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

Posted by [TonyL](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2012 03:59:36 GMT

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On Jan 6, 3:06 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>> I am not particularly happy with the Function Graphics
>> results. It is WAY over-complicated and visually
>> disappointing, but I have worked on this for a LONG
>> time, and haven't come up with anything better. If you
>> have suggestions, I am happy to hear them.

>

> Humm. No suggestions for how I can improve this

> Function Graphics example!? This is an ill

> wind blowing....

>

> 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.")

David,

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.

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.

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.

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.

Tony
