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Subject: Re: Good-bye Contour Command

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Fri, 12 Nov 2010 19:57:05 GMT

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On Nov 12, 2:54 pm, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 12, 10:17 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

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>

>> Folks,

>

>> I have nothing against the new graphics (other than  
>> I think they are too complex to program and they make  
>> my computer pay even less attention to me than the  
>> faithful companion here at my feet, causing me to  
>> retreat back to IDL 7 if I want to get on with it), but  
>> I find I STILL rely on simple, fast traditional  
>> graphics commands, like CONTOUR, to get my work done.

>

>> You may be like me. And, if so, you know how bad the  
>> Contour command sucks. Only works in indexed color  
>> mode, NLevels gives God only knows how many levels,  
>> holes in your plots if you try to draw the contour  
>> in PostScript, the list goes on and on.

>

>> What if you had a traditional contouring program that  
>> actually worked? Would you use it?

>

>> Well, now you do. I got fed up fooling around with  
>> contour plots earlier this week and just wrote the  
>> darn thing. A contour plot command for the rest of  
>> us, that works the way we do. On every machine and in  
>> every version of IDL. Hurray!

>

>> The new FSC\_Contour program is meant to do for the  
>> Contour command what TVImage and ImDisp and all the  
>> rest of the TV alternatives did for the TV command.  
>> That is, make it completely obsolete.

>

>> You can read about it and see screen shots of some  
>> of the things it can do here:

>

>> [http://www.dfanning.com/graphics\\_tips/fsc\\_contour.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/graphics_tips/fsc_contour.pro)  
>  
>> Cheers,  
>  
>> David  
>> --  
>> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
>> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")  
>  
> Nice... I particularly like the ease of overplotting contours on  
> images! (oh, and on a related note, thanks again for the /SAVE keyword  
> to the new TVIMAGE, which means I can finally replace the much less-  
> robust tvim in most of my code).  
>  
> I find it somewhat counter-intuitive that in order to skip all contour  
> labels, I need to set SkipLabels=0, though.  
>  
> -Jeremy.

Oh, and the link on <http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs.html>  
goes to fsc\_pickfile.pro.

-Jeremy.

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