
Subject: Re: Shift label positions in contour plots?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Sep 2009 14:57:00 GMT

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Charles writes:

> Using "contour", I've made a contour plot with 3 sets of contours.
> I've got them with no fills and each has a different line style. I've
> labeled the contour levels, so the value of each contour appears along
> the curves in a couple of places:
>
> contour, z0, x, y, levels=findgen(10)/10d, c_labels=findgen(10),
> c_charsize=1, ,c_line=0
> contour, z1, x, y, levels=findgen(10)/10d, c_labels=findgen(10),
> c_charsize=1, ,c_line=1, /overplot
> contour, z2, x, y, levels=findgen(10)/10d, c_labels=findgen(10),
> c_charsize=1, ,c_line=2, /overplot
>
> A sample of the plot is here: <http://bit.ly/12e1Y7>
>
> My problem is that the labels overlap with each other in several
> places. If the contour sets were similar enough, I would just label
> one set and imply that each label applied to all of the nearest
> curves. But each contour set is different, so I need a label on every
> contour. I'd prefer not to decrease the font size very much.
>
> My question is - it is possible to shift the positions of the labels
> along the contours using "contour" or some other routine?

It is NOT possible using the direct graphics routine CONTOUR.

You would have a great deal more control if you were to use the object graphics routine IDLgrCONTOUR. But, there would be a significantly longer learning curve. You might be able to use XContour from my web page as a place to jump-start the process:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xcontour.pro>

XContour is **very** old. If you manage to improve it, I'd like to hear about it. :-)

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.")
