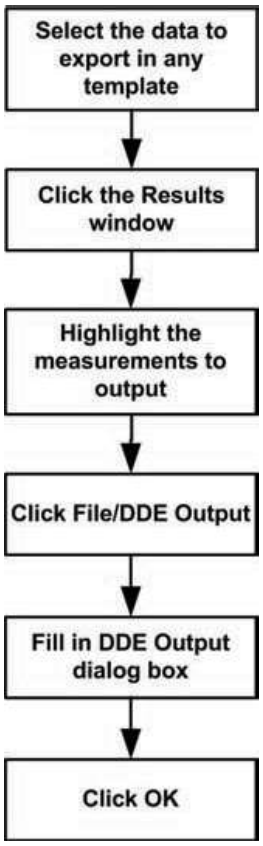
DDE Output

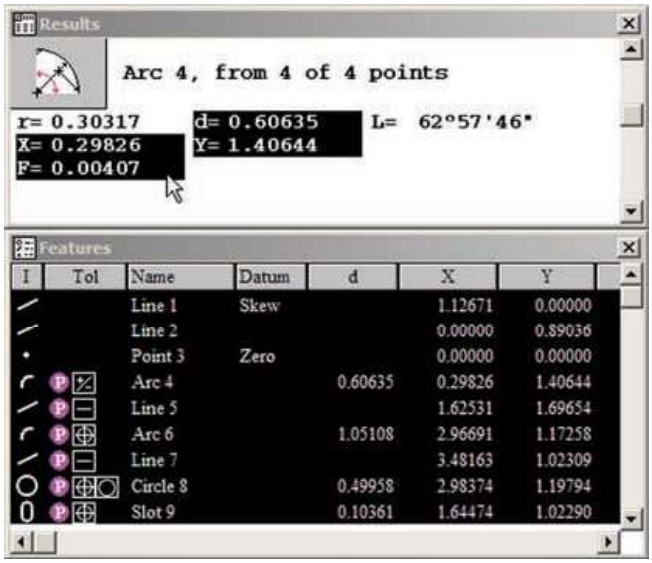
Data can be output to other applications using the Windows standard DDE protocol from any template. However, data is generally output from the Runs template to applications such as Microsoft Excel. Data is sometimes also output from the Features template. In most cases the Report and Tolerance templates are printed, but they can be output as well.



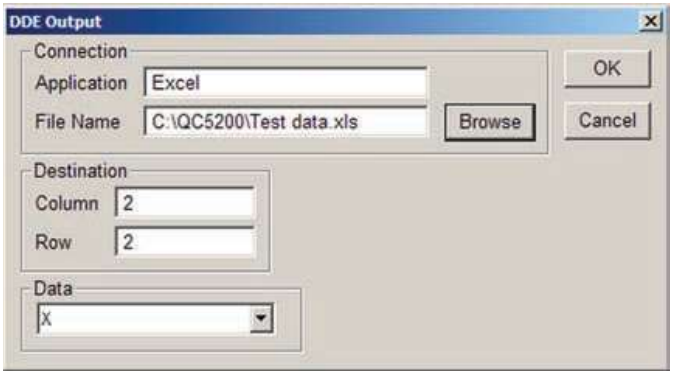
The DDE output process is diagrammed here. In this example, data will be output from the Features template using the DDE protocol:

1 Select the Features template as the active template and select the data to be output.

2 Click the Results window and highlight the feature measurements to be output.



3 Click File/DDE Output, enter the desired DDE output parameters into the DDE Output dialog box and click Save.



Output parameters

The following guidelines are provided for DDE output parameters:

Connection

Application

- Must be filled in with an explicit string (e.g. EXCEL)

File Name

- Must be filled in with an explicit string (e.g. C:\QC5000\DATA.XLS). It's safer to use full path names here.

Destination

Column

- Number 1, 2, 3...
- Letter A .. Z
- @Variable Should resolve to a number or letter (as above)
- Blank Means "auto append"
- ># Means "auto append" starting at column #

Row

- Number 1, 2, 3, ...
- Letter A .. Z
- @Variable Should resolve to a number or letter (as above)
- Blank Means "auto append"
- ># Means "auto append" starting at row #

Data

One piece of data is sent for each selected feature that has that piece of data.

General guidelines

The column and row fields in the DDE Output screen control where data is placed. One piece of data, as determined by the Data drop down list, is sent for each selected feature that has that piece of data.

If both fields have a number in them, then the first piece of data is written at that column/row location in the target application, and each successive piece is added to the same column but in successive rows.

If the column field has a number, and the row field is blank, the system will try to find the first blank cell in that column and put the first piece of data there. Each successive piece is added to the same column but put in successive rows (even if those cells have data in them).

If the row field has a number, and the column field is blank, then the system will try to find the first blank cell in that row and put the first piece of data there. Each successive piece is added to the same row but put in successive columns (even of those cells have data in them).

If the column or row field has a greater than sign (>) followed by a number, the system will act as if the field were blank beginning at the given cell number. So, all cells before that (which might contain other blank cells in some kind of header) are ignored.

Single letters (A..Z) can be used in the Column or Row fields, and get resolved to a number 1..26 before being used. More then one letter (e.g. AC) cannot be used.

Program variables can be used in the Column or Row fields, and at run-time will get resolved to a value which DDE Output will use as if it were entered expiclicity by the user.

Before selecting the DDE Output command, you can select fields from the Results Window to automatically choose the data you want to send. This can greatly speed up sending different data coefficients.