

Re: 'trend value' formula needed

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khany wrote:

Hi all,

hope this isn't too off-topic but i could really do with some help

i have, say, at least 5 records with 3 columns of data based on industry activity (so not pre-determined by me)

the values of the first 2 columns roughly reflect the value of the third.

i want to be able to pass in 2 arbitrary values for the first 2 columns and get a trend/predicted value for the third back.

eg. some records I already have:

A:22000, B:24, C: 5000
A:36000, B:35, C: 3200
A:56000, B:43, C: 1800

so as A and B increase (not directly related) C decreases.

So if I pass in A:39000 and B:37 what would C be? more importantly, whats the formula?

thanks in advance

khany

So, you have two variables A and B, and you think that C is approximately determined by A and B. Based on the data you have, you want to find an equation "C = some calculation involving A and B" that gives the best prediction of C. There is no "formula" that will magically do this for you in all cases; instead there are techniques, which generally come under the name of "regression analysis" (Googling

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this should throw up plenty of info).

However, if you know, or can reasonably assume, that the "calculation involving A and B" approximately follows some particular form – for example $C = p \cdot A + q \cdot B + r$ for some numbers p, q and r to be determined – then life is potentially easier. Do you have an idea about what the nature of relationship between A, B and C ought to be, or are you in the dark? (Knowing that C decreases as A and B increase is not really specific enough; it could decrease with A and B in any of innumerable ways.)

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