

Learn How to Check if a SAS Dataset Exists Using a Macro

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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You can use the following macro in SAS to quickly check if a dataset exists:

```
%macro check_exists(data);  
%if %sysfunc(exist(&data.)) %then %do;  
%put Dataset Exists;  
%end;  
%else %do;  
%put Dataset Does Not Exist;  
%end;  
%mend check_exists;
```

When you run this macro, it will return "Dataset Exists" if a dataset exists.

Otherwise, it will return "Does Not Exist."

The following example shows how to use this macro in practice.

Example: Check if Dataset Exists in SAS

Suppose we create the following dataset in SAS called **data1**:

```
/*create dataset*/  
data data1;  
input hours score;  
datalines;  
1 64  
2 66  
4 76  
5 73  
5 74  
6 81  
6 83  
7 82  
8 80  
10 88  
;  
run;  
  
/*view dataset*/  
proc print data=data1;
```

Obs	hours	score
1	1	64
2	2	66
3	4	76
4	5	73
5	5	74
6	6	81
7	6	83
8	7	82
9	8	80
10	10	88

We can define the following macro to check if a dataset exists:

```
%macro check_exists(data);  
%if %sysfunc(exist(&data.)) %then %do;  
%put Dataset Exists;  
%end;  
%else %do;  
%put Dataset Does Not Exist;  
%end;  
%mend check_exists;
```

We can then run this macro to check if the dataset called **data1** exists:

```
/*check if dataset called data1 exists*/  
%check_exists(data1);
```

When we view the log, we can see that the macro returns Does Exist since **data1** does indeed exist:

```
98  
99          /*check if dataset called data1 exists*/  
100         %check_exists(data1);  
Dataset Exists  
101
```

Now suppose we also run the macro to check if a dataset called **data2** exists:

```
/*check if dataset called data2 exists*/
```

```
%check_exists(data2);
```

```
101
```

```
102          /*check if dataset called data2 exists*/
```

```
103          %check_exists(data2);
```

```
Dataset Does Not Exist
```

```
104
```

Note: You can find the complete documentation for the **EXIST** function in SAS .

Additional Resources

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