

How can we use the LIKE operator in PROC SQL to implement the SAS syntax?

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The LIKE operator in PROC SQL is a useful tool for implementing the SAS syntax in SQL queries. It allows for pattern matching and wildcard searches, similar to the LIKE function in SAS. By using the LIKE operator, we can specify a pattern or a set of characters to search for in a specific column or string of data. This can be particularly helpful when dealing with large datasets or when trying to find specific values within a dataset. The LIKE operator follows the same syntax as the SAS LIKE function, making it easy for SAS users to adapt their knowledge and skills to PROC SQL. By incorporating the LIKE operator into our PROC SQL queries, we can efficiently and effectively carry out complex data manipulations and analysis tasks.

SAS: Use LIKE Operator in PROC SQL

You can use the LIKE operator in the PROC SQL statement in SAS to return rows where a variable in a dataset matches some string pattern.

The following example shows how to use the LIKE operator in practice.

Example: Using LIKE Operator in PROC SQL in SAS

Suppose we have the following dataset in SAS that contains information about various basketball players:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data my_data;  
input team $ points;  
datalines;  
Cavs 12  
Cavs 14
```

Warriors 15

Hawks 18

Mavs 31

Mavs 32

Mavs 35

Celtics 36

Celtics 40

;

run;

/*view dataset*/

proc printdata=my_data;

Obs	team	points
1	Cavs	12
2	Cavs	14
3	Warriors	15
4	Hawks	18
5	Mavs	31
6	Mavs	32
7	Mavs	35
8	Celtics	36
9	Celtics	40

We can use the LIKE operator in PROC SQL to select only the rows where the team contains the pattern 'avs'

somewhere in the name:

```
/*select all rows where team contains 'avs'*/
```

```
proc sql;
```

```
select *
```

```
from my_data
```

```
where team like '%avs%';
```

```
quit;
```

team	points
Cavs	12
Cavs	14
Mavs	31
Mavs	32
Mavs	35

Notice that only the rows where the team contains 'avs' somewhere in the name are returned.

The opposite of the LIKE operator in PROC SQL is NOT LIKE, which selects rows where some variable in a dataset does *not* contain a certain string pattern.

The following code shows how to use the NOT LIKE operator to select all rows where the team does not

contain 'avs' in the name:

```
/*select all rows where team does not contain 'avs'*/  
proc sql;  
select *  
from my_data  
where team not like '%avs%';  
quit;
```

team	points
Warriors	15
Hawks	18
Celtics	36
Celtics	40

Notice that only the rows where the team does not contain 'avs' somewhere in the name are returned.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in SAS: