
Subject: Advice on making a plot
Posted by [bleau](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2003 18:06:26 GMT
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Hello, I'm running IDL 5.2 on OpenVMS 7.1-2. And no, I cannot upgrade, as IDL isn't made for VMS any more :-(This is about design advice, though, not a problem.

I've been tasked with writing code to create a plot of values. I'm given a 2-dimensional array of values, which are bins. The bins are the same size in each dimension, but different in the x- and y- dimensions; i.e., each bin is a rectangle when viewed in the x,y space.

I'm familiar with the plot command, and have an idea how to go about writing IDL code to shade individual rectangles different colors in specific locations on the plot field:

```
for i=0,n-1
  for j=0,m-1
    translate x(i), y(i) to plot coordinates
    calculate corners of rectangle
    shade rectangle appropriate color
  endfor
endfor
```

One caveat: the final bin in each coordinate (along right and top edges) is larger than the other bins, so its rectangle will be of a different size.

I'm thinking, though, that this operation is a bit inefficient and might be better accomplished by treating the array of values as an image and using some image display commands. How would this be done, though, with non-square pixels? That's just the first problem. The second is the different sized rectangles along the right and top sides. There may be other problems to address which would make an image approach unwieldy.

Let me know your thoughts. Thanks.

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