

Chapter 8

Labeling Observations

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Chapter 8

Labeling Observations

Labels identify observations in plots. You can label observations by number or by the value of a variable. You can assign temporary or permanent labels.

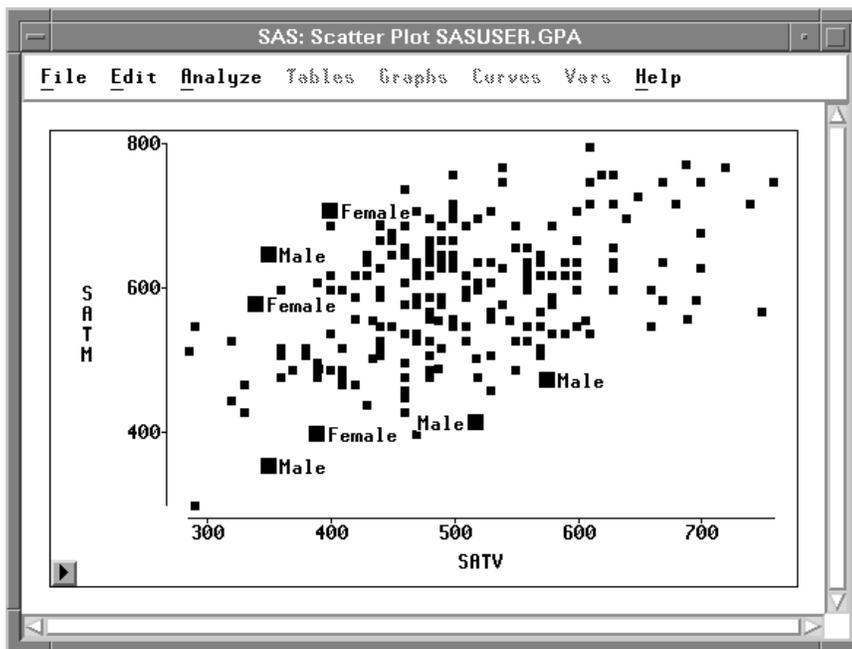


Figure 8.1. Labeling Observations

Temporary and Permanent Labels

When you click on an observation, you display its temporary label. To see this, follow these steps.

⇒ **Open the GPA data set.**

⇒ **Choose Analyze:Scatter Plot (Y X).**

This displays a scatter plot variables dialog, as shown in Figure 8.2.

⇒ **Select SATM and SATV as X variables and GPA as the Y variable.**

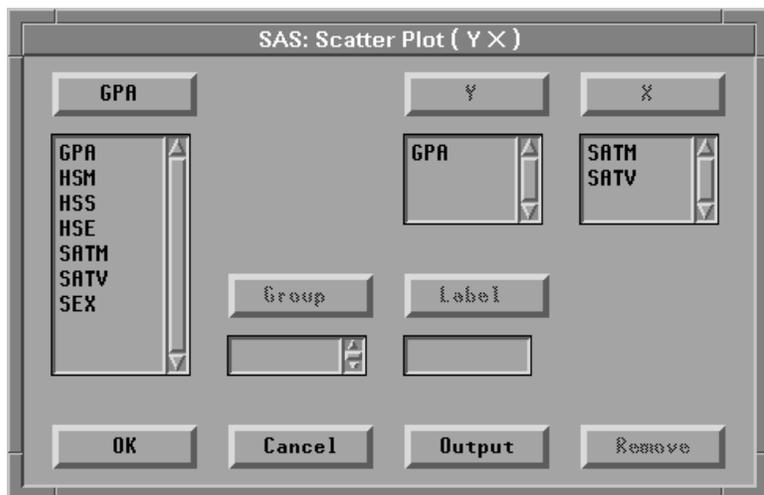


Figure 8.2. Scatter Plot Variables Dialog

⇒ **Click the OK button.**

This creates two scatter plots, as shown in Figure 8.3.

⇒ **Click on an observation in one of the plots.**

The observation is highlighted in both plots, and a label appears beside the observation in the plot in which you clicked. This label is temporary; it disappears when you deselect the observation.

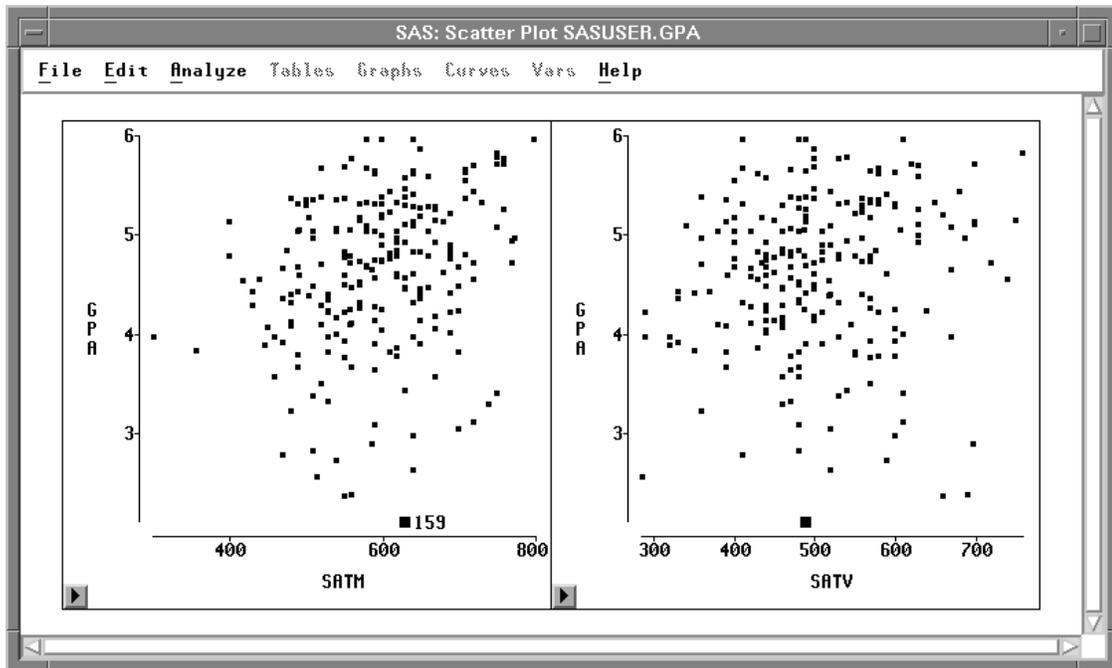


Figure 8.3. Temporary Label

You can turn this label into a permanent label.

⇒ Choose **Edit:Observations:Label in Plots**.

This labels the observation in all plots, and the label remains if you deselect the observation.

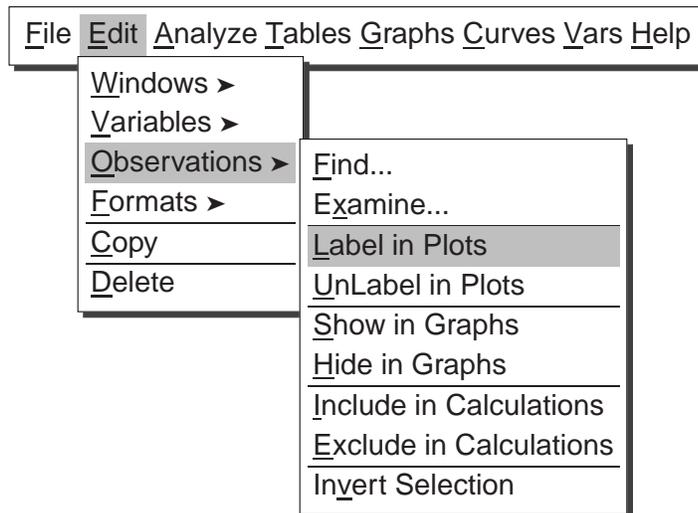


Figure 8.4. Edit: Observations Menu

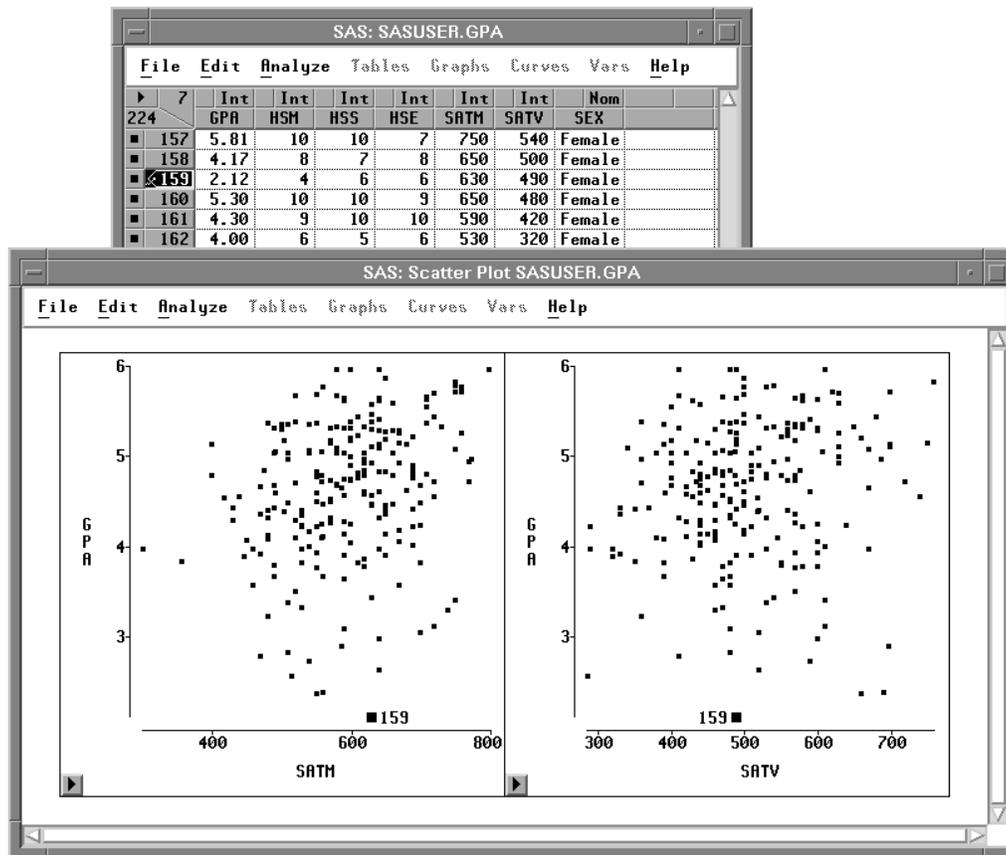


Figure 8.5. Permanently Labeled Observations

Notice in the data window that the observation is displayed with a picture of a label. This indicates that a label will always be displayed for this observation in all plots.

If you change your mind, you can remove the permanent label by choosing **Edit:Observations:UnLabel in Plots**.

Using Label Variables

SAS/INSIGHT software shows the observation number as the label by default. You can choose a variable to supply the label text by specifying a *label variable*.

⇒ Choose **Edit:Windows:Renew** to redisplay the scatter plot variables dialog.

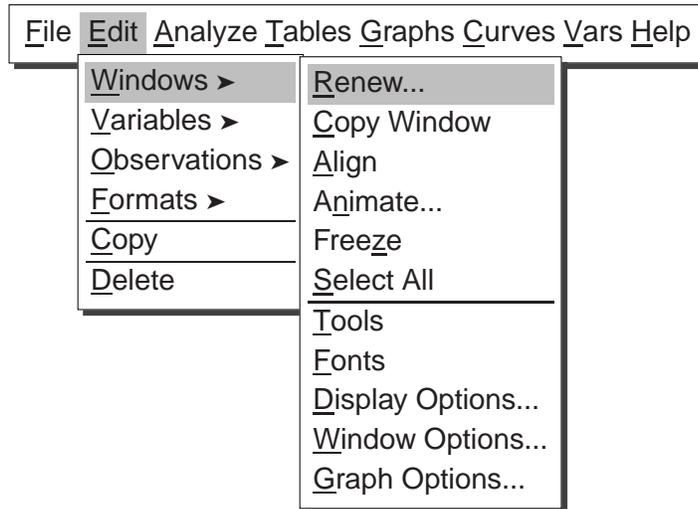


Figure 8.6. Edit:Windows Menu

⇒ In the dialog, select **SEX** and then click the **Label** button.

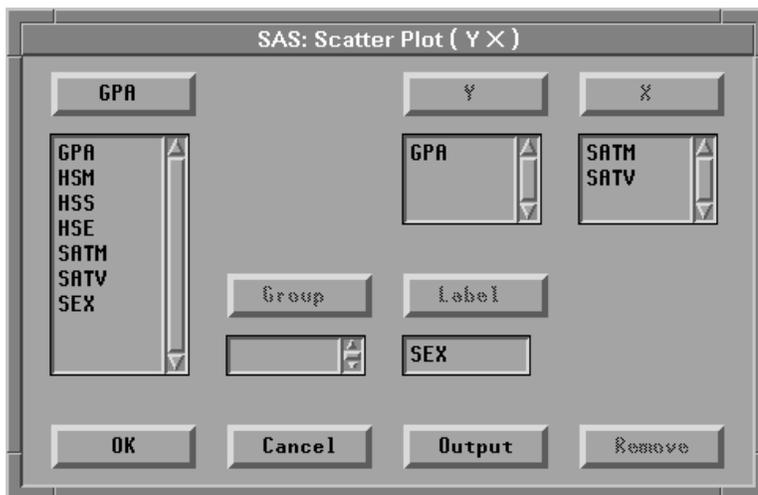


Figure 8.7. Assigning Label Role

⇒ Click the **OK** button.

Now the value of **SEX**, instead of the observation number, labels the observation.

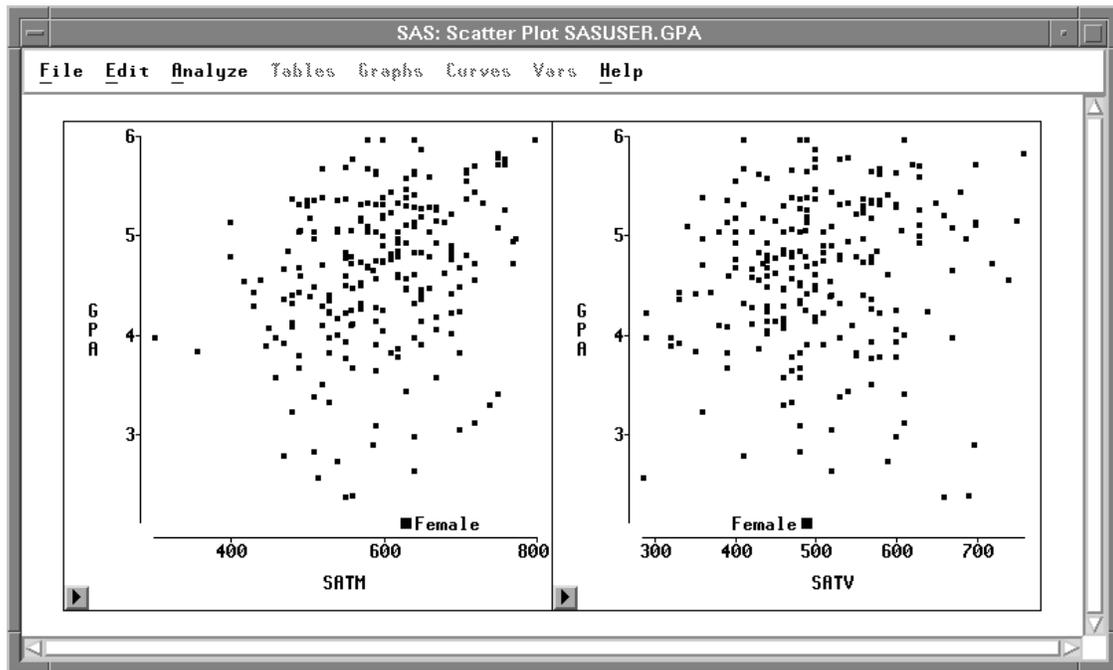


Figure 8.8. Observation Labeled by **SEX**

Setting a Default Label Variable

In addition to specifying label variables for individual plots, you can specify a label variable that will automatically be used in all future plots.

⇒ Click on the upper left corner of the variable **SEX** in the data window.

This displays a pop-up menu. Choose **Label** from the pop-up menu.

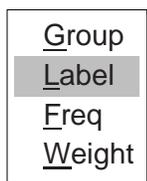


Figure 8.9. Variable Role Pop-up Menu

Now **SEX** is the default label variable, and future plots will use **SEX** for labels. In the data window, the word **Label** appears above the variable name, as shown in Figure 8.10.

 A screenshot of the SAS data window titled 'SAS: SASUSER.GPA'. The window shows a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'Analyze', 'Tables', 'Graphs', 'Curves', 'Vars', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar is a data grid with columns: '7', 'Int', 'Int', 'Int', 'Int', 'Int', 'Int', 'Label', and 'Nom'. The 'Label' column is highlighted. The data rows are numbered 1 through 12. The 'SEX' variable is labeled above the 'Label' column.

7	Int	Int	Int	Int	Int	Int	Label	Nom
224	GPA	HSM	HSS	HSE	SATM	SATV	SEX	
1	5.32	10	10	10	670	600	Female	
2	5.14	9	9	10	630	700	Male	
3	3.84	9	6	6	610	390	Female	
4	5.34	10	9	9	570	530	Male	
5	4.26	6	8	5	700	640	Female	
6	4.35	8	6	8	640	530	Female	
7	5.33	9	7	9	630	560	Male	
8	4.85	10	8	8	610	460	Male	
9	4.76	10	10	10	570	570	Male	
10	5.72	7	8	7	550	500	Female	
11	4.08	9	10	7	670	600	Female	
12	5.38	8	9	8	540	580	Female	

Figure 8.10. Label Variable Role

⊕ **Related Reading:** Variable Roles, Chapter 31, “Data Windows.”

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