
Subject: cgBoxPlot - not a useful function!!!

Posted by [atmospheric physics](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 2014 08:49:24 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Dear All,

I find cgBoxPlot as not at all a flexible function in Coyote library. I have the following observations:

I provided a data matrix (m x n dimensions) and it automatically computes the required statistical parameters (i.e., median, lower quartile, upper quartile, minimum and maximum) in each columnar data for box-whisker plot.

(a) At all times, one does not want to represent the outliers. There is 'no option' in the keywords available to 'offset' the display of outlier points in the plot. No option to control the size of outlier point.

(b) You will never find outliers in the box-whisker representing the first column data!!!

(c) Inclusion of 'YLOG' keyword make the Y-axis in log-scale but does not scale the plotting data to log-scale.

Please suggest me if my observations above are wrong!!!

I request David to refine the above function, if my observations are meaningful concerns.

Thanking you all once again.

Madhavan

Subject: Re: cgBoxPlot - not a useful function!!!

Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 2014 17:08:21 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi,

On 08.08.2014 10:49, Madhavan Bomidi wrote:

> (a) At all times, one does not want to represent the outliers.

I agree. This is why I made my own version of cgBoxPlot based on David's code. But I keep it for me, because I wouldn't be happy if people complained about something I give for free.

> (b) You will never find outliers in the the first column data!!!

I don't know about this, but I think you should provide a simple test case that reproduces this error.

> I request David to refine the above function,

David is providing the coyote library for free. It is not nice to

"request" him to do something. Furthermore, he is on holidays and probably doesn't care about your problem at all right now.

I see two solutions:

1. you build your own boxplot based on David's code (free)
2. you buy IDL 8.3 and use IDL's boxplot (not free):
<http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/BOXPLOT.html>

Cheers,

Fabien

Subject: Re: cgBoxPlot - not a useful function!!!
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 2014 17:53:51 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 8/8/14, 11:08 AM, Fabien wrote:

- > I see two solutions:
- > 1. you build your own boxplot based on David's code (free)

Not really free, though, assuming you are doing this for a job where you are paid.

- > 2. you buy IDL 8.3 and use IDL's boxplot (not free):
- > <http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/BOXPLOT.html>

I would add another choice...

3. Hire someone (David seems a good choice here) to make the additions/corrections.

Mike

--

Michael Galloy
www.michaelgalloy.com
Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: cgBoxPlot - not a useful function!!!
Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 2014 19:28:07 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Yeah, I agree with Craig on this one. If you think cgBoxPlot or anything else for that matter isn't good, buggy, or simply not good for you, then I say you maybe just don't use it. If the point of your

post was to simply alert someone to the assumptions, bugs, or limitations to cgBoxPlot, so they could be fixed, documented, or ignored them, then I think your tone came off as a bit demanding. And, as Craig notes, given the cg Library didn't cost you anything, it's hard to justify a demanding tone. I'm willing to bet that was not your intention and that the tone was in a blog post. Nevertheless, you'll catch more flies with honey than vinegar, and perhaps try to be a little less offensive to someone who offered you a brilliant, very flexible, and very polished library for free, even if one of the routines is not meeting your exact needs or has issues. He didn't have to share cgBoxPlot (or any of the library); where would you be then?

Just a tip,
Russell

On Friday, August 8, 2014 4:49:24 AM UTC-4, Madhavan Bomidi wrote:

> Dear All,
>
>
>
> I find cgBoxPlot as not at all a flexible function in Coyote library. I have the following observations:
>
>
>
> I provided a data matrix (m x n dimensions) and it automatically computes the required statistical parameters (i.e., median, lower quartile, upper quartile, minimum and maximum) in each columnar data for box-whisker plot.
>
>
>
> (a) At all times, one does not want to represent the outliers. There is 'no option' in the keywords available to 'offset' the display of outlier points in the plot. No option to control the size of outlier point.
>
>
>
> (b) You will never find outliers in the box-whisker representing the first column data!!!
>
>
>
> (c) Inclusion of 'YLOG' keyword make the Y-axis in log-scale but does not scale the plotting data to log-scale.
>
>
>
> Please suggest me if my observations above are wrong!!!
>
>
>

> I request David to refine the above function, if my observations are meaningful concerns.
>
>
>
> Thanking you all once again.
>
> Madhavan

Subject: Re: cgBoxPlot - not a useful function!!!
Posted by [atmospheric physics](#) on Mon, 11 Aug 2014 08:57:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Dear All,

My sole intention was to simply alert others and if someone else agree to my findings. I am sorry if my wording is commanding. I don't mean to command David or someone else to do this. I just wanted to share my opinion or my findings/experience with the freely available cgBoxPlot function. In case if someone have any plans to revise this function, may be the above comments will be helpful for them to refine the same. Since David is the author of this function, I am thankful for him for providing many wonderful IDL library functions and I felt my comments will be useful for him to re-look at his function if he intends to revise. If he finds that the current function is fine, then I don't have any problem.

Once again I am sorry for hurting anyone directly or indirectly with my wording.

Thanks for your concerns!!!

Subject: Re: cgBoxPlot - not a useful function!!!
Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Mon, 11 Aug 2014 09:53:31 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi Madhavan,

thanks for your answer.

For point (a), I think I could suggest my "adapted" cgBoxPlot to David and he will decide if he includes my changes. I also added some other features but I wouldn't call them "public ready" yet and I don't have time to make them pretty right now.

For point (b) and (c), you should provide us a so-called "minimal working example" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimal_Working_Example) that reproduces the problem you are facing.
