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Subject: Re: RSI response to CONTOUR problems/questions.

Posted by [rfinch](#) on Wed, 29 Sep 1993 16:37:04 GMT

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>>>> > On Mon, 27 Sep 1993 16:31:20 GMT, info@rsinc.com (Research Systems Inc.) said:  
RSI> Nntp-Posting-Host: 192.160.108.6

RSI> Although we do not  
RSI> normally respond to postings on the news group

Please reconsider this. I have been very impressed the last few days with the comp.soft-sys.matlab group because MathWorks, a maker of a commercial Matlab, has several of their people responding to questions posted to that group.

RSI> In response to Patrick Ryan's (NASA/GSFC) requests:

> 1) to "Get rid of /MAX\_VALUE. put in code to do real handling of  
> missing data."

RSI> Ralph Finch (Calif. Dept of Water), and Bill Thompson (NASA/GSFC) also  
RSI> expressed this opinion. Part of the IDL philosophy is that since IDL  
RSI> is a full feature language, it is better to solve such problems using  
RSI> IDL, rather than jam in special purpose features.

Excuse me. Missing values are not a special feature in real data. We have 10 million + data points, and probably 10%-20% are missing. They are so common that they should be handled cleanly and easily. That includes not only plotting them properly, but all routines where possible should have the MISS\_VALUE= keyword and deal with it: statistical routines, fourier transforms, etc.

The 'trivial' way to deal with missing values, as given in the example, certainly works but is annoying to have to do once; a real time-waster to have to do 20 times in 13,000 lines of code (our situation).

Anyway, how is MISS\_VALUE any more a special feature than MAX\_VALUE?

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Any opinions expressed are my own; they do not represent the DWR

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