-data-set-1 and SAS-data-set-2 specify the data sets to be read.

□   variable(s) specifies one or more variables that are used to interleave observations.

Additional Note You can specify any number of data sets in the SET statement. Each input data set must be sorted or indexed in ascending order based on the BY variable(s).
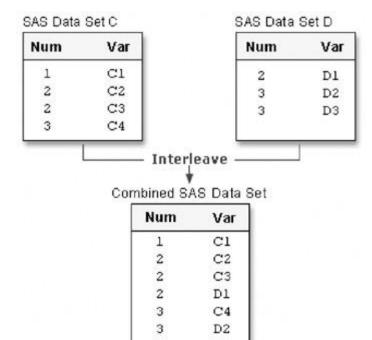
How Interleaving Selects Data

When SAS interleaves data sets, observations in each BY group in each data set in the SET statement are read sequentially, in the order in which the data sets and BY variables are listed, until all observations have been processed. The new data set includes all the variables from all the input data sets, and it contains the total number of observations from all input data sets.

data interlv;

    set c d;

    by num;

run;