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Subject: Re: isodensity contours  
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2011 16:28:29 GMT  
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On Feb 23, 7:34 pm, Gray <grayliketheco...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Feb 23, 3:24 pm, Paolo <pgri...@gmail.com> wrote:

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>> On Feb 23, 3:06 pm, Gray <grayliketheco...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>> On Feb 23, 2:12 pm, Paolo <pgri...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>>> On Feb 23, 1:24 pm, Gray <grayliketheco...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>>> > Hi all,

>

>>>> > I have a scatterplot with a bunch of points on it. I'd like to plot

>>>> > isodensity contours to include 99%, 90%, 75%, and 50% of my points.

>>>> > How do I set up my data to give to cgContour? Thanks!

>

>>>> > --Gray

>

>>>> If I understand this correctly, you have two arrays

>>>> x and y of coordinates of N points.

>

>>>> To contour them, you need first to create a

>>>> density array from your dataset - basically

>>>> you divide the xrange and yrange of your data

>>>> in a number of bins and the density array will

>>>> tell you how many points lie in each bin.

>

>>>> Then you can use the normal contour procedures.

>

>>>> So how you do partition the data into the density

>>>> array? hist\_2d will do that for you.

>

>>>> Ciao,

>>>> Paolo

>

>>> I thought I posted this already... if it shows up twice, I'm sorry.

>

>>> Upon further reflection, I think that "isodensity contours" are not  
>>> exactly what I want, though I may need to use them anyway (as  
>>> described by Paolo) if I can't figure out a way to do EXACTLY what I  
>>> want.

>

>>> Here's some more detail on my issue. I have a plot for which the x-  
>>> axis is stellar magnitude in one image, and the y-axis is stellar  
>>> magnitude in a different image. I have two populations of stars (pop  
>>> A and pop B). Pop A is pretty clustered, but the cluster is sort of  
>>> smeared out so I can't use a simple centroid. I'd like to see where  
>>> the pop B stars lay on the plot in relation to the pop A stars by  
>>> plotting contours showing what percentage of pop A stars are within  
>>> them (99%,90%,75%,50%). Is this doable without getting really  
>>> complicated, or should I use the isodensity contours instead?

>

>>> An example image is at <http://tinypic.com/r/2mepz4/7>  
>>> The black points are pop A and the colored symbols are pop B.

>

>>> Thanks for your help!

>

>>> --Gray

>

>> I would at least try to get the density for the pop A  
>> stars - will take only a few minutes to do. You may want  
>> to smooth the contours a bit. But it looks like it should  
>> come out reasonably well...

>

>> Ciao,  
>> Paolo

>

> How does one smooth contours? :/

IDL has a builtin function called min\_curve\_surf  
It's a bit slow though - use it on small arrays

Ciao,  
Paolo