

Overview

Annotations are custom objects that add information to a graph, page layout or Gizmo plot.

Most annotations contain text that you might use to describe the contents of a graph, point out a feature of a wave, identify the axis that applies to a wave, or create a legend. An annotation can also contain color scales showing the data range associated with colors in contour and image plots.

There are four types of annotation: textboxes, legends, color scales, and tags.

A textbox contains one or more lines of text which optionally may be surrounded by a frame, rotated, colorized and aligned.

A legend is similar to a textbox except that it contains trace symbols for one or more waves in a graph. Legends are automatically updated when waves are added to or removed from the graph, or when a wave's appearance is modified.

A tag is also similar to a textbox except that it is attached to a point of a trace or image and can contain dynamically updated text describing that point. Tags can be added to graphs, but not to page layouts or Gizmo plots. In contour plots, Igor automatically generates tags to label the contour lines.

A color scale contains a color bar with an axis that spans the range of colors associated with the data. Color scales are automatically updated when the associated data changes. A color scale can also be completely disassociated from any data by directly specifying a named color table and an explicit numeric range for the axis.

Annotations Quick Start

To Do This	Do This
To add an annotation to a graph	Choose Add Annotation from the Graph menu.
To add an annotation to a page layout	Choose Add Annotation from the Layout menu or click with the annotation ("A") tool.
To add an annotation to a Gizmo plot	Choose Add Annotation from the Gizmo menu.
To modify an annotation in a graph or Gizmo plot	Double-click the annotation. This invokes the Modify Annotation dialog.
To modify an annotation in a page layout	Single-click the annotation with the annotation tool. This invokes the Modify Annotation dialog.
To change the annotation type	Use the Annotation pop-up menu in the Modify Annotation dialog, or use the proper Tag, TextBox, ColorScale, or Legend operation.
To move an existing annotation	Click in the annotation and drag it to the new position. If the annotation is frozen, this won't work — double-click it and make it moveable in the Annotation Position tab.
	To change a tag's attachment point, press Option (<i>Macintosh</i>) or Alt (<i>Windows</i>) and drag the tag text to the new attachment point on the wave. This works whether or not the tag is frozen.
To duplicate an existing annotation	Double-click the annotation, then click the Duplicate Textbox button in upper-right corner of the Modify Annotation dialog. If the annotation is a tag, the button is titled Duplicate Tag, etc.
To delete an annotation	Double-click the annotation, then click the Delete button in the Modify Annotation dialog. A tag can be deleted by dragging its attachment point off the graph.