Subject: Re: Frustrated by 2 Data Plotting problems
Posted by Kenneth P. Bowman on Fri, 27 May 2011 22:12:54 GMT
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In article <MPG.28499f5233c19a5b9898e0@news.giganews.com>,
 David Fanning <news@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

> The people who want to display 4 million points on
> a line plot are the same people who think a line
> plot *is* their data.

Plotting 4M points is not necessarily a dumb thing. A
1000 x 1000 pixel window (quite reasonable on current
displays) is 1M pixels. So plotting 4M points will
result in some overlap, but it might also reveal
patterns in data that are difficult to see with
binned data. In some cases, binning can cause its
own set of perceptual problems. In my experience,
contour plots are much more likely to fool the viewer
than scatter plots.

You do always need to have an awareness of what your
data is and what a particular visualization is showing
you (or hiding from you).

Cheers, Ken