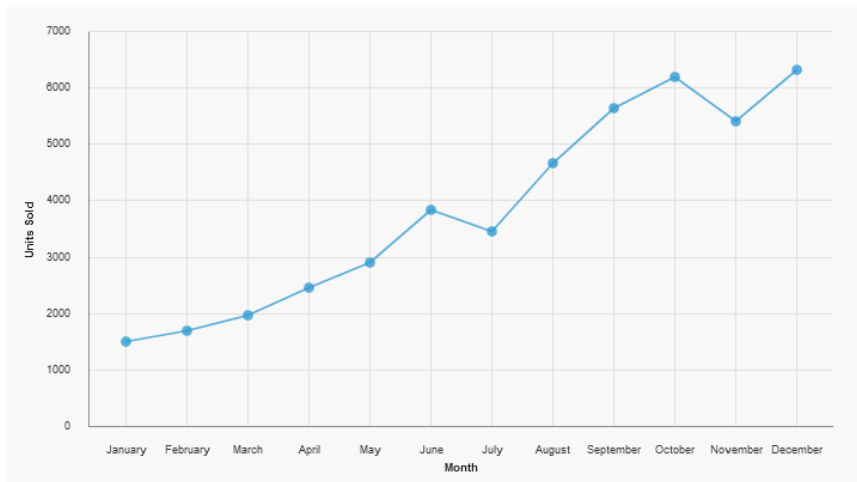


Craig and Steve's Tip of the Day: Day 5

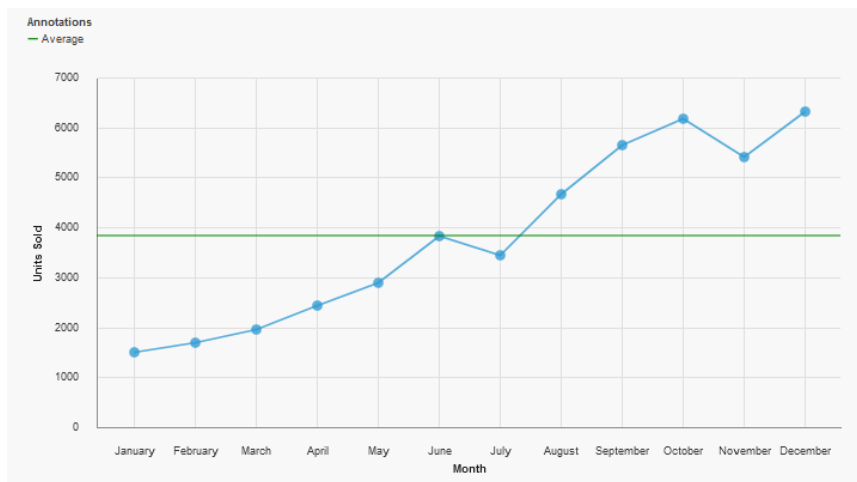
How to add an Average line (baseline) to a Line visualization

May 20, 2021
Beginner/Intermediate
IBM Cognos Analytics 11.2.0

Suppose you have a Line visualization showing units sold by month:



How does each point relate to the average? Is it above or below? To answer this question, we can add an Average baseline, like this:



Procedure

1. Select the Line visualization and click the ellipsis button next to the *Baselines* property:

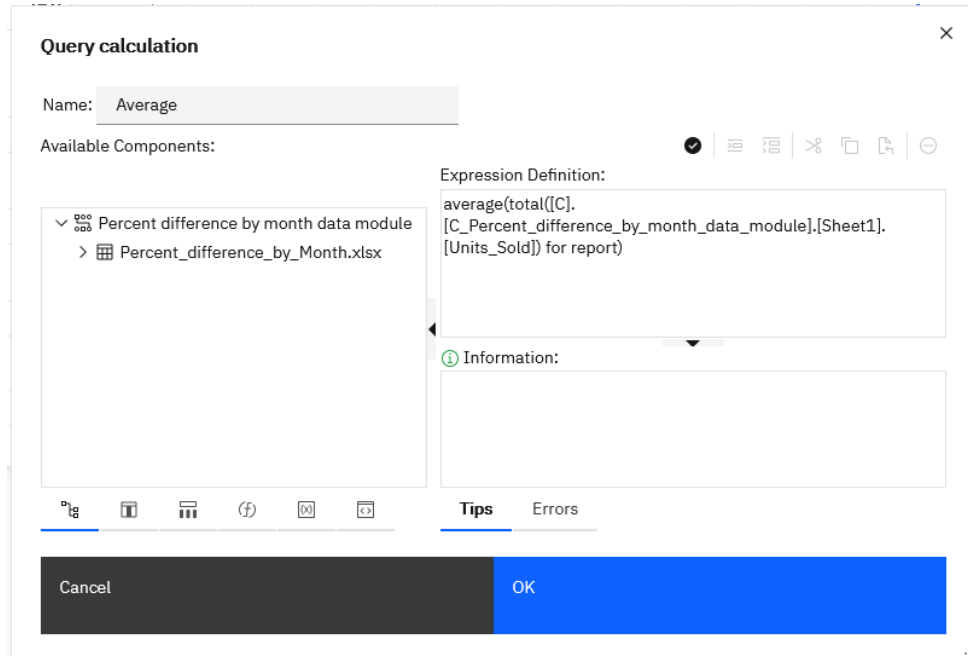
The screenshot shows a dashboard with a line chart and a properties panel. The chart is titled "Double-click to edit text" and displays a line with circular markers for each month from April to December. A red box highlights the "Baselines" property in the properties panel, which is currently empty. The properties panel includes sections for Visualization, Conditional, General, Miscellaneous, Visualization, Line, Color Palette, Annotations, and Item Axis.

2. In the resulting dialog, click *New* and select *Query calculation*:

The screenshot shows the "Baselines" dialog box. It has a title bar "Baselines" and a close button. The main area contains a text area with the text "Add a new baseline to define its properties." Below the text area is a "+" button, which is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points to the "Query calculation" option in the dropdown menu that appears below the "+" button. The "OK" button is also visible.

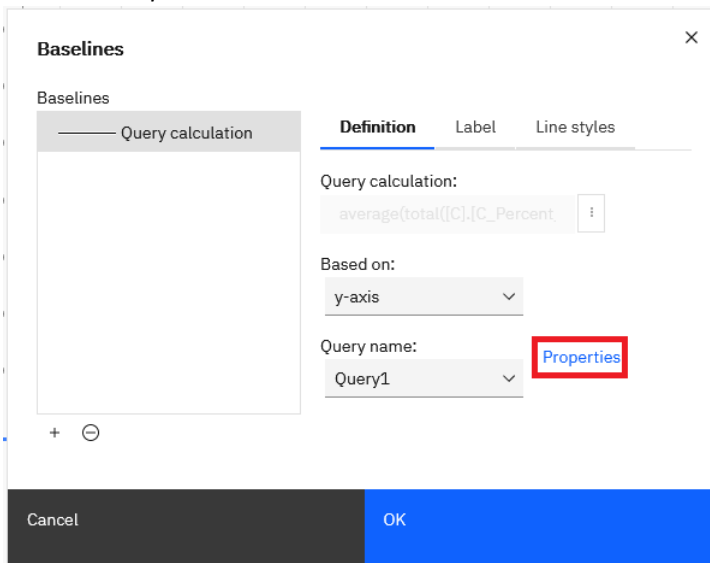
3. Enter the following:
 - a. Name: Average

- b. Expression Definition:
average(total([C].[C_Percent_difference_by_month_data_module].[Sheet1].[Units_Sold] for report)

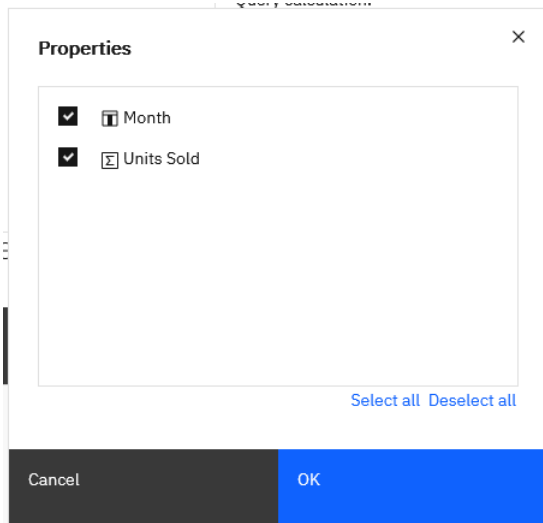


- c. Click OK

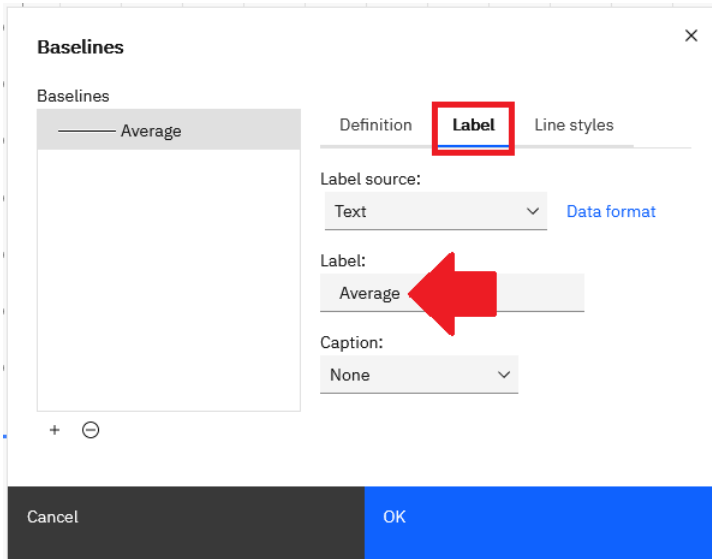
4. Click the *Properties* link:



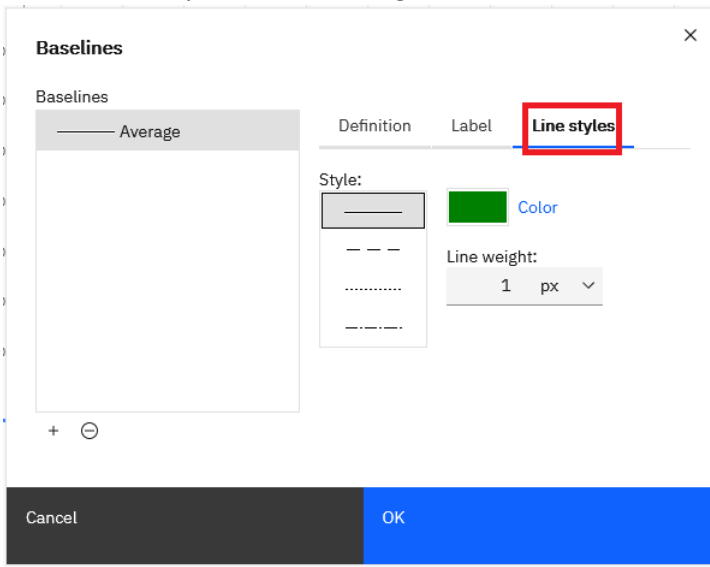
5. Select all the available checkboxes and click *OK*:



6. Click the *Label* tab and type "Average" in the *Label* textbox:



7. Click the *Line styles* tab and change the *Color* to Green:



8. Click *OK*

9. The report now looks like this:

