
Subject: Re: How do you color contour levels/ranges in a PLOT which uses the functions CONTOUR and SURFACE?

Posted by [Amit Ghosh](#) on Tue, 20 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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> I am trying to fill in different contour levels of a 3D plot. I have 10
> levels of contours, which are defined by using the following commands.
>
> surf
> vals=[-200,-190, -180, -170,-160,-150,-140,-130,-120,-110,-100]
> contour, Array1, /follow, levels=vals, /T3D, /overplot
> surface, Array1, /noerase
>
> Array1 is the 2 D array of data with values running between -200 and
> -100. What I would like to
> display is a 3D plot with the colors for each level (ex -200 to -190,
> -190 to -180, etc) as a distinct color
> filled in. the data is kind of like a topographical map with peaks and
> valleys. What I am trying to do is
> to shade a given "altitude range" with the same color.

Robert, I think I know what you are trying to do: You want a shaded contour plot, so that a circular peak would appear as a 'bulls-eye', with sharp transitions between levels. One way to get this effect is create a 'quantized' dataset. So for instance you set all the values between -200 and -191 to one value (say -200), then you set all the values from -190 to -181 to another value (say -190) etc. You can then plot the image of that dataset with an appropriate colormap (using bytscl etc). You can even choose arbitrary colors for the levels by setting the 'value' for each level to be the byte value for the color you desire.

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