
Subject: CONTOUR plot

Posted by [Steven Thiel](#) on Fri, 19 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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I have somewhat of a complicated problem involving trying to generate a certain kind of contour plot. We have data that has been taken over the past five years and would like to display all of the data in a contour plot format with a time scale of only one year. In other words, we would like to display the data from, say, Jan. 22 of all five years at the same location on the time axis of the contour plot. We assumed that if we gave IDL more than one z value for any given (x,y) point, it would do some kind of averaging, smoothing or some other kind of trickery to arrive at a single value for the contour(or SHADE_SURF, or any other kind of 3D displaying method). If we try just giving the CONTOUR procedure more than one z value for each (x, y) point, however, it simply displays two contour plots superimposed on top of one another.

The alternative, of course, is for us to do some kind of external averaging or smoothing before we pass the data off to CONTOUR, but we don't want to have to do this if it is not needed. Any assistance on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

-S. Thiel
