

Description

The *cline_options* specify how points on a graph are to be connected.

In certain contexts (for example, `scatter`; see [G-2] **graph twoway scatter**), the `lpattern()`, `lwidth()`, `lcolor()`, and `lstyle()` options may be specified with a list of elements, with the first element applying to the first variable, the second element to the second variable, and so on. For information on specifying lists, see [G-4] *stylelists*.

Syntax

<i>cline_options</i>	Description
<code>connect(<i>connectstyle</i>)</code>	how to connect points
<code>lpattern(<i>linepatternstyle</i>)</code>	line pattern (solid, dashed, etc.)
<code>lwidth(<i>linewidthstyle</i>)</code>	thickness of line
<code>lcolor(<i>colorstyle</i>)</code>	color and opacity of line
<code>lalign(<i>linealignmentstyle</i>)</code>	line alignment (inside, outside, center)
<code>lstyle(<i>linestyle</i>)</code>	overall style of line
<code>pstyle(<i>pstyle</i>)</code>	overall plot style, including linestyle
<code>recast(<i>newplottype</i>)</code>	advanced; treat plot as <i>newplottype</i>

All options are *rightmost*; see [G-4] **Concept: repeated options**.

Some plots do not allow `recast()`.

Options

`connect(connectstyle)` specifies whether points are to be connected and, if so, how the line connecting them is to be shaped; see [G-4] *connectstyle*. The line between each pair of points can connect them directly or in stairstep fashion.

`lpattern(linepatternstyle)`, `lwidth(linewidthstyle)`, `lcolor(colorstyle)`, and `lstyle(linestyle)` determine the look of the line used to connect the points; see [G-4] **Concept: lines**. Note the `lpattern()` option, which allows you to specify whether the line is solid, dashed, etc.; see [G-4] *linepatternstyle* for a list of line-pattern choices.

`pstyle(pstyle)` specifies the overall style of the plot, including not only the *linestyle*, but also all other settings for the look of the plot. Only the *linestyle* affects the look of line plots. See [G-4] *pstyle* for a list of available plot styles.

`recast(newplottype)` is an advanced option allowing the plot to be recast from one type to another, for example, from a **line plot** to a **scatterplot**; see [G-3] *advanced_options*. Most, but not all, plots allow `recast()`.

Remarks and examples

An important option among all the above is `connect()`, which determines whether and how the points are connected. The points need not be connected at all (`connect(i)`), which is `scatter`'s default. Or the points might be connected by straight lines (`connect(1)`), which is `line`'s default (and is available in `scatter`). `connect(i)` and `connect(1)` are commonly specified, but there are other possibilities such as `connect(J)`, which connects in stairstep fashion and is appropriate for empirical distributions. See [G-4] *connectstyle* for a full list of your choices.

The remaining connect options specify how the line is to look: Is it solid or dashed? Is it red or green? How thick is it? Option `lpattern()` can be of great importance, especially when printing to a monochrome printer. For a general discussion of lines (which occur in many contexts other than connecting points), see [G-4] **Concept: lines**.

Also see

[G-4] **Concept: lines** — Using lines

[G-4] *colorstyle* — Choices for color

[G-4] *connectstyle* — Choices for how points are connected

[G-4] *linealignmentstyle* — Choices for whether outlines are inside, outside, or centered

[G-4] *linepatternstyle* — Choices for whether lines are solid, dashed, etc.

[G-4] *linestyle* — Choices for overall look of lines

[G-4] *linewidthstyle* — Choices for thickness of lines

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