
Subject: Re: Contouring data over maps
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 03 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Jason Hasenbuhler (hasenbuh@rex.cs.tulane.edu) writes:

- > I am currently developing an application in IDL that needs to
- > draw contour plots
- > over a map. My data is irregularly gridded, and very sparse. What I
- > need to know
- > is how to make IDL respect the land/sea continental boundaries when I
- > plot my
- > interpolated data. I can only currently clip my contour plot to a
- > latitude/longitude range..
- > I need to know how to make my contour conform to the coastlines.

There is, I feel safe in saying, no easy way to do what you want to do. I can think of several ways I might approach the problem, using image masks, pixmaps, loops, etc., but all of them are ugly as sin and not likely to result in a pleasant day of IDL programming. :-(

It might be more productive to make the argument to the powers that be that having contours run over the continental boundary is actually the PROPER way to display sparse data. :^)

Cheers,

David

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