Subject: Re: Contour Colors on Maps
Posted by David Fanning on Thu, 15 Apr 2010 23:04:57 GMT
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## David Fanning writes:

- > I just spent a couple of hours puzzling over the colors of
- > a filled contour plot on top of a map projection. I could
- > have spent the time more profitably by reading some of the
- > contouring articles on my web page. :-(

>

- > Let me just give you the bottom line, before you go out
- > and publish those beautiful pictures. If you are putting
- > filled contours on \*map projections\* use the CELL\_FILL and
- > not the FILL keyword. If you don't, your colors will
- > surely lead to eventual embarrassment.

>

http://www.dfanning.com/color\_tips/fill\_colors.html

Incidentally, I don't know \*how\* IDL knew I was doing a map projection. The plot coordinates were set up by specifying a Plot command with an X and Y range. (I was using the XY projected grid coordinates of a map projection, but that really seems beside the point.) In the Contour command itself, I had the data array, and an X and Y array of the same size, with the projected grid X and Y coordinates. This is really no different from any other IDL Contour command.

```
Plot, nonsenseData, /NoData, $
    XRange=[-3500000, 3500000], $
    YRange=[-5540000, 5540000]
Contour, data, x, y, /CELL_FILL, /OVERPLOT
```

Does that look anything like a map projection to you?

Still, the FILL keyword gave the wrong colors, and the CELL\_FILL keyword gave the right ones. Maybe IDL \*smelled\* the map projection off in the distance. :-(

Cheers,

David

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Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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