

Delta Analysis Deep Dive

Mastering Buy vs. Sell Pressure

Introduction

Delta is the difference between buying volume and selling volume. It tells you who's winning the battle—buyers or sellers—regardless of what price is doing.

Price can lie. Delta tells the truth about conviction.

Part 1: What Is Delta?

The Basic Formula

$$\text{Delta} = \text{Buying Volume} - \text{Selling Volume}$$

Positive delta: More buying than selling **Negative delta:** More selling than buying **Zero delta:** Balanced (rare)

How Buy/Sell Volume Is Determined

Precise method (futures, Level 2): - Trades hitting the ask = Buying volume - Trades hitting the bid = Selling volume

Estimated method (most platforms): - Close near high = Volume attributed to buying - Close near low = Volume attributed to selling - Close in middle = Split

Delta vs. Total Volume

METRIC	WHAT IT SHOWS
Volume	Total participation
Delta	Direction of aggression

Example: - Volume: 1 million shares - Delta: +200,000

Meaning: 600,000 bought, 400,000 sold. Net buying of 200,000.

Part 2: Reading Single Bar Delta

Delta + Price Combinations

PRICE MOVE	DELTA	INTERPRETATION
Up	Positive	Confirmed — Buyers in control
Up	Negative	Divergence — Distribution warning
Down	Negative	Confirmed — Sellers in control
Down	Positive	Divergence — Accumulation signal
Flat	Positive	Hidden accumulation
Flat	Negative	Hidden distribution

Significant Delta

Not all delta is meaningful. Look for:

Significant delta = $\Delta > 2 \times \text{Average } \Delta$

If average delta is $\pm 100,000$
Then $\pm 200,000+$ is significant

Delta Magnitude

DELTA SIZE	INTERPRETATION
3x+ average	Very significant, likely pivot
2x average	Significant, pay attention
1x average	Normal, less meaningful
Below average	Noise, ignore

Part 3: Cumulative Volume Delta (CVD)

What Is CVD?

CVD is the running total of delta over time:

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Bar 1: Delta +100 → CVD: +100
Bar 2: Delta -50 → CVD: +50
Bar 3: Delta +200 → CVD: +250
Bar 4: Delta -100 → CVD: +150
Bar 5: Delta +50 → CVD: +200
```

Reading CVD

CVD trend tells you: - Rising CVD = Net buyers dominating over time - Falling CVD = Net sellers dominating over time - Flat CVD = Balanced, no dominant force

CVD Visualization

Price going up + CVD going up:

Price: ↗ ↗ ↗ ↗

CVD: ↗ ↗ ↗ ↗

= Healthy trend, continue

Price going up + CVD going down:

Price: ↗ ↗ ↗ ↗

CVD: ↘ ↘ ↘ ↘

= WARNING: Buyers exhausting

Part 4: Delta Divergence

What Is Delta Divergence?

When price and CVD move in opposite directions.

Bullish Delta Divergence

Price:

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/

Lower low

CVD:

Higher low

Meaning: Sellers getting weaker even as price drops. **Implication:** Potential reversal up.

Bearish Delta Divergence

Price:

/
/
\\
\\

Higher high

CVD:

Lower high

Meaning: Buyers getting weaker even as price rises. **Implication:** Potential reversal down.

Part 5: Delta Patterns

Pattern 1: Delta Confirmation

Bullish Confirmation: - Price breaks resistance - Delta surges positive - CVD makes new high - Trend continues

Bearish Confirmation: - Price breaks support - Delta surges negative - CVD makes new low - Trend continues

How to use: Trade in direction, confidence in continuation.

Pattern 2: Delta Exhaustion

Bullish Exhaustion: - Price makes higher high - Delta is positive but weakening - CVD barely makes new high or fails - Warning of reversal

Bearish Exhaustion: - Price makes lower low - Delta is negative but weakening - CVD barely makes new low or fails - Warning of reversal

How to use: Tighten stops, prepare for reversal signals.

Pattern 3: Absorption

What it is: Large delta in one direction, but price doesn't move.

Bullish Absorption:

Candle: Red or neutral
Volume: Very high
Delta: Strongly positive
Price: Doesn't drop (or barely)

Meaning: Buyers absorbing all selling pressure. **Implication:** Price should rise.

Bearish Absorption:

Candle: Green or neutral
Volume: Very high
Delta: Strongly negative
Price: Doesn't rise (or barely)

Meaning: Sellers absorbing all buying pressure. **Implication:** Price should fall.

Pattern 4: Initiative

What it is: Strong delta driving price in that direction.

Bullish Initiative:

Candle: Strong green, wide range
Volume: High
Delta: Strongly positive
Price: Moves up significantly

Meaning: Aggressive buyers driving price. **Action:** Trade with the move, pullback entry.

Bearish Initiative:

Candle: Strong red, wide range
Volume: High
Delta: Strongly negative
Price: Moves down significantly

Meaning: Aggressive sellers driving price. **Action:** Trade with the move, pullback entry.

Part 6: Delta at Key Levels

Delta at Support

DELTA AT SUPPORT	INTERPRETATION
Strong positive	Buyers defending, support likely holds
Weak positive	Some defense, watch closely
Negative	No defense, support may break
Strong negative	Breakdown likely

Delta at Resistance

DELTA AT RESISTANCE	INTERPRETATION
Strong negative	Sellers defending, resistance likely holds
Weak negative	Some defense, watch closely
Positive	No defense, resistance may break
Strong positive	Breakout likely

Breakout Validation

Real Breakout: - Price breaks level - Delta confirms (positive for up break, negative for down break) - CVD makes new extreme in direction - Volume expanding

Fake Breakout: - Price breaks level - Delta diverges or weak - CVD doesn't confirm - Volume weak or contrary

Part 7: Delta by Timeframe

Timeframe Selection

TIMEFRAME	DELTA CHARACTERISTICS
1m	Very noisy, hard to read
5m	Noisy but usable for scalping
15m	Better signal quality
1H	Good for day trading
4H	High quality, swing trades
Daily	Strategic, position trades

Multi-Timeframe Delta

Alignment approach: 1. Check higher TF delta trend 2. Trade when lower TF delta aligns 3. Avoid when lower TF delta contradicts

Example: - Daily CVD rising (bullish bias) - 1H shows positive delta on pullback - Enter long with confidence

Part 8: Plutus Flow Delta Features

How Plutus Flow Shows Delta

Delta Histogram: - Green bars above zero = Positive delta - Red bars below zero = Negative delta - Bar height = Delta magnitude

CVD Line: - Overlaid line showing cumulative delta - Color changes with direction - Used for divergence detection

Plutus Flow Settings for Delta

SETTING	PURPOSE
Delta Display	Histogram or line
CVD Overlay	Show cumulative delta
Divergence Alert	Auto-detect divergences
Smoothing	Reduce noise

Part 9: Combining Delta with Pentarch

Pentarch + Delta Confirmation

PENTARCH SIGNAL	DELTA CONFIRMATION
TD	CVD divergence (higher low while price lower low)
IGN	Delta surge positive, CVD new high
WRN	CVD divergence (lower high while price higher high)
CAP	Delta exhaustion, climax print
BDN	Delta collapse negative, CVD breakdown

Signal Quality Enhancement

High-quality TD: - TD fires on Pentarch - CVD shows bullish divergence - Delta positive on TD bar - = High conviction long

Low-quality TD: - TD fires on Pentarch - CVD still making lower lows - Delta negative on TD bar - = Wait for more confirmation

Part 10: Advanced Delta Concepts

Delta at Different Price Levels

Using footprint or profile:

Price	Delta	
\$100.20	+50	← Weak buying
\$100.15	+200	← Strong buying
\$100.10	-100	← Some selling
\$100.05	+300	← Very strong buying
\$100.00	+500	← Strongest buying here

Interpretation: Strong bid at \$100, likely support.

Delta Imbalance

Imbalance = When one side is 3x+ the other

Price	Bid Vol	Ask Vol	
\$100.10	50	200	← 4:1 ask imbalance (aggressive buying)
\$100.05	150	40	← 3.75:1 bid imbalance (aggressive selling)

Trading imbalances: - Stack of buy imbalances = Bullish - Stack of sell imbalances = Bearish

Part 11: Practical Application

Pre-Trade Delta Check

- [] What is overall CVD trend?
- [] Is delta confirming or diverging from price?
- [] What was delta on recent support/resistance tests?
- [] Is there absorption or initiative?

During Trade

- ☐ Is delta sustaining in my direction?
- ☐ Watch for divergence developing
- ☐ Note absorption against my position

Exit Decisions

- ☐ Delta divergence against position = Tighten stop
- ☐ Absorption against position = Consider exit
- ☐ Delta exhaustion at target = Take profit

Part 12: Common Mistakes

MISTAKE	REALITY
"Positive delta = price goes up"	Delta shows who's aggressive, not direction
Only looking at single bars	CVD trend matters more
Trading every divergence	Need price confirmation
Ignoring timeframe	Higher TF delta > Lower TF
Using delta on illiquid assets	Unreliable data

Part 13: Delta Analysis Checklist

Trend Confirmation

- ☐ Price trending in one direction
- ☐ Delta confirming (positive for up, negative for down)
- ☐ CVD making new extremes with price

- [] Volume supporting

Divergence Detection

- [] Price making new extreme
- [] CVD failing to confirm
- [] Look for 3+ swing points
- [] Wait for price reversal signal

Absorption Identification

- [] High volume bar
- [] Delta opposite to candle color
- [] Price doesn't move in delta direction
- [] Follow-through expected

Part 14: Summary

Core Principles

- 1. Delta = Buying minus Selling** — Who's aggressive
- 2. CVD = Running total** — Who's winning the war
- 3. Confirmation = Delta agrees with price** — Trend healthy
- 4. Divergence = Delta disagrees with price** — Warning signal
- 5. Absorption = Delta high, price flat** — Someone loading
- 6. Higher TF CVD > Lower TF** — Big picture first

Delta Reading Hierarchy

Level 1: Is delta positive or negative? (direction)
Level 2: Is delta confirming price? (trend health)
Level 3: Is CVD making new extremes? (conviction)
Level 4: Any divergence forming? (warning)
Level 5: Any absorption happening? (hidden activity)

The Delta Mindset

"Price shows what happened. Delta shows who made it happen."

"Divergence is a warning, not a signal."

"Absorption is the smart money loading."

"Trade with CVD, not against it."

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