
Command Reference: Delta()

Create new time series where values are the difference between each value in original time series

Version 9.07.00, 2010-08-05

The `Delta()` command creates a new time series from an input time series. The resulting values are computed as the difference between each value and the previous value. Consequently, the delta result is the change from the previous value. The `CheckTimeSeries()` command can be used to check time series for changes that exceed a threshold; however, the `Delta()` command handles the complexity of time series that reset to a new starting value – the output can be used in conjunction with `CheckTimeSeries()`. The `Delta()` command will create as many output time series as there are input time series.

The output value is simply the current value minus the previous value. The result is set to missing if this value cannot be computed due to missing values, or in cases where a transition across a reset has errors.

If the data do reset, then the expected trend should be specified to allow the `ResetMin` and `ResetMax` parameters to be properly interpreted. For example, if `Trend=Increasing` and a decrease is detected, it is assumed that the values have circled past the reset values. In this case the command will attempt to compute the change across the reset values. If this is not possible, then warnings will be generated and the result will be set to missing. Specific cases that are handled are:

- The previous value is out of range – in this case the contribution from the out of range previous value is added to the delta and default flag value is assigned (see `Flag` parameter description). A warning will be generated.
- The current value is out of range – in this case the difference will be decreased because the reset value has not been achieved. A warning will be generated.

The above special cases result in somewhat arbitrary difference values because the inputs do not conform to expected values. Out of range values indicate erroneous data that should be corrected before being used in further analysis.

Irregular-interval time series that result in differences not being computed will have missing values inserted at appropriate locations to maintain consistent data point spacing with the original data.

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the command syntax.

Edit Delta() Command

Create new time series as a delta (difference) between the current value and the previous value.
 Use the ResetMax and ResetMin parameters for cumulative time series that periodically reset to a new starting value (will compute differences across resets).
 Specify dates with precision appropriate for the data or use blank for all available data.
The new time series identifier is defaulted to the old, with "-Delta" appended to the data type (may allow specifying as a parameter in the future).

TS list: Optional - indicates the time series to process (default=AllTS).

TSID (for TSList=AllMatchingTSID):

EnsembleID (for TSList=EnsembleID):

Expected trend: Increasing Optional - specify with reset limits (default=Variable)

Reset value (minimum): 0 Optional - minimum value that indicates reset of values.

Reset value (maximum): 20 Optional - maximum value that indicates reset of values.

Analysis start: Optional - analysis start date/time (default=full time series period).

Analysis end: Optional - analysis end date/time (default=full time series period).

Flag: Auto Optional - flag to mark problem values (use Auto for defaults).

Alias to assign: %L-delta Insert: -- Select Specifier -- Optional - use %L for location, etc. (default=no alias).

Command: Delta(Trend=Increasing, ResetMin=0, ResetMax=20, Flag="Auto", Alias="%L-delta")

Cancel OK

Delta

Delta() Command Editor

The command syntax is as follows:

Delta (Parameter=Value, ...)

Command Parameters

Parameter	Description	Default
TSList	Indicates the list of time series to be processed, one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AllMatchingTSID – all time series that match the TSID (single TSID or TSID with wildcards). AllTS – all time series before the command. EnsembleID – all time series in the ensemble specified by TSID. FirstMatchingTSID – the first time series that matches the TSID (single TSID or TSID with wildcards). LastMatchingTSID – the last time series that matches the TSID (single TSID or TSID with wildcards). SelectedTS – the time series are those selected with the SelectTimeSeries() command. 	AllTS
TSID	The time series identifier or alias for the time series to be modified, using the * wildcard character to match multiple time series.	Must be specified if TSList=*TSID.
EnsembleID	The ensemble to be modified, if processing an ensemble.	Must be specified

Parameter	Description	Default
		if TSList=EnsembleID.
ResetMin	The minimum expected data value, used when data are expected to increase (or decrease) to a threshold and then reset, for example raw precipitation values that reset to zero when a container fills.	Data are not expected to reset.
ResetMax	The maximum expected data value, used when data are expected to increase (or decrease) to a threshold and then reset, for example raw precipitation values that reset to zero when a container fills.	Data are not expected to reset.
ExpectedTrend	Indicates trend of data, used when values can reset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing – values should decrease and then reset Increasing – values should increase and then reset 	Data are variable and don't reset at fixed thresholds.
AnalysisStart	The date/time to start analyzing data.	Full period is analyzed.
AnalysisEnd	The date/time to end analyzing data.	Full period is analyzed.
Flag	A string to flag problem values, or Auto for default flags: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R – indicates reset transition out of range > ResetMax r – indicates reset transition out of range < ResetMin V – indicates value out of range > ResetMax v – indicates value out of range < ResetMin 	Do not flag problem values.
Alias	Alias to assign to created time series. A literal string can be specified or use %-specifiers to set the alias dynamically (e.g., %L) to use the location part of the identifier.	None (but is highly recommended).

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