

graph twoway spike — Twoway spike plots[Description](#)
[Options](#)[Quick start](#)
[Remarks and examples](#)[Menu](#)
[Also see](#)[Syntax](#)

Description

`twoway spike` displays numerical (y,x) data as spikes. `twoway spike` is useful for drawing spike plots of time-series data or other equally spaced data and is useful as a programming tool. For sparse data, also see [G-2] [graph bar](#).

Quick start

A spike plot displaying a spike between (y, x) and 0

```
twoway spike y x
```

Same as above, with horizontal spikes

```
twoway spike y x, horizontal
```

Draw spikes from 200 instead of 0

```
twoway spike y x, base(200)
```

Same as above, but set overall appearance to that used by the *Stata Journal*

```
twoway spike y x, base(200) scheme(sj)
```

Menu

Graphics > Twoway graph (scatter, line, etc.)

Syntax

```
twoway spike yvar xvar [if] [in] [, options]
```

<i>options</i>	Description
<code>vertical</code>	vertical spike plot; the default
<code>horizontal</code>	horizontal spike plot
<code>base(#)</code>	value to drop to; default is 0
<i>line_options</i>	change look of spike lines
<i>colorvar_options</i>	change color of spike lines based on values of a variable
<i>axis_choice_options</i>	associate plot with alternative axis
<i>twoway_options</i>	titles, legends, axes, added lines and text, by, regions, name, aspect ratio, etc.

All explicit options are *rightmost*, except `vertical` and `horizontal`, which are *unique*; see [G-4] **Concept: repeated options**.

Options

`vertical` and `horizontal` specify either a vertical or a horizontal spike plot. `vertical` is the default. If `horizontal` is specified, the values recorded in `yvar` are treated as `x` values, and the values recorded in `xvar` are treated as `y` values. That is, to make horizontal plots, do not switch the order of the two variables specified.

In the `vertical` case, spikes are drawn at the specified `xvar` values and extend up or down from 0 according to the corresponding `yvar` values. If 0 is not in the range of the `y` axis, spikes extend up or down to the `x` axis.

In the `horizontal` case, spikes are drawn at the specified `xvar` values and extend left or right from 0 according to the corresponding `yvar` values. If 0 is not in the range of the `x` axis, spikes extend left or right to the `y` axis.

`base(#)` specifies the value from which the spike should extend. The default is `base(0)`; in the above description of options `vertical` and `horizontal`, this default was assumed.

line_options specify the look of the lines used to draw the spikes, including pattern, width, and color; see [G-3] *line_options*.

colorvar_options specify that the color of the lines used to draw the spikes be determined by the levels of the numeric variable `colorvar`; see [G-3] *colorvar_options*.

axis_choice_options associate the plot with a particular `y` or `x` axis on the graph; see [G-3] *axis_choice_options*.

twoway_options are a set of common options supported by all `twoway` graphs. These options allow you to title graphs, name graphs, control axes and legends, add lines and text, set aspect ratios, create graphs over `by()` groups, and change some advanced settings. See [G-3] *twoway_options*.

Remarks and examples

[stata.com](https://www.stata.com)

Remarks are presented under the following headings:

Typical use
Advanced use
Cautions

Typical use

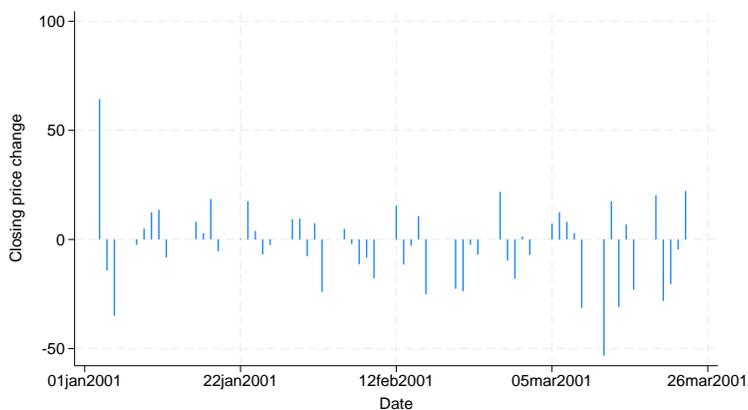
We have daily data recording the values for the S&P 500 in 2001:

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r18/sp500
(S&P 500)
. list date close change in 1/5
```

	date	close	change
1.	02jan2001	1283.27	.
2.	03jan2001	1347.56	64.29004
3.	04jan2001	1333.34	-14.22009
4.	05jan2001	1298.35	-34.98999
5.	08jan2001	1295.86	-2.48999

The example in [G-2] [graph twoway bar](#) graphed the first 57 observations of these data by using bars. Here is the same graph presented as spikes:

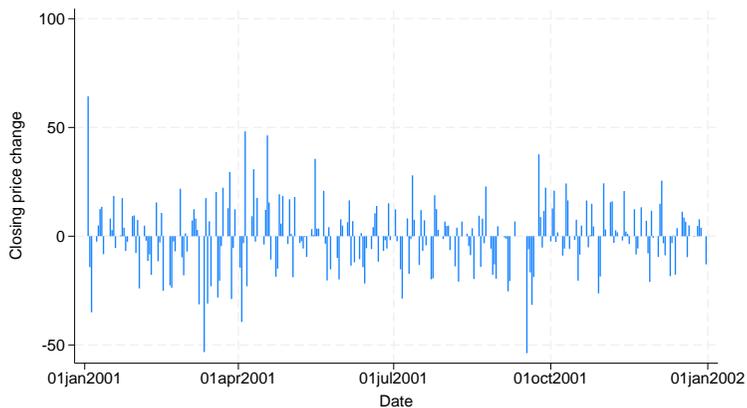
```
. twoway spike change date in 1/57
```



4 graph twoway spike — Twoway spike plots

Spikes are especially useful when there are a lot of data. The graph below shows the data for the entire year:

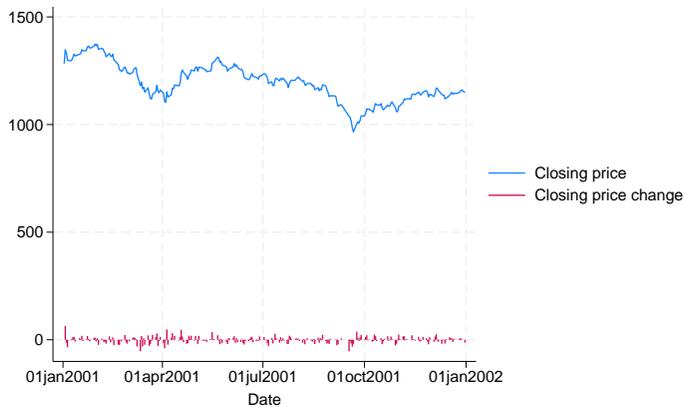
```
. twoway spike change date
```



Advanced use

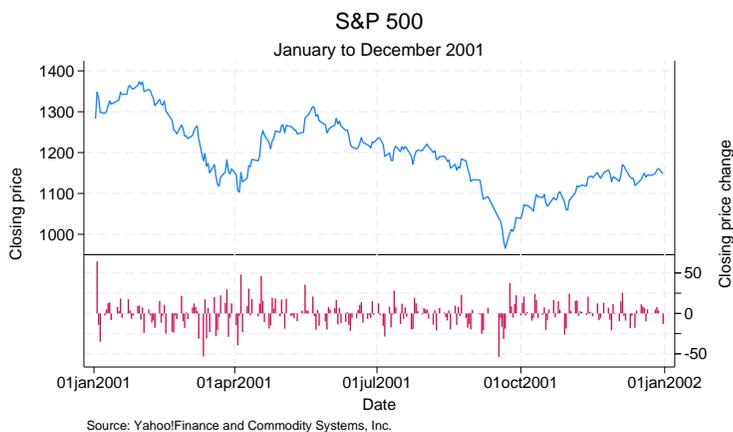
The useful thing about `twoway spike` is that it can be combined with other `twoway` plottypes (see [G-2] [graph twoway](#)):

```
. twoway line close date || spike change date
```



We can improve this graph by typing

```
. twoway
  line close date, yaxis(1)
  ||
  spike change date, yaxis(2)
  ||,
  ysca(axis(1) r(700 1400)) ylab(1000(100)1400, axis(1))
  ysca(axis(2) r(-50 300)) ylab(-50 0 50, axis(2))
  ytick(-50(25)50, axis(2) grid)
  legend(off)
  xtitle("Date")
  title("S&P 500")
  subtitle("January to December 2001")
  note("Source: Yahoo!Finance and Commodity Systems, Inc.")
  yline(950, axis(1) lstyle(foreground))
```



Concerning our use of

```
yline(950, axis(1) lstyle(foreground))
```

see [Advanced use: Overlaying](#) in [\[G-2\] graph twoway bar](#).

Cautions

See [Cautions](#) in [\[G-2\] graph twoway bar](#), which applies equally to `twoway spike`.

Also see

[\[G-2\] graph twoway bar](#) — Twoway bar plots

[\[G-2\] graph twoway dot](#) — Twoway dot plots

[\[G-2\] graph twoway dropline](#) — Twoway dropped-line plots

[\[G-2\] graph twoway scatter](#) — Twoway scatterplots

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