change of a quantity

The increment of the value of a quantity \( Q \) with time. The change may be expressed either infinitesimally at time \( t \) by the differential \( dQ \) or \( dQ(t) \), or in practice it may be expressed by a finite increment over the time interval \( (t_1; t_2) \), i.e. \( Q(t_2) - Q(t_1) \), which may be written \( \Delta Q \) or \( \Delta Q(t_1; t_2) \)

\[ \Delta Q = \Delta Q(t_1; t_2) = Q(t_2) - Q(t_1) \]

Examples are: mass change, \( \Delta m \); amount of substance change, \( \Delta n \); volume change, \( \Delta V \); substance concentration change, \( \Delta c \).

Source:
PAC, 1992, 64, 1569 (Quantities and units for metabolic processes as a function of time (IUPAC Recommendations 1992)) on page 1571