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Subject: Re: Compare Filled Contour Plot in Three Graphics Systems

Posted by [TonyL](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2012 07:45:54 GMT

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On Jan 6, 3:47 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> TonyL writes:

>> I've got the Function Graphics (FG) version running in 3.8secs (dual  
>> core Win7 64bit PC), including opening the data file and saving to a  
>> PNG file. I'll email you the code if you like separately; noting that  
>> I'm using the 8.2 beta. Symbol for Fort Collins plots OK.

>

> I'd like to see it. I don't have the IDL 8.2 beta. (No one asked  
> me to review it!) But, I'll see if I can get ahold of it. :-)

>

>> The anti-aliased fonts and lines in the saved PNG file are equivalent  
>> in quality to ones I've previously created via the Postscript route,  
>> using Direct Graphics and using the ImageMagick library. The FG is  
>> more convenient for me because I don't have to grapple with  
>> installation issues of the ImageMagick library. I haven't timed that  
>> ImageMagick approach, but suspect there is not a sufficiently large  
>> time difference from the FG time for it to bother me.

>

> Well, it's about 1.3 seconds on my decidedly normal machine.

>

>> In fact I have a greater use of the ability to replot the same data  
>> over several different geographic domains, for zooming purposes. By  
>> simply changing the map limit, the output can be modified in 0.2 secs,  
>> a similar time to the DG approach but without having to redraw all the  
>> elements.

>

> Humm. Don't know how not having to redraw all the elements would  
> work. Doesn't seem possible to me! But, my cgMap object will work  
> in the same way and in the same amount of time, I imagine, since  
> they are both using Map\_Proj\_Init under the hood.

>

>> The weakness I currently see in FG relate to the lack of a decent  
>> Colorbar equivalent to the CGcolorbar. Support for the Brewer tables  
>> is also lacking.

>

> Yes, among other weaknesses. I realize you can't really answer  
> questions about IDL 8.2, but I would be curious if the colorbar  
> still has to be attached to a target in IDL 8.2. That seemed  
> to be its biggest weakness to me.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

- > --
- > David Fanning, Ph.D.
- > Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
- > Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
- > Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Yes in the beta, Colorbar still has a target plot that it uses. I've raised the desirability of a better Colorbar and Brewer table support with Exelis.

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