
Subject: Changing the symbol, color, etc., of "mean" indicator in box plots

Posted by [laura.hike](#) on Wed, 30 Apr 2014 22:54:46 GMT

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Can anyone give me syntax for changing the symbol used to indicate the mean in box and whisker plots made using BOXPLOT? This is the first time I've used the new graphics methods and obviously I'm missing something.

<http://www.exelisvis.fr/docs/boxplot.html> tells me to "use this graphic symbol (SYMBOL_MEANS) to control all of the symbol properties for the mean values, if specified. See SYMBOL for more information," but I really don't understand what's said on

<http://www.exelisvis.fr/docs/symbol.html>

I tried setting `foo.symbol_means` using

`foo.symbol_means = 'tu'` setting `symbol_means`

using the `symbol` command (`symbol_means = symbol(locations, means, 'tu', target = 'foo')` and even

`foo = symbol_means(locations, means, 'tu')` (where 'foo' is the name of the original graphic object).

Most of the time the command was accepted but nothing changed in the plot. Any tips? Surely there's a quick solution.

Thanks!

Laura H.

Subject: Re: Changing the symbol, color, etc., of "mean" indicator in box plots

Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Thu, 01 May 2014 04:04:05 GMT

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On Wednesday, April 30, 2014 4:54:46 PM UTC-6, [laura...@gmail.com](#) wrote:

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there's a quick solution.
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>
> Thanks!
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>
> Laura H.

Hi Laura,

That symbol_means actually returns a Symbol object, which you can then manipulate. For
example:

```
b = boxplot(...)
s = b.symbol_means
print, s ; prints out all the properties
s.symbol = "tu"
```

This assumes that you have set the mean_values keyword when you created the box plot.

Cheers,
Chris

Subject: Re: Changing the symbol, color, etc., of "mean" indicator in box plots
Posted by [laura.hike](#) on Thu, 01 May 2014 19:22:20 GMT
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On Wednesday, April 30, 2014 9:04:05 PM UTC-7, Chris Torrence wrote:
> On Wednesday, April 30, 2014 4:54:46 PM UTC-6, laura...@gmail.com wrote:
>

>> Can anyone give me syntax for changing the symbol used to indicate the mean in box and whisker plots made using BOXPLOT? This is the first time I've used the new graphics methods and obviously I'm missing something.

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> This assumes that you have set the mean_values keyword when you created the box plot.
>
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> Cheers,
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```

> Chris

Great, thanks! I assume I can also use these commands within a program. Having interactive graphics is nice for establishing layouts!

Subject: Re: Changing the symbol, color, etc., of "mean" indicator in box plots
Posted by [laura.hike](#) on Thu, 01 May 2014 19:37:11 GMT
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I suppose there isn't a way to make all the changes in one statement, like

```
s = SYMBOL(0.5, 0.5, '*', SYM_COLOR='Blue', SYM_SIZE=2, $  
  SYM_THICK=3, /NORMAL, LABEL_STRING='My annotation')
```

because the symbols were already created in the BOXPLOT command?

Subject: Re: Changing the symbol, color, etc., of "mean" indicator in box plots
Posted by [chris_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Fri, 02 May 2014 00:32:34 GMT
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On Thursday, May 1, 2014 1:37:11 PM UTC-6, laura...@gmail.com wrote:

```
> I suppose there isn't a way to make all the changes in one statement, like  
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>  
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> s = SYMBOL(0.5, 0.5, '*', SYM_COLOR='Blue', SYM_SIZE=2, $  
>  
>   SYM_THICK=3, /NORMAL, LABEL_STRING='My annotation')  
>  
>  
>  
> because the symbols were already created in the BOXPLOT command?
```

Well, you can get the object and then call ::SetProperty:

```
s = b.symbol_means  
s.SetProperty, SYM_COLOR='Blue', SYM_SIZE=2, $  
  SYM_THICK=3, /NORMAL, LABEL_STRING='My annotation'
```

-Chris
