

How can I create a dot plot in Google Sheets using the easiest method?

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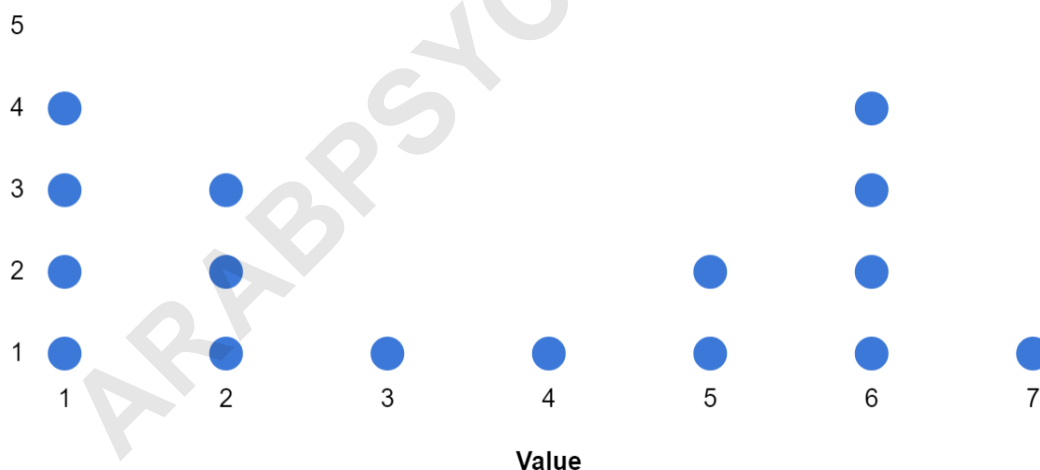
Creating a dot plot in Google Sheets is a simple and efficient way to visually represent data points. To create a dot plot, start by inputting your data into a column in Google Sheets. Then, highlight the data and go to the "Insert" tab, select "Chart" and choose "Scatter chart" from the drop-down menu. This will automatically generate a dot plot with data points representing each value. You can further customize the plot by adding a title, axis labels, and changing the color and size of the dots. This method is the easiest and most convenient way to create a dot plot in Google Sheets.

Create a Dot Plot in Google Sheets (Easiest Method)

A dot plot is a type of plot that displays frequencies using dots.

The following step-by-step example shows how to create the following dot plot in Google Sheets:

Dot Plot of Values



Step 1: Enter the Data

Suppose we have the following frequency table in Google Sheets:

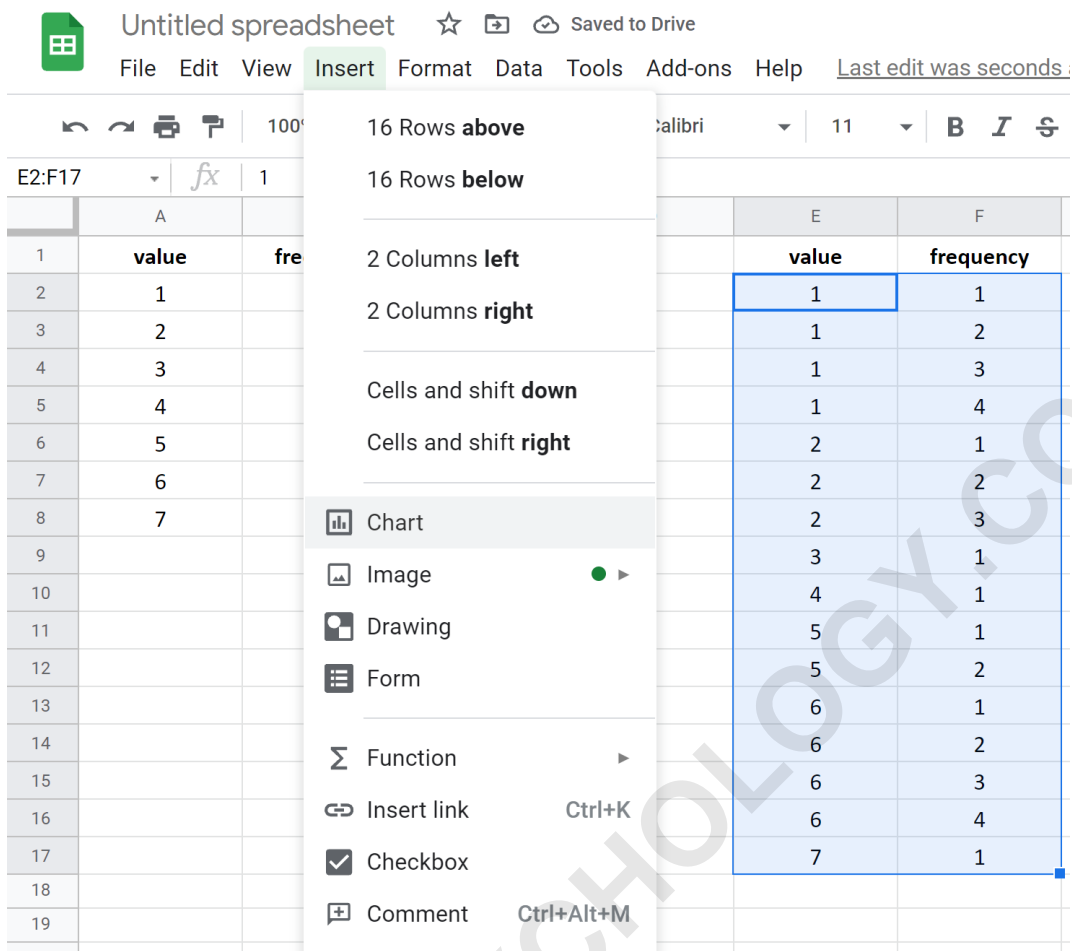
	A	B	C	D	
1	value	frequency			
2	1	4			
3	2	3			
4	3	1			
5	4	1			
6	5	2			
7	6	4			
8	7	1			
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

Before we create a dot plot, we need to first reorganize the data into a "long" format:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	value	frequency			value	frequency
2	1	4			1	1
3	2	3			1	2
4	3	1			1	3
5	4	1			1	4
6	5	2			2	1
7	6	4			2	2
8	7	1			2	3
9					3	1
10					4	1
11					5	1
12					5	2
13					6	1
14					6	2
15					6	3
16					6	4
17					7	1
18						
19						
20						
21						

Step 2: Create Dot Plot

Highlight cells E2:F17. Then click the Insert tab, then click Chart.

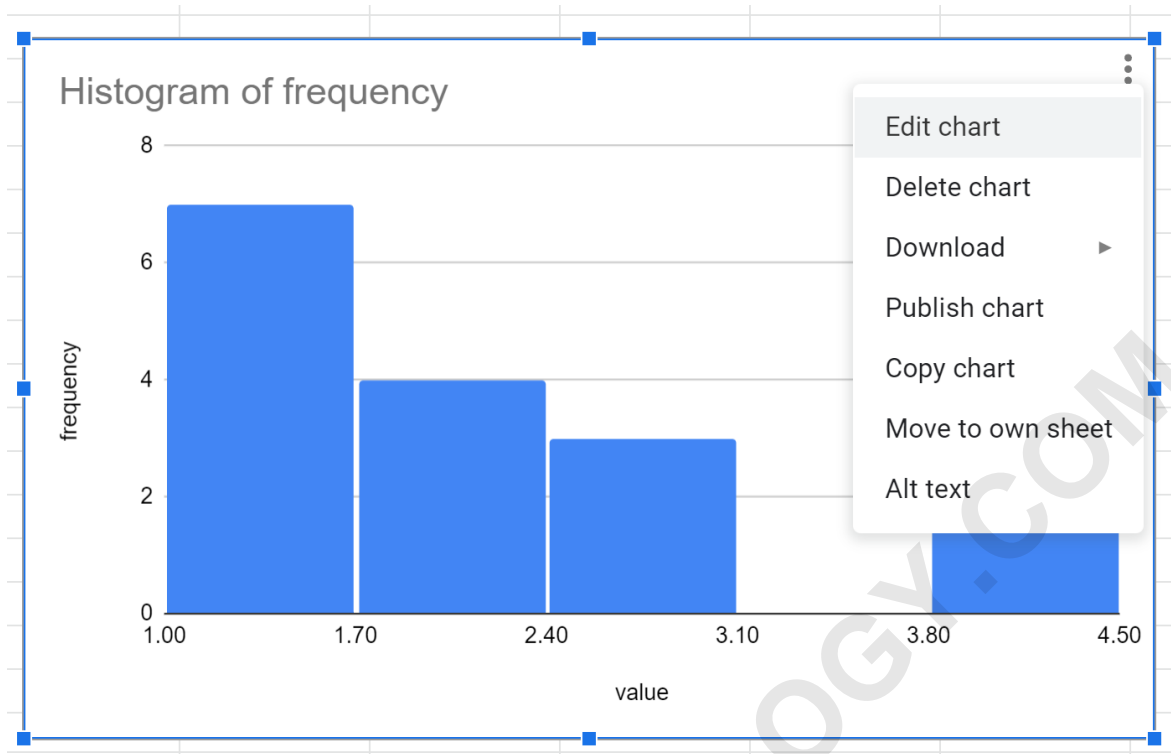


The screenshot shows a Google Sheets interface with an 'Untitled spreadsheet' open. The 'Insert' menu is open, and the 'Chart' option is selected. The spreadsheet data is as follows:

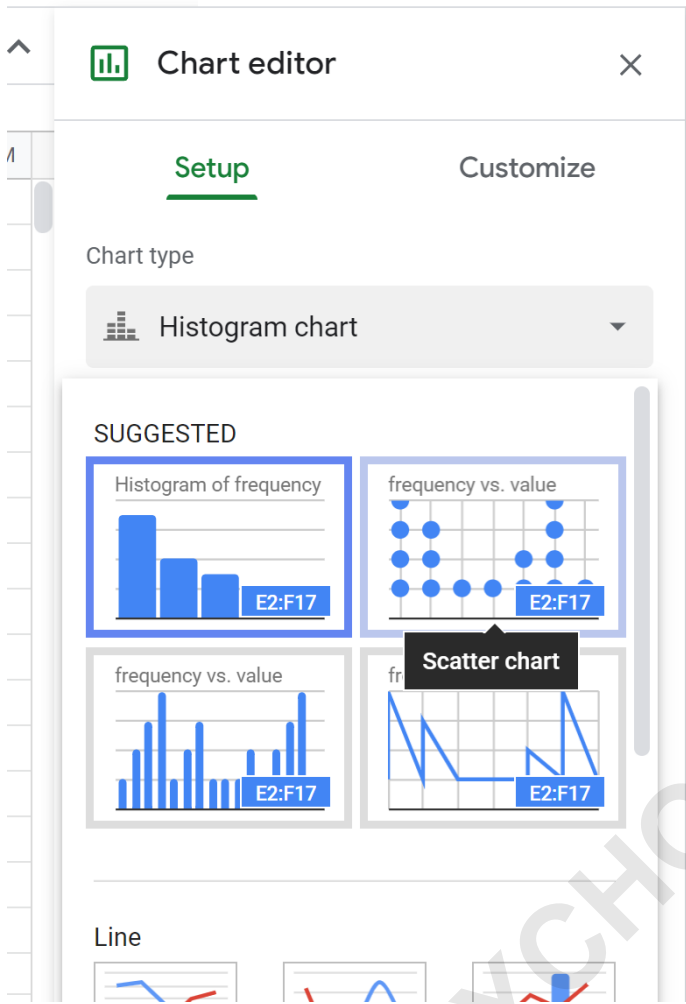
	A	B
1	value	frequency
2	1	1
3	2	2
4	3	3
5	4	4
6	5	1
7	6	2
8	7	3
9		1
10		1
11		1
12		2
13		1
14		2
15		3
16		4
17		1
18		
19		

The 'Insert' menu options are: 16 Rows above, 16 Rows below, 2 Columns left, 2 Columns right, Cells and shift down, Cells and shift right, Chart, Image, Drawing, Form, Function, Insert link (Ctrl+K), Checkbox, and Comment (Ctrl+Alt+M).

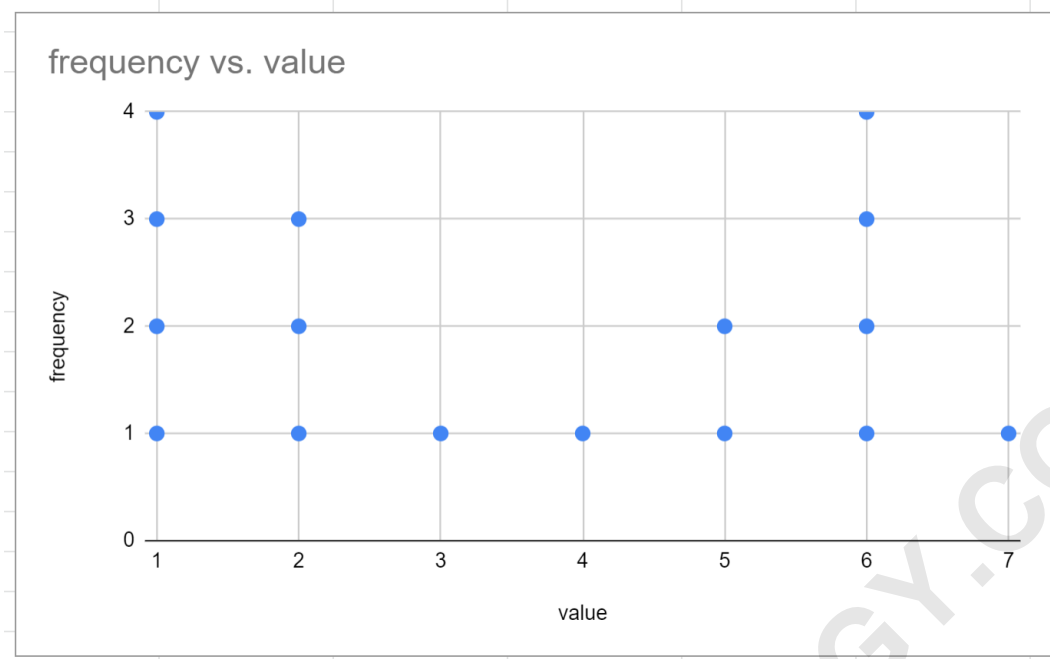
Google Sheets will insert a histogram by default. To turn this into a dot plot, click anywhere on the chart and then click the three vertical dots in the top right corner, then click Edit chart:



In the Chart editor panel that appears on the right side of the screen, click the Chart type option and then click Scatter chart:



The following plot will appear:



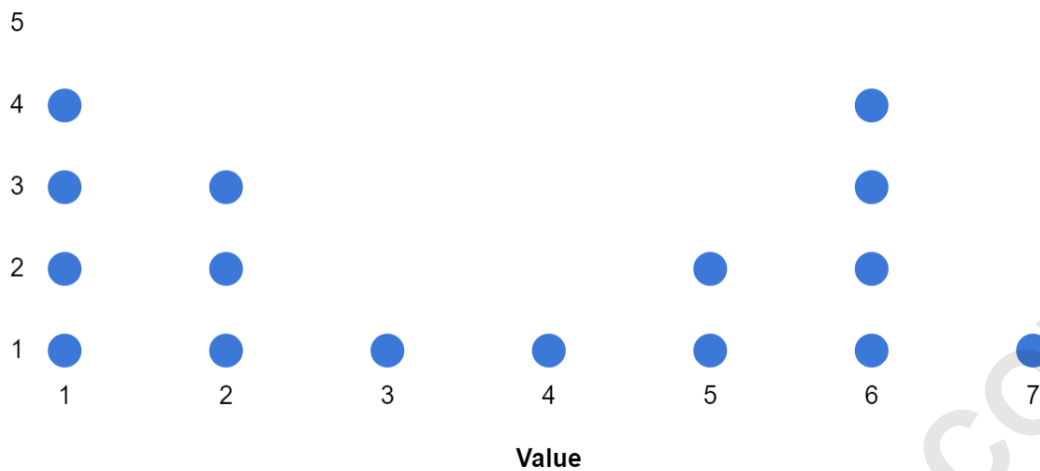
Step 3: Customize Dot Plot

Make the following changes to make the dot plot more aesthetically pleasing:

Double click the y-axis label and delete it. Double click the values on the y-axis and change the min value to .75 and the max value to 5. Double click the major and minor gridlines and delete both. Double click one of the dots in the plot and change the Point size to 14px. Double click the title and change it to whatever name you'd like.

Once we make each of these changes, here's what our final dot plot looks like:

Dot Plot of Values



The individual values are shown along the x-axis and the frequencies of those values are represented by the number of dots.

The following tutorials explain how to create other common visualizations in Google Sheets: