

**Concept: lines** — Using lines

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## Description

Lines occur in many contexts—in borders, axes, the ticks on axes, the outline around symbols, the connecting of points in a plot, and more. *linestyle*, *linealignmentstyle*, *linepatternstyle*, *linewidthstyle*, and *colorstyle* define the look of the line.

## Syntax

The following affects how a line appears:

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<i>linestyle</i>	overall style
<i>linealignmentstyle</i>	whether inside, outside, or centered
<i>linepatternstyle</i>	whether solid, dashed, etc.
<i>linewidthstyle</i>	its thickness
<i>colorstyle</i>	its color and opacity

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## Remarks and examples

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Remarks are presented under the following headings:

*linestyle*  
*linealignmentstyle*  
*linepatternstyle*  
*linewidthstyle*  
*colorstyle*

*linestyle*, *linealignmentstyle*, *linepatternstyle*, *linewidthstyle*, and *colorstyle* are specified inside options that control how the line is to appear. Regardless of the object, these options usually have the same names:

```
lstyle(linestyle)
lalign(linealignmentstyle)
lpattern(linepatternstyle)
lwidth(linewidthstyle)
lcolor(colorstyle)
```

Though for a few objects, such as markers, the form of the names is

```
{object}lstyle(linestyle)
{object}lalign(linealignmentstyle)
{object}lpattern(linepatternstyle)
{object}lwidth(linewidthstyle)
{object}lcolor(linecolorstyle)
```

For instance,

- The options to specify how the lines connecting points in a plot are to appear are specified by the options `lstyle()`, `lalign()`, `lpattern()`, `lwidth()`, and `lcolor()`; see [G-3] [connect\\_options](#).
- The options to specify how the outline appears on an area plot are specified by the options `lstyle()`, `lalign()`, `lpattern()`, `lwidth()`, and `lcolor()`; see [G-3] [area\\_options](#).
- The suboptions to specify how the border around a textbox, such as a title, are to appear are named `lstyle()`, `lalign()`, `lpattern()`, `lwidth()`, and `lcolor()`; see [G-3] [textbox\\_options](#).
- The options to specify how the outline around markers is to appear are specified by the options `mlstyle()`, `mlalign()`, `mlpattern()`, `mlwidth()`, and `mlcolor()`; see [G-3] [marker\\_options](#).

Wherever these options arise, they always come as a group, and they have the same meaning.

### linestyle

*linestyle* is specified inside the `lstyle()` option or sometimes inside the `<object>lstyle()` option.

*linestyle* specifies the overall style of the line: its alignment (inside, outside, centered), pattern (solid, dashed, etc.), thickness, and color.

You need not specify the `lstyle()` option just because there is something you want to change about the look of the line and, in fact, most of the time you do not. You specify `lstyle()` when another style exists that is exactly what you desire or when another style would allow you to specify fewer changes to obtain what you want.

See [G-4] [linestyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lstyle()` option.

### linealignmentstyle

*linealignmentstyle* is specified inside the `lalign()` or `<object>lalign()` option.

*linealignmentstyle* specifies whether the line is drawn inside, is drawn outside, or is centered on the outline of markers, fill areas, bars, and boxes.

See [G-4] [linealignmentstyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lalign()` option.

### linepatternstyle

*linepatternstyle* is specified inside the `lpattern()` or `<object>lpattern()` option.

*linepatternstyle* specifies whether the line is solid, dashed, etc.

See [G-4] [linepatternstyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lpattern()` option.

### linewidthstyle

*linewidthstyle* is specified inside the `lwidth()` or `<object>lwidth()` option.

*linewidthstyle* specifies the thickness of the line.

See [G-4] [linewidthstyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lwidth()` option.

## colorstyle

*colorstyle* is specified inside the `lcolor()` or `<object>lcolor()` option.

*colorstyle* specifies the color and opacity of the line.

See [G-4] *colorstyle* for the list of what may be specified inside the `lcolor()` option.

## Also see

[G-3] *connect\_options* — Options for connecting points with lines

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

[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