MetroCount®

traffic data specialists

July 2006

Time Based Plots

Special information for the MetroCount Vehicle Classifier System and Traffic Executive software v3.1

quick tips

Overview

Tools and how-to tips

A scenario: You have a crucial traffic managers' meeting this afternoon, and you need to present traffic data that's just in from the field. You need something that gets your message across, but you simply haven't got time to prepare a fancy graph. What can you do? Easy: turn to MCReport's Time Based Plots.

Saving You Time and Effort

A fundamental MetroCount design goal is to provide you with quality software tools and features that actually save you time and effort. And, MCReport's Time Based Plots exemplify this approach. The Time Based Plots are a very valuable and powerful report category, providing you with comprehensive graphing options and functions.

Available Options

The Time Based Plots graphically displays a time series of your traffic data, Available Time Based Plots include:

- Vehicle Flow,
- Vehicle Flow, further subdivided into vehicle class or speed bins,
- Mean speed,
- Velocity dispersion,
- Separation, and
- Lane occupancy.

Time Reference

With access to the precise arrival time of every vehicle in every MetroCount dataset, you can easily vary the time reference as required after the survey. For example, you can print a graph of daily flow alongside a plot of five minute average speeds, both from the same survey location.

Pan and Zoom

Using MCReport's Time Based Plot tools, you can look at all your data on one page, or zoom into a week, day or hour. You can interactively examine peaks and troughs in your data, and pan left and right.

Vertical Scale

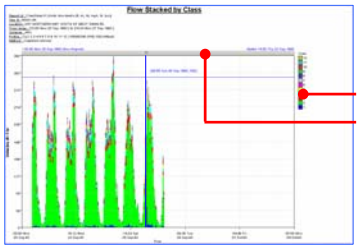
By default, the vertical Y-axis is not fixed. It varies to provide the maximum data view. To compare one site with another, it is sometimes useful to lock the vertical axis, and this can be accomplished easily via the graph menu.

Rendering

Each graph has a default rendering. By changing the rendering, you can completely change the look and feel of your graphs, and MCReport provides you with several choices.

Time Based Plots – an overview:

To create a Time Based Plot, simply click the New Report button, choose a plot option, then confirm your Profile to display the graph.

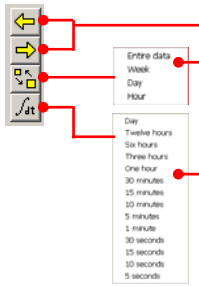


Example: "Flow Stacked by Class". By default, all graphs initially show the entire data range.

Legend

Graph region bar. Click and drag from this bar to display cross hairs. The vertical hair remains after releasing the mouse button. Double clicking removes the marker.

Time Based Plot tools



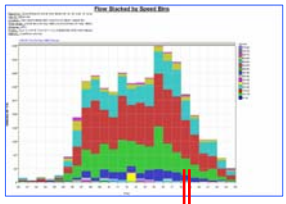
Pan left or right – available after zooming.

Data span, to zoom in and out – available after dragging a marker from the graph region bar. Ctrl+click to anchor view at the marker.

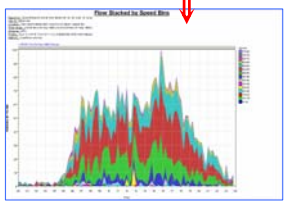
Integration time, to change the time reference. Some time references may not be available for some spans, and some plots (eg velocity dispersion) have a fixed time reference.

Some rendering examples:

A. Flow Stacked by Speed Bins.

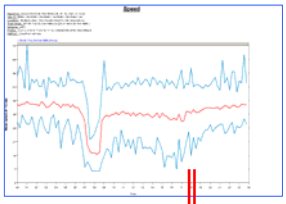


Day span, default hourly integration, default rendering

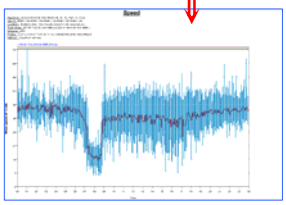


Day span, 15 minute integration, polygon rendering

B. Speed.

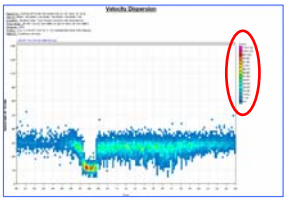


Day span, 15 minute integration, default rendering



Day span, 5 minute integration, delta bars rendering

C. Velocity Dispersion.



Day span, 10 minute integration. Integration time and rendering are fixed for this plot. Note the colors and legend: Z-axis indicates traffic density.

Remember: ***When comparing one site to another, or for before-and-after studies, use the same vertical scale with your Time Based Plots.***

MetroCount

Australia
P.O. Box 1182
Fremantle WA 6959
Ph: 08 9430 6164
Fax: 08 9430 6187
Email: sales@metrocount.com

United Kingdom
Unit 29, Rosemont Road
Wembley, Middlesex
London HA0 4PE
Ph: 020 8782 8999
Fax: 020 8782 8737
Email: uksales@metrocount.com

United States
18200 Georgia Ave, Suite J
Olney MD 20832
Ph: 800 576 5692
Fax: 866 440 8407
Email: usasales@metrocount.com

www.metrocount.com