

# Visualize an ANOVA with two-way interactions

By [Rick Wicklin](#) on [The DO Loop](#) | April 24, 2017

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There are several ways to visualize data in a two-way ANOVA model. Most visualizations show a variable for each category. However, for small data sets, it can be useful to overlay the raw data. That is, you can use to combine two categorical variables and plot the raw data for the joint levels of the

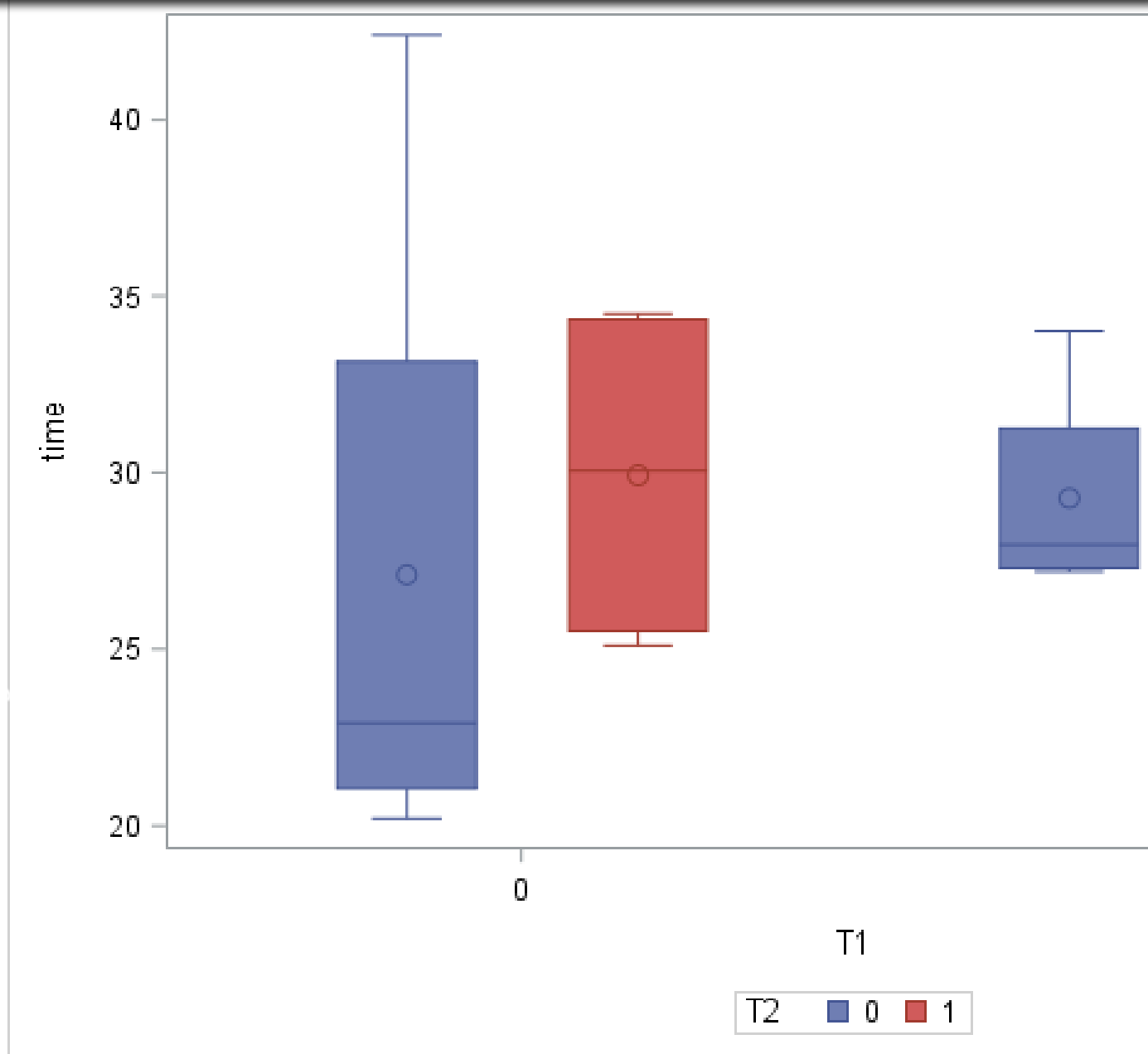
## An ANOVA for two-way interactions

Recall that an [ANOVA \(ANalysis Of VAriance\) model](#) is used to understand differences among groups and between groups. The documentation for the ROBUSTREG procedure in SAS/STAT contains [a traditional ANOVA using PROC GLM with a robust ANOVA that uses PROC ROBUSTREG](#). The response variable is the time (Time) for 16 mice who were randomly assigned to different combinations of two successive treatments (T1 and T2). (The mice that received treatment T1 first and then T2 are better.) The data are shown below:

```
data recover;
input T1 $ T2 $ Time @@;
datalines;
0 0 20.2 0 0 23.9 0 0 21.9 0 0 42.4
1 0 27.2 1 0 34.0 1 0 27.4 1 0 28.5
0 1 25.9 0 1 34.5 0 1 25.1 0 1 34.2
1 1 35.0 1 1 33.9 1 1 38.3 1 1 39.9
;
```

The response variable depends on the joint levels of the binary variables T1 and T2. A first attempt might be to create a box plot of the four combinations of T1 and T2. You can do this by assigning T1 and T2 to be a "group" variable in a clustered box plot, as follows:

```
title "Response for Two Groups";
title2 "Use VBOX Statement with Categories and Groups";
proc sgplot data=recover;
vbox Time / category=T1 group=T2;
run;
```



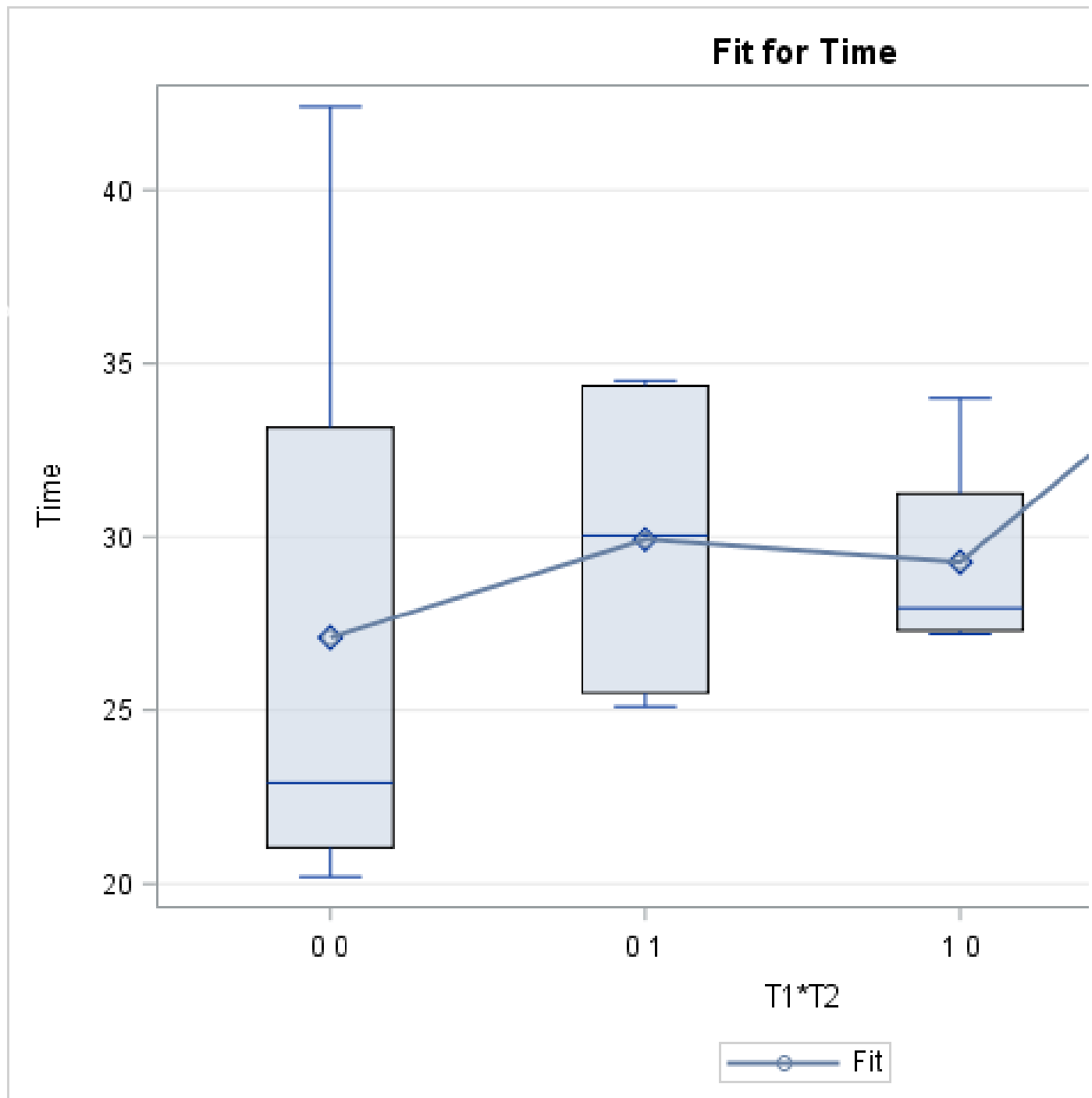
The graph shows the distribution of response for the four joint combinations of T1 and T2. The graph is a box plot because the category levels are 0/1. The two box plots on the left are for T1=0, which means "Did not receive the T1 treatment". The two box plots on the right are for mice who received the T1 treatment. Within those clusters, the blue boxes indicate the distribution of responses for the mice who did not receive the T2 treatment, whereas the red boxes indicate that they did receive T2. Both treatments seem to increase the mean survival time for mice, and receiving both treatments results in the highest survival times.

Interpreting the graph took a little thought. Also, the colors seem somewhat arbitrary. I think the graph would be clearer if the category labels indicate the joint levels. In other words, I'd prefer to see a box plot of the levels of T1 and T2. If possible, I'd also like to optionally plot the raw response values.

## Method 1: Use the EFFECTPLOT statement

The LOGISTIC and GENMOD procedures in SAS/STAT support [the EFFECTPLOT statement](#). Most procedures support [the STORE statement](#), which enables you to save a regression model and the supports the EFFECTPLOT statement). The EFFECTPLOT statement can create a variety of plots including a box plot of the joint levels for two categorical variables, as shown by the following state

```
/* Use the EFFECTPLOT statement in PROC GENMOD, or use the STORE statement and PROC PLM */
proc genmod data=recover;
  class T1 T2;
  model Time = T1 T2 T1 *T2;
  effectplot box / cluster;
  effectplot interaction / obs(jitter); /* or use interaction plot to see raw data */
run;
```



The resulting graph uses box plots to show the schematic distribution of each of the joint levels of second EFFECTPLOT statement creates an "interaction plot" that shows the raw values and mean group are connected, which makes it easier to compare adjacent means. The labels indicate the level variable. I think this graph is an improvement over the previous multi-colored box plot, and I find it

Although the EFFECTPLOT statement makes it easy to create this plot, the EFFECTPLOT statement does not show raw values on the box plots. (You can, however, see the raw values on the "interaction plot".) The way to create the box plots.

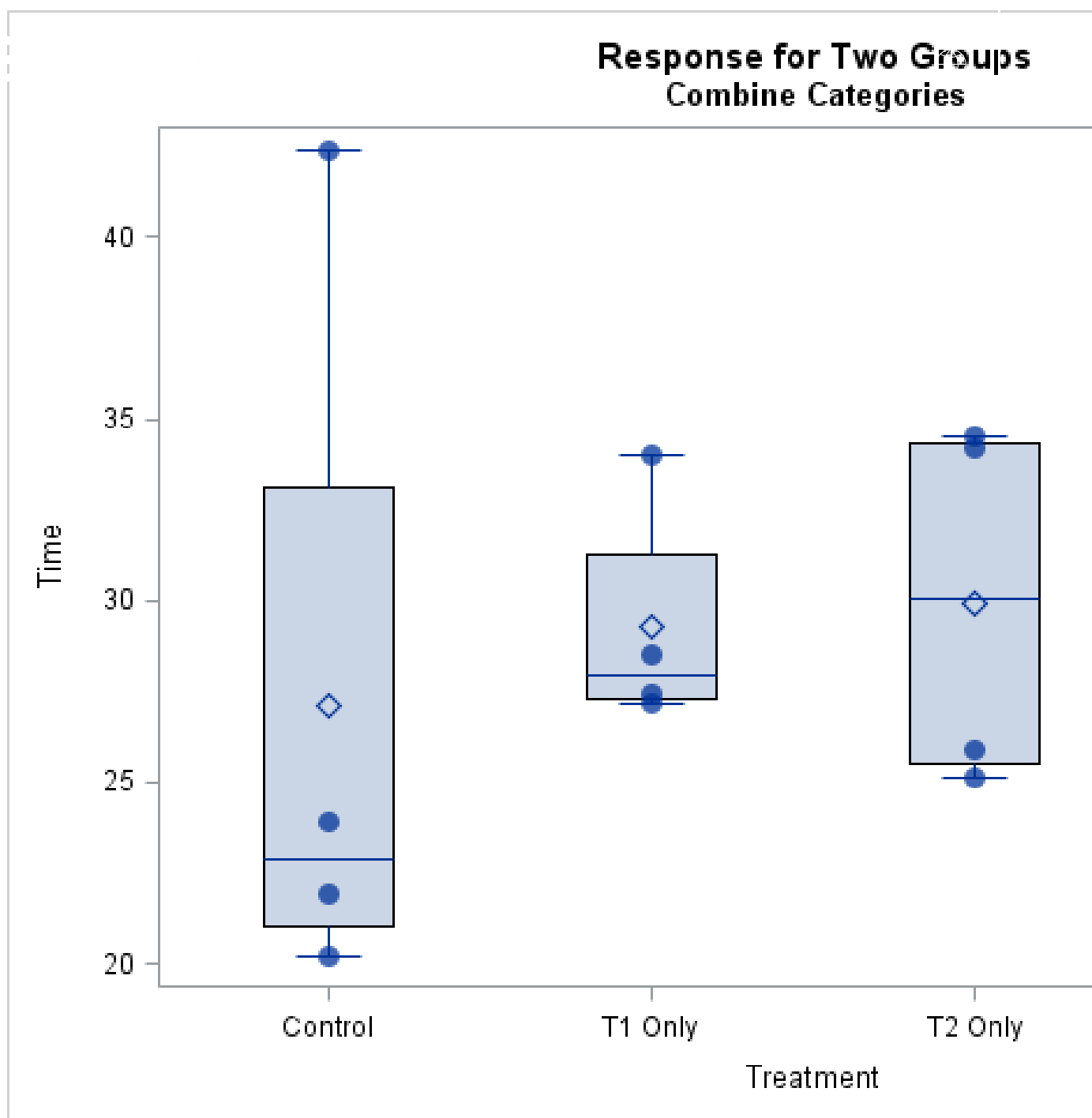
## Method 2: Concatenate values to form joint levels of categories

You can explicitly form the interaction variable (T1\*T2) by using the CATX function to concatenate in the following DATA step view. Because the levels are binary-encoded, the resulting levels are '00', '01', '10', and '11'. You can then define a SAS format to make the joint levels more readable. You can then display the box plots for each level, optionally, overlay the raw values:

```
data recover2 / view=recover2;
length Treatment $3;      /* specify length of concatenated variable */
set recover;
Treatment = catx(' ',T1,T2); /* combine into one group */
run;

proc format;              /* make the joint levels more readable */
  value $ TreatFmt '0 0' = 'Control'
                  '1 0' = 'T1 Only'
                  '0 1' = 'T2 Only'
                  '1 1' = 'T1 and T2';
run;

proc sgplot data=recover2 noautolegend;
  format Treatment $TreatFmt;
  vbox Time / category=Treatment;
  scatter x=Treatment y=Time / jitter markerattrs=(symbol=CircleFilled size=10);
  xaxis discreteorder=data;
run;
```



By manually concatenating the two categorical variables to form a new interaction variable, you have more control over the visualization. You can also overlay the raw data, as shown. The raw data indicates that the "Control" group seen who lived longer than would be expected for his treatment. Using PROC ROBUSTREG to compute deal with extreme outliers in the ANOVA setting.

In summary, the EFFECTPLOT statement enables you to quickly create box plots that show the response of two categorical variables. However, sometimes you might want more control, such as the ability to overlay raw data. This article shows how to use the CATX function to manually create a new variable that

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Rick Wicklin, PhD, is a distinguished researcher in computational statistics at SAS and IML and SAS/IML Studio. His areas of expertise include computational statistics, simulation, and modern methods in statistical data analysis. Rick is author of the books *Statistical Programming* and *Simulating Data with SAS*.

