

Text as symbols, and labels added to symbols

We have shown you in one of our TechTips how to add text labels to a line/scatter or bar plot:
„Label Symbols Macro“ (<http://www.systat.de/PDFs/LabelMacro-EN.pdf>)

The macro does this by adding another scatter plot to the same graph, with slightly shifted coordinates for the points, and then displaying text values from a worksheet column as symbols for this scatter plot. (You are prompted for this column in the macro dialog.)

You can run these steps manually, and have some more flexibility to

- apply this technique also to other graph types
- have more control over the position of the text symbols
- add more than one text symbol plot.

The steps are:

1. Create the X and/or Y values column for the new scatter plot. Since this is a constant added/subtracted from an existing column, use the transforms or quick transforms function (Worksheet > Analysis > Transform). - Example: $col(y2) = col(y1) + 2$
2. Prepare the text symbol column. If you want to display numbers as symbols of the scatter plot, first format the decimal places if necessary, then format this column as text (Worksheet > Format > Data) – or type a space after each number in the worksheet.
3. Add the scatter plot (Graph Page > Add Plot).
4. For the new plot, select the prepared text symbol column in Graph Properties > Plot > Symbols > Type).

Once you have added the plot, you can adjust the symbol positions by just re-running the transforms (1) with slightly modified difference values.

Note:

If you just want to add individual “significance stars” (asterisks) to some few of your bars or symbols, it may be a quicker solution to use the Text tool (Graph Page > Tools > T), add an asterisk * in a text box, and adjust its font size.