
Subject: Re: Trouble with IDL 5.0.2 (filled contours) unsolved?
Posted by [Mikael Barfred](#) on Tue, 03 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Hello,

I have searched dejanev for articles in this newsgroup regarding the filled contour problems in IDL 5.0.2. I got a handfull of recent articles on this, indicating that I am not the only frustrated IDL 5.0.2 user, but none of them had a solution or even an explanation to the problem, so I will try to raise the question again:

I have a global dataset, and two vectors holding the lon and lat coordinates.
I plot them using:

```
map_set  
contour, DATA, LON, LAT, nlevels=10, /cell_fill, /overplot
```

When plotting, it does the right thing most of the time, but suddenly during the process, big spikes and triangles may be drawn across the whole plot, leaving the result useless, of course.

some times, but not always, it writes:

```
% Program caused arithmetic error: Floating illegal operand
```

after completing the plot.

I have access to both IDL v. 5.0.2 and v. 4.0.1. In the old version, exactly the same task using exactly the same data, produces the correct plot with no spurious spikes or triangles messing everything up, and no error messages afterwards.

Some detailed info (which may not be relevant?):

The DATA array is 320x160 with range: -3000 to 55000 and no undefined values. It starts from (-180, -90), as the IDL 5.0.2 contour doc. says "the X and Y arrays (if supplied) must be arranged in increasing order" when using contour on map projections.

The LON is a vector with 320 points, with range: -180.0 to 180.0 and the LAT is a vector with 160 points, with range: -89.14 to 89.14
The first and last columns in DATA are duplicates, as they in fact represent the same physical locations.

This really beats me! Can it be anything but a (fullfeatured roaring trucksize) bug?

- What do you think?

Mikael

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