Selecting Columns in a Table

When you retrieve data from a table, you can select one or more columns by using variations of the basic SELECT statement.

Selecting All Columns in a Table: Use an asterisk in the SELECT clause to select all columns in a table.

```
proc sql outobs=7;
Select *
From score_data;
```

Selecting specific Columns in a Table: If you want to select more than one column, then you must separate the names of the columns with commas

```
proc sql outobs=7;
Select gender, name
From score_data;
```

Note: The OUTOBS= option limits the number of rows (observations) in the output. OUTOBS= is similar to the OBS= data set option.

SC statistical programming

Eliminating Duplicate Rows from the Query Results

In some cases, you might want to find only the unique values in a column. You can eliminate the duplicate rows from the results by using the DISTINCT keyword in the SELECT clause.

For example:

```
proc sql;
Select DISTINCT gender
From score_data;
```

This program produces a single row of output for each gender value.

When you specify all of a table's columns in a SELECT clause with the DISTINCT keyword, PROC SQL eliminates duplicate rows, or rows in which the values in all of the columns match, from the results.

```
proc sql;
Select DISTINCT *
From score_data;
```


Determining the Structure of a Table

To obtain a list of all of the columns in a table and their attributes, you can use the DESCRIBE TABLE statement. The following example generates a description of the score_data table. PROC SQL writes the description to the log.

```
proc sql;
   describe table score_data;
```