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Subject: Re: Merging Children with Household  
Posted by [user-rhs](#) on Sun, 27 Mar 2016 02:53:10 GMT  
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When you merge 2 datasets in Stata, Stata identifies one of the datasets as the "master" data and the other dataset as the "using" data. The master dataset is the one in memory, while the using dataset is the dataset that is identified in the -merge- command after 'using.'

If there are multiple observations in PEKR61FL.DTA with the same v001, v002, and b16 combination, you will get an error message after running

```
use PEKR61FL.DTA, clear
sort v001 v002 b16
merge 1:1 v001 v002 b16 using PEPR61FLTEMP1.DTA
```

because the merge command specified a 1:1 (one-to-one) merge, meaning: you are telling Stata that in both the master and using datasets, v001, v002, and b16 are unique identifiers. Obviously, the command will not work if v001, v002, and b16 do not uniquely identify observations in either or both datasets.

There was a slight typo/omission in the code Tom sent you below, which led to the error message. The merge using should be v001, v002, v003, and b16 instead of v001, v002, b16, since the child is identified via its cluster number (v001), household number (v002), mother's line number (v003), and finally its line number in the HH roster (b16). Try it with the correction and I'm sure it will work this time.

HTH,  
rhs

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