Title

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cline_options — Options for connecting points with lines (subset of connect options)

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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()`, `lalign()`, 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

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

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*`)`, `lalign(`*linealignmentstyle*`)`, 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

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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(l)`), which is `line`'s default (and is available in `scatter`). `connect(i)` and `connect(l)` 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