

Using @Functions

Another way of performing calculations on your data is by using *@functions*. @Functions are special commands you type into your formulas to perform specific calculations. They are called @functions because they all begin with the @ (“at”) sign, which is typed by pressing **SHIFT+2**. These ready-made formulas can save you the time and trouble of typing and pointing. For example, the @SUM function adds all cells within a given block. So, for instance, if you wanted to add cells B8, B9, B10, B11, B12, B13, and B14, you wouldn’t need to enter all the cell references and operators by typing or pointing. You would just insert the name of the function and the block of cells you want to add. Instead of entering a long string of cell references such as +B8+B9+B10+B11+B12+B13+B14, you would enter @SUM(B8..B14).

Using the @SUM Function

The @SUM function is the most frequently used @function. It totals the numeric value of all cells in the block it references. The @SUM function is illustrated on the input line in Figure 2-5.

If you want to enter a block of cells in a formula, you do so by entering the *block coordinates*. Enter the block coordinates as follows: the address of the top left cell, two periods, and the address of the right bottom cell. In @functions, the cell coordinates are called *arguments*. In a formula, cells in the referenced block that contain text or error values are ignored.

A:F11		@SUM(C11..E11)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2			Bob's Boats				
3			Sales Report				
4							
5			1995	1996	1997	Region Totals	
6							
7	REGION 1		1024	1000	989	3013	
8	REGION 2		2599	500	798	3897	
9	REGION 3		3456	1000	723	5179	
10	REGION 4		5647	4536	890	11073	
11	REGION 5		9284	890	1000	11174	
12	Yearly Total						
13							

Figure 2-5: Entering the @SUM Function