This initiates the construction of a stem and leaf display. The stem & leaf display attempts to represent all values in a data set in a simplified format with the unit part being called the stem, and the characters after the stem being represented by the leaf unit, which will usually be the rounded first part of the number without its stem.

The graphical display lays the stems out vertically with the leaves extended horizontally to the right of their parent stem. In this way a form of chart is constructed which can show at a glance under which stem the greatest number of data values occur in that data set. The display therefore does not attempt to accurately display the actual numbers, but only their relative positions within the data set. A corollary is that a data set with a wide range (extending over more than one power of 10) will need to use the largest power of 10 as the basis of its stems, and so that the detail of the smaller data values may be obscured by the need to fit all the values onto the display. Also, the median and quartile values for the data set can be determined by counting the individual leaves until the middle value etc. is found, which is facilitated by the cumulative count in the leftmost column.

This is not a particularly sophisticated method of obtaining a frequency histogram of your data. The Histogram option is more powerful.

See Plotting Routines for more general information as well.