

Important Usage Rules for BTS II

1. There must be **no empty** spaces in the data. If you are going to compare two data sets they must be of the **same** array dimension.
2. The tables used in the program must be text files with the columns **tab-delimited**. If the table comes from STELLA or Vensim it must be saved in text format; if it is an Excel worksheet it must be saved as tab-delimited.
3. If you want to work with a table saved from STELLA you must open the file first and change the word "final" in the last row of the time column, into numeric value. Otherwise this creates serious problems.
4. 'dt' is the time step in the two sequential data points.(Typically 1). 'Initial time' is the time of the first data point.(Typically 0)
5. 'dt' and 'initial time' must be correctly supplied to the program to prevent the wrong calculations and results.
6. In computing Autocorrelations, Partial Autocorrelations, and Cross-correlations, note that the default value of the max lag is 30. If your number of data points is less than this value you have to adjust it. Otherwise program will give an error.(As a rule of thumb, the max "lag" must be less than 1/4 of the total data points, to yield reliable correlation estimates.)
7. In estimating the amplitude, you must supply 'dt' and your estimated 'period' correctly.
8. After making regression, the program itself creates a new worksheet and puts the trend-removed version of the original variables in this new worksheet. If you are doing multi-step validation test, these new de-trended variables will be automatically selected from this worksheet in the next step.
9. All variables that are on active (open) worksheets are automatically "available" for statistical analysis. Once a worksheet is closed, the variables on that worksheet become unavailable. So never close a worksheet until you are done analyzing the variables.
10. In plotting a graph, enter the row numbers of the data correctly. Plotted graphics can be rescaled by pressing options button (right most).
11. In Smoothing, for Moving Average you must enter parameter value between 1 and 50 and for Exponential Smoothing between 0 and 1.
12. In estimating Constant Amplitude, if you want to remove minor periods from your data set, you must use 'Trigonometric' method and tick 'Remove Period' box. Period Removal is not available in other amplitude estimation methods.