

---

Subject: Re: Contouring binary data  
Posted by [sterner](#) on Fri, 03 Jun 1994 16:48:23 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

steinhh@amon.uio.no (Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan) writes:

> In article <hahn.7.00131ADF@hrz.th-darmstadt.de>, hahn@hrz.th-darmstadt.de (Norbert Hahn) writes:

> |> Hi all,

> |>

> |> I have a matrix with binary data, that is the elements contain either zero or  
> |> one (or some other number). If I convert the matrix from bytarr to fltarr and  
> |> call contour I get some but not all contour lines. Some of them are double  
> |> or triple lines. When I add ,levels=[0,1] I get single lines but miss even  
> |> more lines.

> |> I guess, IDL assumes some analogue data and tries to find a "slope" or  
> |> a "gradient" but fails to get all non-zero elements.

> If the matrix is, say, 10x10, try:

> IDL> contour,congrid(data,200,200),levels=[0,1]

> This avoids the problem with IDL interpolating between pixels.

Here is another technique for contouring binary data.

Let b be a 2-d byte array of 0s and 1s.

then

c = smooth(b,3) ne b

gives a byte array in c with only the boundary pixels  
being 1, all others are 0.

If the result is too ragged try smoothing b first. Make sure and  
convert the smoothed result back to type byte. If array is a floating  
point array of 0s and 1s the resulting boundary will be twice as thick.

Ray Sterner                      sterner@tesla.jhuapl.edu  
Johns Hopkins University      North latitude 39.16 degrees.  
Applied Physics Laboratory    West longitude 76.90 degrees.  
Laurel, MD 20723-6099

---