

Chapter 34

Line Plots

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Chapter 34

Line Plots

You can create *line plots* to show the path of a variable over time. You can control the orientation of the plot, the information shown on the axes, and the color of the lines.

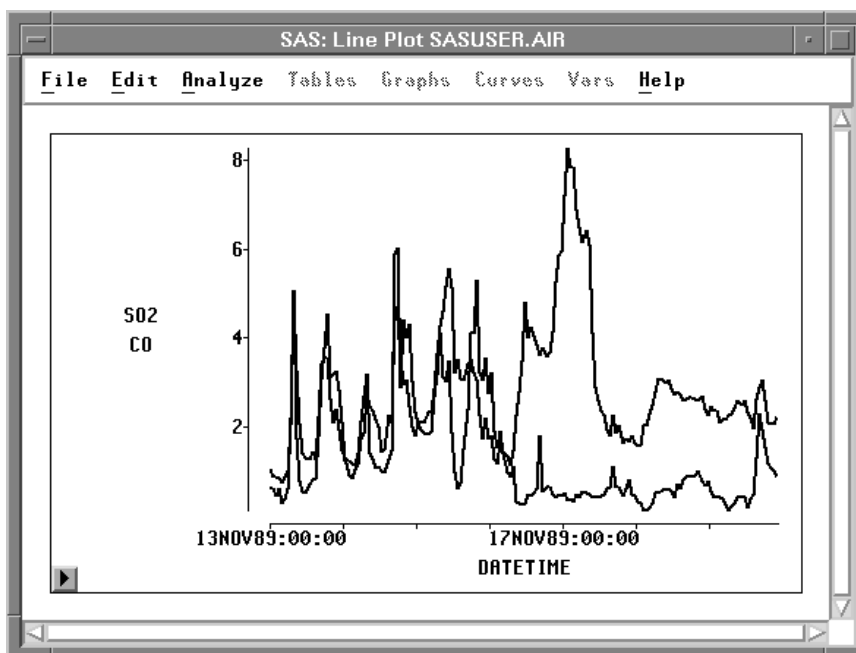


Figure 34.1. Line Plot

Variables

To assign variables for a line plot, choose **Analyze:Line Plot (Y X)**. If you have already selected two or more variables, you obtain a line plot. The last variable you selected is assigned the **X** role, and all other variables are assigned the **Y** role.

If you have not selected any variables, a variables dialog appears.

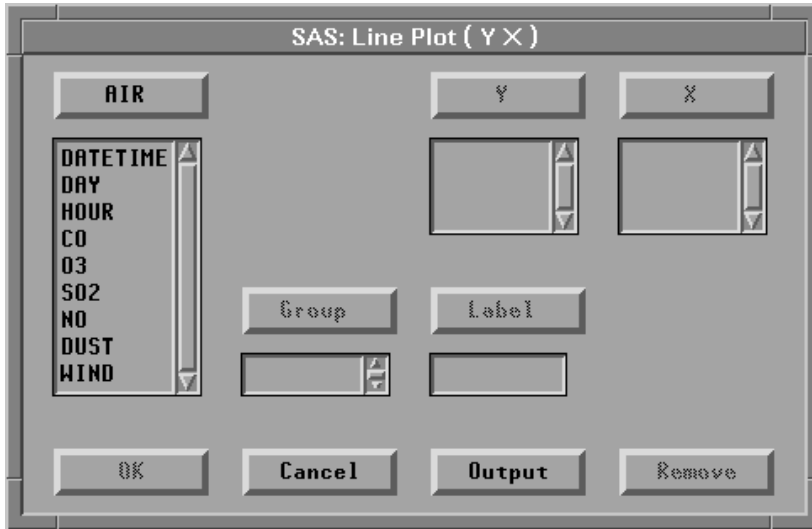


Figure 34.2. Line Plot Variables Dialog

In the dialog, select at least one **Y** variable and at least one **X** variable. You will obtain one line plot for each **X** variable, while multiple **Y** variables are represented on each plot as multiple lines.

You can select one or more **Group** variables if you have grouped data. This creates line plots for each group.

You can select a **Label** variable to label observations in the plots.

Method

Observations with missing values for **X** variables are not used. Observations with missing values for a **Y** variable are not used in the line for that **Y** variable but are used in lines for other **Y** variables.

Output

To view or modify output options associated with your line plot, click on the **Output** button of the variables dialog. This displays the options dialog.

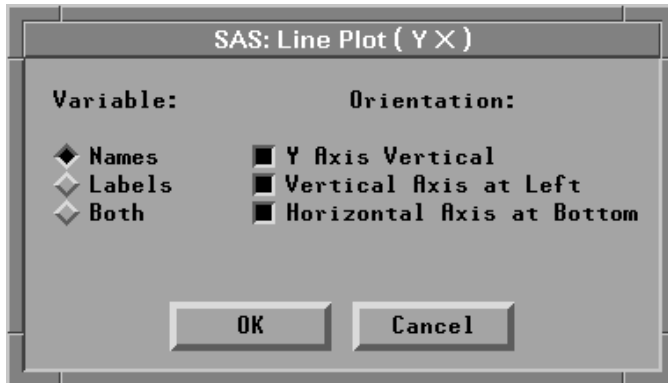


Figure 34.3. Line Plot Output Options Dialog

Variable:Names	labels the axes with variable names.
Variable:Labels	labels the axes with variable labels.
Variable:Both	labels the axes with both names and labels.
Orientation: Y Axis Vertical	draws the axis for the Y variable vertically. If this option is turned off, the Y axis is horizontal.
Orientation: Vertical Axis at Left	places the vertical axis at the left side of the plot. If this option is turned off, the vertical axis appears at the right side of the plot.
Orientation: Horizontal Axis at Bottom	places the horizontal axis at the bottom of the plot. If this option is turned off, the horizontal axis appears at the top of the plot.

You can modify other aspects of the line plot by using the pop-up menu.

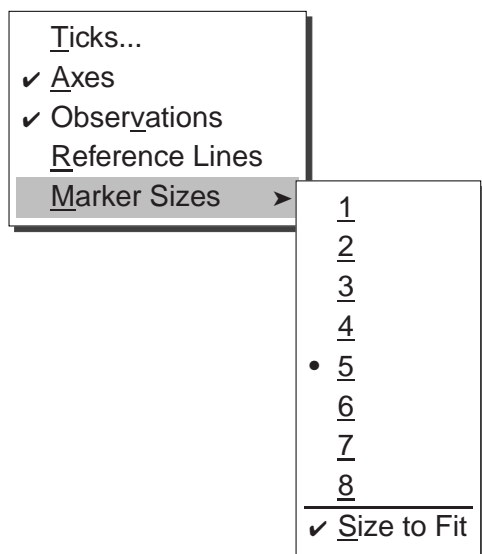


Figure 34.4. Line Plot Pop-up Menu

Ticks...	specifies tick labels on either axis.
Axes	toggles the display of axes.
Observations	toggles the display of observations. When this menu is toggled off, observations are displayed only if selected.
Reference Lines	toggles the display of lines that indicate the position of major ticks on the axes. This option is not available unless the axes are visible.
Marker Sizes	sets the size of markers used to display observations.

You can select and brush observations in the line plot even when they are not visible. If you click on a line at the location of an observation, you select that observation. If you click on a line between two observations, you select the line.

Lines in the plot are linked to variables on the Y axis. Click either on the line or on a Y variable to select both the line and its associated variable.

Finally, you can set colors, patterns, and widths of lines the same way you set these attributes for curves. See Chapter 13, “Fitting Curves,” for examples of setting patterns, widths, and colors.

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