

Longitudinal Data and SAS: A Programmer's Guide

By Ron Cody

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Available: Soon

Ron Cody has done an excellent job with this topic – Longitudinal data. For some this description may seem strange or unfamiliar but it has to do with working with multiple records (obs) such as finding the mean (average) of a group of students' grades, number of patient visits, finding the first and last occurrence of a group of records, and much more.

The book contains Twelve Chapters that are well thought out, organized and illustrated:

- Chapter 1-The RETAIN statement
- Chapter 2-The LAG (and DIF) functions
- Chapter 3-FIRST. And LAST. Temporary Variables
- Chapter 4-Flags and Counters
- Chapter 5-Summarizing Data Using PROC MEANS and PROC FREQ
- Chapter 6-Using PROC SQL with Longitudinal Data
- Chapter 7-Restructuring SAS Data Sets Using Arrays
- Chapter 8-Restructuring SAS Data Sets Using PROC TRANSPOSE
- Chapter 9-Study One: Operations on a Clinical Database
- Chapter 10-Study Two: Operations on Daily Weather Data and Ozone Levels
- Chapter 11-Study Three: Producing Summary Reports on a Library Data Set
- Chapter 12-Useful Macros
- Appendix – List of Data Files and SAS Data Sets

Ron's new book reminded me of one of the older SAS manuals – Applications Guide 1987 which I found extremely useful in my early days of SAS programming. So I would highly recommend this book to SAS professionals who are New or consider themselves Beginners of the SAS Software System. And for the price of approximately \$25.00, it would be an excellent addition to one's library for the NEW SAS user.

The list of SAS data sets, programs and macros are available from the SAS web site which will make following along in Ron's book very easy to duplicate his logs and to understand each and every step of his examples. The simplicity of data which Ron uses throughout his book makes it useable and understandable by most everyone in all industries adds another plus to his new book.

Finally, Ron provides a number of solutions to his problems with a number of different approaches utilizing various techniques (use a Data Step versus a PROC or arrays) that enlightens the new user to look at problems with varying viewpoints and creativity.

Sincerely,

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