

Let a relative difference for the stock price be

$$\Delta(t) = [(StockPrice(t) - StockPrice(t-1)) / StockPrice(t)]$$

a “float” data type. This is correct for a computer memory allocation, but it does not help to decide if all operations with float numbers are applicable for $\Delta(t)$. For instance, what does it mean to add one relative difference $\Delta(x)$ to another $\Delta(y)$? There is no empirical procedure matching this sum operation. However, the comparison operation makes sense, e.g.,

$$\Delta(x) < \Delta(y)$$

means faster growth of stock price on date y than on date x. This relation also helps interpret a relation “ $\Delta(w)$ between $\Delta(x)$ and $\Delta(y)$ ” as

$$\Delta(x) < \Delta(w) \text{ and } \Delta(w) < \Delta(y) \text{ or } \Delta(y) < \Delta(w) \text{ and } \Delta(w) < \Delta(x)$$

Both of these relations are already interpreted empirically.

Therefore, Δ values can be compared, but one probably should avoid an addition operation (+) if the goal is to produce an interpretable learned rule. If one decides to ignore these observations and applies operations formally proper for float numbers in programming languages, then a learned rule will be difficult to interpret.