PanthRBase Documentation

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1 Variable

1.1 Variable(values, options)

Create a new variable. values is one of the following:

- an array or vector with the desired values,
- a variable (which is simply cloned)
- a function f(i) for generating the values, in which case length is a required option. options is an object indicating properties of the variable:
 - length: Will be ignored if values is not a function
 - label: The label to use in graphs/tables/descriptions.
 - mode: A string describing what type of variable to create. If mode is missing it will be determined based on the first non-missing entry in values.
 - _names: An optional vector/array/variable of equal length containing names for the values. Access
 it via the names method.

Further options depend on the particular mode chosen. See the subclass documentations for details.

A default label value will be generated if not provided. So creating a Variable can be as simple as passing a values argument to the constructor.

Variable construction and setting needs to preserve the invariant that all entries are either null or a " meaningful" value. All undefined, missing and NaN entries will be converted to null.

If values is a Variable it will simply be cloned (options will be ignored).

1.2 Variable.concat(vars)

Concatenate the inputs into a single variable. All inputs must be variables, and a common mode will be inferred based on the variable modes:

- Variables of mode ordinal are treated as having mode factor
- If one of the variables is of mode string, the result is of mode string
- If all variables have the same mode, the result is of that mode
- Otherwise the result is of mode scalar

1.3 Variable.dateTime(values, label)

Create a date-time variable. label is optional.

1.4 Variable.ensureArray(val)

Convert val into a (Javascript) array, with "missing values" replaced by utils.missing. The argument may be:

- A single number
- A value that is utils.isMissing (NaN, null, undefined)
- An array, Vector or Variable

1.5 Variable.factor(values, label)

Create a factor variable. label is optional.

1.6 Variable.fiveNum(skipMissing)

Return a 'named' scalar variable of the five-number of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.7 Variable.format(options)

Return a string variable for displaying the given variable with a specified numerical formatting. The options object may include:

- type: A string value, either 'scientific' or 'fixed'.
- decimals: The number of decimal digits to be displayed to the right of the decimal point. Defaults to 4 for 'scientific' format and to 2 for 'fixed' format.

1.8 Variable.groupIndices()

Return a List of arrays of indices corresponding to the distribution of the factor variable. If the variable is not factor or ordinal, it will be treated as a factor variable.

If missing values are present, an extra (unnamed) list item to hold those indices will be created at the end of the list.

```
\texttt{Variable.factor(['a', 'a', 'b']).groupIndices(); // { a: [1, 2], b: [3] }}
```

1.9 Variable.layOut(ncol)

Lay out the variable's values in rows. Return an array with one entry for each row. Each row entry is an array of objects representing the values. The objects have the form index: i, value: val, name: s

The parameter ncol specifies how many entries will be in each row (default is 1). If the variable length is not an exact multiple of ncol, then the last row will contain fewer entries.

Mostly intended as an internal method for use in Variable#toHTML.

1.10 Variable.logical(values, label)

Create a logical variable. label is optional.

1.11 Variable.max(skipMissing)

Return the maximum of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.12 Variable.mean(skipMissing)

Return the mean of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.13 Variable.median(skipMissing)

Return the median of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.14 Variable.min(skipMissing)

Return the minimum of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.15 Variable.oneDimToArray(val)

Convert val into an array, if val is " one-dimensional" (Variable, Vector, array). Non-one-dimensional arguments are returned unchanged.

1.16 Variable.oneDimToVariable(val)

Convert val into a Variable, if val is " one-dimensional" (Variable, Vector, array). Non-one-dimensional arguments are returned unchanged.

1.17 Variable.oneDimToVector(val)

Convert val into a Vector, if val is " one-dimensional " (Variable, Vector, array). Non-one-dimensional arguments are returned unchanged.

1.18 Variable.order(desc)

Return a Variable representing the permutation that sorts the values of the original variable according to the order specified by desc.

• If desc is a boolean value, then false indicates ascending order, true indicates descending order.

- If desc is a function f(a, b), then it is interpreted as the comparator for sorting, and must return -1 if a precedes b, 0 if a and b are " equal " in order, and 1 if b precedes a.
- If desc is omitted, it defaults to false (ascending order).

1.19 Variable.ordinal(values, levels, label)

Create an ordinal variable. levels and label are optional. If levels is omitted, an alphabetical ordering of the levels will be used.

1.20 Variable.read(vals, mode)

Read values from a string (e.g., text file) into a Variable.

Variable#read makes a sequence of tokens by breaking the string at any sequence of newlines, spaces, commas and semicolons.

- If a token starts with a double quote, then it must also end with a double-quote, and its contents are interpreted as follows:
 - Consecutive double-quotes (" ") are interpreted as a double-quote (").
 - Escaped (backslashed) characters () are interpreted as the character (c).
 - No unescaped un-doubled double-quotes are allowed in the term.
- Analogous conditions apply for a term starting with a single quote (').
- If the token does not start with a quote, then it is interpreted literally.

If the mode is not specified, it will be inferred as scalar if all the tokens can be interpreted as numbers, or as factor otherwise.

1.21 Variable.scalar(values, label)

Create a scalar variable. label is optional.

1.22 Variable.scale(center, scale)

Rescale the variable based on the provided center and scale. Return a List holding three items:

- center
- scale
- values (a Variable holding the rescaled values).

Must be called with two arguments.

1.23 Variable.sd(skipMissing)

Return the standard deviation of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.24 Variable.seq(from, to, step, options)

Construct a scalar variable from an arithmetic sequence. Can be called as:

- seq(to[, options]) where from equals 1
- \bullet seq(from, to[, options]) where step equals -1 or +1
- seq(from, to, step[, options]) step must have the same sign as to from. options parameter is an optional options object that is passed to the Variable constructor

```
seq(5) // [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] seq(5, 7.5) // [5, 6, 7] seq(4, 1.2) // [4, 3, 2] seq(5.1, 6.1, .5) // [5.1, 5.6, 6.1] seq(4, 1.2, -2) // [4, 2]
```

1.25 Variable.sort(desc)

Return a new Variable with the values sorted in the order specified by desc. See Variable#order.

1.26 Variable.string(values, label)

Create a string variable. label is optional.

1.27 Variable.sum(skipMissing)

Return the sum of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.28 Variable.table()

Return a frequency table for the variable, in the form of a 'named' scalar variable. The variable is treated as a factor variable in order to accumulate the frequencies.

1.29 Variable.tabulate(f, from, to, options)

Create a new variable with values f(from), f(from+1), ..., f(to). The options parameter is passed to the Variable constructor.

1.30 Variable.toHTML(options)

Return an HTML string displaying the variable. Each value is wrapped in a tag, and that tag may be preceded by a tagged name. Each row is further wrapped in a tag. The default format can be used as the contents of a table tag.

The options object may include:

- ncol: The number of " columns" (default is 1).
- withNames: Whether names should be included (default is false).
- value: An object with properties tag and class for specifying the html tag and the class attributes to be used for the values.
- name: A similar object to be used for the names.
- row: A similar object to be used for wrapping around each row. All three of these objects are optional, and their individual parts are optional as well. The defaults are <td> or <tr> for the tag and var-value, var-name or var-row for the class.

1.31 Variable.var(skipMissing)

Return the variance of the values of the variable. skipMissing defaults to false. If skipMissing is false and the variable has missing values, return utils.missing.

1.32 Variable.write(options)

Write the variable to a string.

options is an object that can include:

- sep: A character or string to use as separator. Defaults to ','.
- quote: A boolean value specifying whether to quote string values/names. Defaults to false.
- qescape: A boolean value specifying whether to escape embedded quotes via a backslash. Defaults to false, meaning escape via an extra double-quote.

1.33 Variable.zscore()

Return the standardized values using Variable#rescale where center is the mean of the variable and scale is the standard deviation.

Missing values are preserved, but are ignored in the computation.

1.34 Variable.prototype.asScalar()

Convert the variable to scalar mode.

For factor variables, the codes are used.

1.35 Variable.prototype.asString()

Convert the variable to string mode.

For factor variables, the values are used.

1.36 Variable.prototype.clone()

Clone the variable, creating a new variable with the same values and mode.

1.37 Variable.prototype.concat(vars)

See Variable.concat.

1.38 Variable.prototype.each(f, skipMissing)

Apply the function f(val, i) to each value in the variable. If skipMissing is set to true (default is false), it will only apply f to non-missing values (as determined by utils.isNotMissing).

1.39 Variable.prototype.filter(pred)

Given a predicate pred(val, i), return a new variable containing those values from the original variable that satisfy the predicate.

1.40 Variable.prototype.get(i)

Return the values(s) indicated by i. (Keep in mind that variables are indexed starting from 1.)

- If i is a positive integer, return the value at index i.
- If i is an array of non-negative integers, return an array of the corresponding values (skipping indices of value 0).
- If i is an array of non-positive integers, return an array of all values of the variable except those indicated by the negative indices.
- If i is a scalar variable, it is converted into an array.
- If i is a logical variable, it must have the same length as the original variable, in which case, return an array of the values which correspond to the true values in i.

For factor variables, the values are returned, not the codes.

1.41 Variable.prototype.hasMissing()

Return a boolean indicating whether the variable contains missing values as indicated by utils.isMissing.

1.42 Variable.prototype.length()

Return the length of the variable.

1.43 Variable.prototype.map(f, skipMissing, mode)

Create a new variable from the results of applying the function f(val, i) to the values of the original variable. If skipMissing is set to true (default is false), then missing values will be preserved, and f will only be applied to the non-missing values. The optional parameter mode specifies the desired mode of the new variable.

1.44 Variable.prototype.names(newNames)

Called with no arguments, return the names associated with the variable's entries.

Otherwise newNames is passed to the Variable constructor to create a string variable of the new names. If the provided names do not have the correct length, Variable#resize will be used on the names.

1.45 Variable.prototype.nonMissing()

Return a new variable containing the non-missing values from the original variable as indicated by utils.isNotMissing.

1.46 Variable.prototype.reduce(f, initial, skipMissing)

Apply the function f(acc, val, i) to each value in the variable, accumulating the result to be returned. If skipMissing is set to true (default is false), it will only apply f to non-missing values (as determined by utils.isNotMissing).

Similar to Javascript's Array.prototype.reduce.

1.47 Variable.prototype.rep(times)

Repeat a variable according to a pattern to make a new variable. times can be used in several different ways, depending on its type:

- If times is a number, repeat the variable that many times.
- If times is a variable or array, use the values as frequencies for corresponding entries. times must have same length as the original variable.
- If times is an object with a length property, cycle the values in the variable up to the specified length.
- If times is an object with an each property, repeat each value that many times (before going on to the next value).

1.48 Variable.prototype.reproduce(newValues, newNames)

Return a new variable with all the same settings as the original but with values taken from newValues, which may be a Vector or an array.

Note: If the variable is a factor or an ordinal variable, it is assumed that the new values are codes which are in agreement with the codes used by the variable.

If newNames is provided, it must be one-dimensional (Variable, Vector or array) and it is used to set names for the new variable.

1.49 Variable.prototype.resize(length, fill)

Resize the variable. If fill is true, recycle the values to reach the specified length. If fill is false or omitted, the new values will be filled with utils.missing.

1.50 Variable.prototype.sameLength(other)

Return a boolean indicating whether the variable has the same length as the variable other.

1.51 Variable.prototype.select(indices)

From a given array or Vector of indices, create a new variable based on the values of the original variable corresponding to those indices.

1.52 Variable.prototype.set(i, val)

Set the entries indicated by i to the values indicated by val. (Keep in mind that Variables are indexed starting from 1.)

val may be a single value, or a Variable or array of values of the appropriate length.

- If i is a positive integer, set the value at index i.
- If i is an array of non-negative integers, set the corresponding values (skipping indices of value 0).
- If i is an array of non-positive integers, set all values of the variable except those indicated by the negative indices.
- If i is a scalar variable, it is converted into an array.
- If i is a logical variable, it must have the same length as the original variable, in which case set the values which correspond to the true values in i.

In all cases, if there are any null/undefined/NaN indices, an error occurs.

This method cannot be used to append values. To set values out of bounds, call Variable#resize first.

1.53 Variable.prototype.toArray()

Return a Javascript array of the values of the variable. For factor variables, the values are returned.

1.54 Variable.prototype.toVector()

Return a Vector of the values of the variable. For factor variables, the codes are returned.

2 Dataset

2.1 Dataset(values)

Create a dataset out of the provided values. A dataset is a List whose items are variables of the same length. Unlike lists, datasets are required to have names for all their " columns", and those names are unique.

values is one more more arguments of the following types:

- An object, a List, or Matrix; in this case it will be 'unpacked' to create the columns of the dataset.
- A Variable or Vector.

Properties:

- nrow: The number of rows in the dataset (the length of each variable)
- ncol: The number of columns in the dataset (the number of variables)

2.2 Dataset.read(vals, options)

Read a dataset from a string vals which is the contents of a delimited file.

Quote-escaping rules are similar to Variable#read.

options is an object that can include:

- sep: A character or string specifying the separator. If not provided, an attempt to infer the separator will be made. Typical separators include ',', ';', ',', and ''. In this last case, any sequence of whitespace, including tabs, will be treated as a single separator.
- header: A boolean value specifying whether headers are included. Defaults to false.

2.3 Dataset.split(select)

Split a Dataset into a List of sub-datasets, based on the specified subsets of the rows. select can be:

- A List whose elements are one-dimensional collections of row indices
- A factor Variable of length nrow. Rows with the same corresponding factor value will be grouped together.
- A function f(row, i). Rows with the same function value will be grouped together.

If an empty group of rows is created by select, it will generate an empty Dataset.

2.4 Dataset.write(options)

Write the dataset to a string.

options is an object that can include:

- sep: A character or string to use as separator. Defaults to ','.
- header: A boolean value specifying whether to include headers. Defaults to true.
- quote: A boolean value specifying whether to quote string values/names. Defaults to false.
- qescape: A boolean value specifying whether to escape embedded quotes via a backslash. Defaults to false, meaning escape via an extra double-quote.

2.5 Dataset.prototype.appendCols(names, values)

Append to the columns of the dataset. If called with two arguments, then the first argument is the names for the new columns. If called with only one argument, names will be generated automatically.

The values argument needs to be one of the following:

- A 2-dimensional object (Matrix or Dataset).
- A 1-dimensional object (Array, Vector or Variable).
- A List of columns to be appended. Corresponding names will be copied over. In this case, the provided list will be fed into the dataset constructor in order to deduce the new variables to be appended.
- A function f(i) for computing the values in the new column.

2.6 Dataset.prototype.appendRows(rows, values)

Append to the rows of the dataset. When called with one argument, the argument needs to be 2-dimensional (Matrix or dataset) or 1-dimensional (Array, Variable or Vector) and then the number rows to be appended will be inferred. When called with two arguments, rows is the number of rows to append, and values is a single value or a function f(i, j, colName) to be used for filling the rows. In the case of a function, the index i is relative to the new rows to be added (so i is 1 for the first row to be added, 2 for the second row to be added, etc.).

```
\label{eq:continuous_section} $$ \begin{array}{llll} \text{$\setminus$} & \text{$\setminus$
```

2.7 Dataset.prototype.clone()

Clone the dataset.

2.8 Dataset.prototype.deleteCols(cols)

Delete the specified columns from the dataset. cols may be:

- A single number or string name.
- A 1-dimensional object of single numbers or string names.

2.9 Dataset.prototype.deleteRows(rows)

Delete the specified rows from the dataset. rows may be:

- A single number.
- A 1-dimensional object.
- A predicate function f(row, i).

2.10 Dataset.prototype.get(rows, cols)

Return a subset of the values in the dataset. This method may be called with no arguments, in which case an array of arrays of the columns is returned. Otherwise, the method requires two arguments, rows and cols, specifying respectively the rows and columns to be used.

- cols can be:
 - A single number or string. In this case a single column is used.
 - The boolean true, indicating that all columns should be used.
 - A one-dimensional object (Array, Variable, Vector) of numbers, strings or booleans. In the case where the values are booleans, the length of the object must match ncol.
 - A predicate of the form pred(colName, j), which returns true for those columns that are to be used.
- rows can be:
 - A single number. In this case a single row is used.
 - The boolean true, indicating all rows should be used.
 - An Array, Variable or Vector of numbers or booleans (similar to cols)
 - A predicate that has form pred(row, i), where row is a function as returned by Dataset#rowFun, giving access to the i-th row. If given two single values, returns the corresponding single value at the i-th row/j-th column. Otherwise returns a dataset that contains copies of the appropriate entries.

2.11 Dataset.prototype.getVar(col)

Get a single column (variable). col is a positive number or string name.

2.12 Dataset.prototype.names(i, newNames)

Get or set the names of the dataset's columns. See List#names for details. This method enforces uniqueness of names.

2.13 Dataset.prototype.rowFun(i)

Given a row index i, return a function f(col) which " simulates " row i.

```
\text{texttt}\{1.\text{rowFun}(2)('a') // \text{Returns the second value in column 'a'.} 1.\text{rowFun}(2)(2) // \text{Returns the second value in the second column.}
```

2.14 Dataset.prototype.set(rows, cols, vals)

Set the values at specified rows and columns, using the values specified by vals. See Dataset#get for how to use rows and cols to specify the positions to be set. All 3 arguments are required. vals is used to specify new values in one of the following ways:

- A single value (to be used in all specified positions)
- A Variable, Vector or Array (only valid when setting within a single row or column)
- A Dataset or Matrix (whose dims match those of the selected region)
- A function f(i, j, name) where i is a row number, j is a column number, and name is a column name.

2.15 Dataset.prototype.setVar(col, val)

Replace the variable at column col with the variable val. The length of val must match nrow.

2.16 Dataset.prototype.toArray()

Return an array of arrays representing the columns of the dataset.

2.17 Dataset.prototype.which(pred)

Given a predicate pred(row, i), return a Variable of the row numbers of the rows for which the predicate is true.

3 List

3.1 List(values)

A list is a collection of Javascript entities that can be accessed by index or by name. One can remove an item from a list, which results in the other items shifting place. One can also insert at the end of a list, or alter the contents of the list.

Indexing starts at 1.

We can create a list by providing:

- an object containing the items to be placed in the list along with their names
- an array of items to be placed in the list, without names
- no arguments, resulting in an empty list

$3.2 \quad \text{List.prototype._set(i, val)}$

Internal method used to set one item value. Requires two arguments, an integer or string name i and a value val.

3.3 List.prototype.clone()

Clone the list. This method will attempt to make a deep clone by calling clone on any top-level items in the list that have a clone method.

3.4 List.prototype.delete(i)

Delete the item at index/name i. i may be a positive integer or string name.

3.5 List.prototype.each(f)

Apply the function f(val, i, name) to each item in the list. For any items with no associated name, name will be utils.missing.

3.6 List.prototype.get(i)

Return a list item by index. The index i can be:

- a positive number
- a string name
- null or utils.missing; in this case, an array of all the items is returned.

3.7 List.prototype.getIndexOf(name)

Given a name, return the index of the item with that name or utils.missing if there isn't one. You may also instead pass a single number, or an array of names and numbers, in which case an array of indices is returned. Mostly meant as an internal method.

3.8 List.prototype.length()

Return the length of the list (number of items)

3.9 List.prototype.map(f)

Create a new list from the results of applying the function f(val, i, name) to the items of the original list. For any values with no associated name, name will be supplied as utils.missing.

3.10 List.prototype.names(i, newNames)

Get or set the item names.

- When called with no arguments, return a string Variable of all the names, with utils.missing in place of any missing names. If no names exist, returns utils.missing.
- When called with a single numeric argument i, return the name at the given index.
- When called with a single array or Variable argument, set the names of the list using the array/variable's elements.
- When called with a single null or utils.missing argument, set the names to utils.missing.
- When called with two arguments i, newName, set the name of the i-th item to newName. var l = new List(a: [1, 2], b: 3); l.names(); // Variable(['a', 'b']) l.names(2); // 'b' l.names(2, 'c'); // 1 is now a: [1,2], c: 3 l.names(['d', 'e']); // 1 is now d: [1,2], e: 3 l.names(null); // 1 now has no names

3.11 List.prototype.reduce(f, initial)

Apply the function f(acc, val, i, name) to each item in the list, accumulating the result to be returned. For any values with no associated name, name will be supplied as utils.missing. Similar to Javascript's Array.prototype.reduce.

3.12 List.prototype.set(i, val)

Called with two arguments i, val. Set the list item at a given index i. i can be:

- a positive number. If i is greater than the length of the list, create a new item at index i and fill the resulting gap with utils.missing.
- a string name: If the name i is not already a name in the list, append a new item with name i. Otherwise, update the existing item with the new value.
- an object of name-value pairs, causing a series of updates or appends, one for each pair.
- an array of values, causing a series of appends of these (unnamed) items.

val can be any Javascript entity. If i is an object or array, then val is omitted.

3.13 List.prototype.toVariable()

Return a Variable by concatenating the values from the list's items. Works with items of any of the following types:

- single value
- Array, Vector, Variable
- List

Names are generated for the new Variable base on the items' names in the list as well as their names (if any) as PanthR objects. The idea is to preserve any names in the list and/or in the values of the list in some reasonable way, wherever they exist.

- If the item is a variable with names, and it is a named list item, join the names
- If the item is a variable with names, and it is an unnamed list item, use the variable names
- If the item is a variable without names, and it is a named list item, provide names of the form itemName.1, itemName.2, ...

3.14 List.prototype.unnest(levels)

Unnest a number of levels out of a nested list, starting at the top level. levels is the number of levels it will attempt to unnest. Level 0 indicates no change. Default is 1. Level Infinity indicates complete unnesting. This method will only attempt to resolve nesting formed via List constructs, and will not recurse into Javascript Objects or Arrays.

BEWARE: This operation changes the list(s) in place.

4 stats

4.1 stats.correlate(xs, ys, skipMissing)

Return the Pearson correlation coefficient between two variables, xs and ys. By default, uses all the values of both variables. If skipMissing is not set to true and missing values exist, return utils.missing.

The two variables must have the same length.

5 utils

5.1 utils.allMissing(arr)

Return true if all entries in the array are missing.

5.2 utils.areEqualArrays(A, B)

Test for array element equality that respects missing values. Makes a shallow comparison.

5.3 utils.equal(a, b)

Test for equality that respects missing values.

5.4 utils.format

An object containing formatting functions for numbers.

5.5 utils.getDefault(val, deflt)

If val is a missing value, return deflt, else return val.

5.6 utils.getOption(s, optList, deflt)

Take a user-provided option description **s** (a string) and an array optList of allowable option settings. Return the first element of the array that has **s** as its initial substring. Return **null** if no such match is found.

If s is empty, null or undefined, return the default setting deflt.

5.7 utils.hasMissing(arr)

For an array, return whether the array has any missing values in it.

5.8 utils.isMissing(val)

Return true if val is undefined, null, or NaN. *

5.9 utils.isNotMissing(val)

Return true if val is not undefined, null, or NaN. *

5.10 utils.isOfType(v, types)

Test if v is of one of the listed types (an array of strings).

5.11 utils.makePreserveMissing(f)

Return a new function g such that g(any missing) is utils.missing, and g(val) is either f(val) or utils.missing, depending on whether f(val) is a missing value.

5.12 utils.missing

Value to be used for all missing values.

5.13 utils.mixin(target)

Mixes into the first object the key-value pairs from the other objects. Shallow copy.

5.14 utils.op

Arithmetic operators

5.15 utils.op.add(a, b)

The function that adds two numbers. Also available as utils.op['+'].

5.16 utils.op.div(a, b)

The function that divides two numbers. Also available as utils.op['/'].

5.17 utils.op.max2(a, b)

The function that takes two values and returns the maximum.

5.18 utils.op.min2(a, b)

The function that takes two values and returns the minimum.

5.19 utils.op.mult(a, b)

The function that multiplies two numbers. Also available as utils.op['*'].

5.20 utils.op.sub(a, b)

The function that subtracts two numbers. Also available as utils.op['-'].

5.21 utils.optionMap(val, f)

If val is a missing value, return utils.missing. Otherwise return f(val).

5.22 utils.seq(from, to, step)

Create an array of sequential values. Similar options to Variable.seq.

5.23 utils.singleMissing(val)

Return val if it is non-missing; otherwise return utils.missing.