
Subject: Re: Plotting a 3D Array In IDL

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 19 Jul 2001 14:16:54 GMT

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eddie haskell wrote:

```
>
>> Say I have a 3D array whose elements are only 1 or 0. I'd like to plot
>> this array, say a white dot for the 1's and a red dot for the 0's. Is there
>> a way I can do this in IDL?
>
> Below is a program fragment that does what I think you want done. There might
> be a slick one line way of doing it or maybe something visually stunning using
> object graphics but nothing currently leaps to mind.
>
> Cheers,
> eddie
>
> ;-----
> n = 4
> a = randomu(seed,n,n,n) gt 0.5
> surface, dist(n), /nodata, zr=[0,n-1], /save
> tvlct,[0,255],[255,0],[0,0],1
>
> for j = 0,1 do begin
>   wh = where(a eq j)
>   x = wh mod n
>   y = wh / n mod n
>   z = wh / n^2
>   for i = 0, n_elements(wh)-1 do $
>     plots,x[i],y[i],z[i],/t3d,psym=2,color=j+1
>   endfor
> ;-----
```

Cool - I couldn't figure out how to do it. I modified the above a little to use plot3d

```
n = 4
a = randomu(seed,n,n,n) gt 0.5
tvlct,[0,255],[255,0],[0,0],1

for j = 0,1 do begin
  wh = where(a eq j)
  x = wh mod n
  y = wh / n mod n
  z = wh / n^2
  plot3d, x,y,z,psym=2,color=j+1,oplot=j
endfor
```

but I find the resultant plot hard to interpret. I think this is a case where object

graphics is required to give some depth to the plot by varying the size of the plotting symbols with perceived depth... or something like that.

paulv

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Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
 Alexander Pope.
