
Subject: Re: Histogram saga

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 23 May 2006 00:01:15 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

JD Smith writes:

- > I wonder why someone hasn't written a full purpose
- > histogram plotting tool with shading and other nice features?

Probably because I have mentioned too often on this newsgroup what a lot of grief I get over my COLORBAR routine. And for the same reason: it sounds like a general purpose program to do this one simple thing would be an easy program to write, but it is MUCH harder in practice to write something general than it is to write something specific.

I could write 10 *specific* COLORBAR programs in the time it takes to write one general (and usually compromised) one. HISTOGRAMS, I find, are the same way. I've flirted with them, and my book even contains one that I've used in various ways. But each histogram is so different, that I've never liked any of my routines for a *general* routine. I usually use the one I have as a pattern for the others, tweaking as necessary.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
