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Subject: Re: correct way to use INTERPOLATE function  
Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Fri, 21 Sep 2007 21:59:30 GMT  
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"Ryan." <rchughes@gmail.com> wrote in message  
news:1190411412.834849.94160@g4g2000hsf.googlegroups.com...  
>> you probably shouldn't be doing that in the first place.  
>  
> Hi Bob,  
>  
> I was actually looking over the validity of what I was doing after I  
> posted it. I wasn't certain that what I was doing correctly  
> represented what I wanted. Thanks for confirming my thoughts. I got  
> sidetracked on what I originally wanted to show. I got busy trying to  
> debug my code and ended up doing something I shouldn't. I got  
> sidetracked with IDL repeatedly crashing out on me because I was  
> unintentionally Interpolating a string (Not a good idea, by the way)  
> and spent much time on this. Then I got busy trying to get the  
> INTERPOLATE or CONGRID functions to work properly. I will rethink my  
> original intentions and hopefully stay on track this time. =)  
>  
> Thanks for pointing it out,  
> Ryan.

You are welcome.

I don't mean to overstate the "shouldn't do it" part. Interpolation  
is common and usually a fine thing to do.  
The part that stood out for me was taking the original array with  
10 elements and no x-values related to those 10 elements.  
That is fine, because most people use the index number as the  
x-coordinate of the data. So you have x = 0,1,2...9.

Then the example is "interpolating" the original data "s" onto an  
array "l" that goes from 0 to 49.5. That is outside the bounds of  
the original index (the 0,1,..9) so it doesn't make sense.

If you interpolated onto a finer scale than the integer index,  
(from 0,1,2...9 to a new x-value array of 0,0.1,0.2,0.3..... 9.0  
then that would be fine). That's all I was really getting at.

Cheers,  
bob

PS interpolating strings should be able to work  
for instance  
x = 'liberal'

```
x2='conservative'  
z = interpol([x,x2], 0.5)  
print, result  
> moderate  
sorry, dumb attempt at a joke
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