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Subject: Re: weird contour lines

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 31 Oct 2009 16:09:27 GMT

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Libo Wang writes:

```
> Hi, I used the following code to set up a stereographic projection map
> and overplot NCEP pressure field on it:
>
> MAP_SET,/stereographic, 60, -105,color=grey,limit=[30,-180,80.0,-10],/
> continents,/isotropic
> levels = 16
> step=4
> userLevels = IndGen(levels) * step + 120
> Contour, data,lon,lat,C_Colors=black,Levels=userLevels, /overplot
> Contour, data,lon,lat,/Overplot,
> Levels=userLevels,c_colors=black,c_charthick=2,$
> max_value=200,min_value=120,/Follow
>
> However, I got weird contour lines, which you could take a look at the
> following link:
> http://picasaweb.google.com/libowa/DropBox?feat=directlink
>
> Could you point out what was wrong in my codes? How could I get smooth
> contour lines?
```

Is this an aesthetic problem or a science problem?

If it is an aesthetic problem, that NCEP data is fairly low-resolution. You could try CONGRIDing it to a larger size, using interpolation, before contouring it. Or, you could just try smoothing your data before you contour 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.")

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