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Subject: Re: Why the contour does not show?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 23 Nov 2008 00:26:41 GMT

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xiao writes:

> :) HERE IT IS

OK, here is what I would do. I'd take about 3 or 4 really deep breaths. Then maybe I'd go get a beer. While I was walking to the cooler, I'd be thinking about what I was really trying to do here.

When I got back, and finished the beer, I would re-read all those Contour articles on Fanning's web page again, this time with the goal of understanding why he is doing the things he is doing.

Then, I would have a long, hard look at this code again. Here are the questions I would be trying to ask myself. (1) How many colors do I expect to see on the contour plot? How do I know what those colors are? How do I know if my data will be displayed with those colors? How can I make sure it will be displayed with those colors? What assumptions am I making currently that are just plain wrong?

When I worked though all of that, I'd write this code over from scratch, making sure no line in it was longer than about 50 characters or so, in case I had to send it to somebody to help me with this. If I did need to send it, I'd think about making a simple data set that I could send them so they didn't have to spend a half hour themselves writing code to run my program.

When I was finished with all of that, I probably wouldn't have to ask any more questions, but if I did, I would be in a MUCH better place to do so. :-)

Cheers,

David

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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