

How to Use the FIND Function in SAS to Locate Text

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The FIND function in SAS is a useful tool for locating specific characters or strings within a character string. It is useful for searching for and extracting specific information from a character string or for verifying the existence of a specific character or string within a character string. It can also be used to identify the position of a specific character or string within a character string.

You can use the **FIND** function in SAS to find the position of the first occurrence of some substring within a string.

Here are the two most common ways to use this function:

Method 1: Find Position of First Occurrence of String

```
data new_data;  
set original_data;  
first_occurrence = find(variable_name, "string");  
run;
```

Method 2: Find Position of First Occurrence of String (Ignoring Case)

```
data new_data;  
set original_data;  
first_occurrence = find(variable_name, "string", "i");  
run;
```

The "i" argument tells SAS to ignore the case when searching for the substring.

The following examples show how to use each method with the following dataset in SAS:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data original_data;  
input phrase $1-25;  
datalines;  
The fox ran fast  
That is a quick FOX  
This fox is a slow fox  
The zebra is cool  
;  
run;  
  
/*view dataset*/
```

```
proc print data=original_data;
```

Obs	phrase
1	The fox ran fast
2	That is a quick FOX
3	This fox is a slow fox
4	The zebra is cool

Example 1: Find Position of First Occurrence of String

The following code shows how to find the position of the first occurrence of "fox" in each string:

```
data new_data;
set original_data;
first_fox = find(phrase, "fox");
run;
```

Obs	phrase	first_fox
1	The fox ran fast	5
2	That is a quick FOX	0
3	This fox is a slow fox	6
4	The zebra is cool	0

Here's how to interpret the output:

The fox ran fast (First occurrence is at position **5**)

That is a quick FOX (The lowercase string "fox" never occurs)

This fox is a slow fox (First occurrence is at position **6**)

The zebra is cool (The string "fox" never occurs)

Example 2: Find Position of First Occurrence of String (Ignoring Case)

```
data new_data;
set original_data;
first_fox = find(phrase, "fox", "i");
```

run;

Obs	phrase	first_fox
1	The fox ran fast	5
2	That is a quick FOX	17
3	This fox is a slow fox	6
4	The zebra is cool	0

Here's how to interpret the output:

The fox ran fast (First occurrence is at position **5**)

That is a quick **FOX** (First occurrence of "fox" is at position **17**)

This fox is a slow fox (First occurrence is at position **6**)

The zebra is cool (The string "fox" never occurs)

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