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Subject: Re: contour & why pv-wave?

Posted by [paul](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 1993 16:46:20 GMT

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In article <2b438m\$94q@tali.hsc.colorado.edu>, mtadams@news.Colorado.EDU (Matthew T. Adams) writes:

> Hi all,

>

> I was wondering 2 things:

>

> 1) I've had to hack a bit around the contour procedure. Is there a contour

> \*function\* that will return to me an array of contour points or a structure that

> has contour headers and points (without my having to write the points to a file &

> then read the file (this was my hack))?

In IDL, use

```
contour, data, PATH_FILENAME=file_name, . . .
```

This writes the each contour path to the data file, and can be read back in. The IDL Reference Guide for Version 3.1 describes this on page 1-48. NOTE: The way the data is written to the file changed in release 3.1!!! so routines are not backward compatible. It caused us more grief than it seems worth.

Also consider the /CLOSE parameter if you are trying to fill contours. There is a bug in 3.1 which sometimes puts the wrong value into the HIGH value of the contour\_header. (3.5beta works much better).

Once the data file is created, it can be read in with

```
openr, iu, file_name, /GET_LUN
hdr = {contour_header, type:0B, high:0B, level:0, num:0, value:0.0 }
release = FLOAT(!Version.release)
```

```
while not EOF(iu) begin
  readu, iu, hdr
```

```
if ( release ge 3.1 ) then begin
  x = fltarr( hdr.num )
  y = fltarr( hdr.num )
  readu, iu, x,y
endif else begin
  d = fltarr( 2, hdr.num)
  readu, iu, d
  x = reform( d(0,*) )
```

```
y = reform( d(1,*) )  
endelse
```

```
; The x and y values are in normalized coordinates
```

```
end
```

```
>  
> 2) Is PV Wave a subset of IDL functions, or is it its own product? What does it  
> have to do with IDL? Does it share the syntax or something?  
>  
> thanks,  
>  
> matthew  
>  
> _____  
> mtadams@columbine.hsc.colorado.edu  
> Matthew T. Adams  
> University of Colorado Health Sciences Center  
> Denver, CO
```

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