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Subject: Re: Plotting data on orthographic globe projection  
Posted by [Sir Loin Steak](#) on Tue, 28 Feb 2012 21:58:11 GMT  
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On Feb 28, 9:43 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

> Sir Loin Steak writes:

>> I have some data in a (72,36) array, corresponding to 72 longitudes  
>> and 36 latitudes. I am wanting to plot them onto a globe, and so have  
>> used IDLs map\_set and contour routines. However, depending upon which  
>> angle I choose to view the image, there are problems with the filling  
>> of the contours.

>

>> As an example, see the four images at <http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteel/globe.png>.  
>> I have plotted the exact same data in each image, the only difference  
>> being I changed the value of 'loncentre' in the plotting routine  
>> below:

>

```
>> ;-----  
>> lat = findgen(36)*180/35-90  
>> lon = findgen(72)*360/71-180  
>> latcentre=30  
>> loncentre=-70  
>> angle=0  
>> map_set,latcentre,loncentre,angle,/orthographic,/isotropic  
>> loadct, 13  
>> contour,reverse(vapour(*,*,250),2),lon,lat,/overplot,  
>> levels=findgen(30), /fill  
>> map_grid, latdel=5, lonel=5, glinestyle=0, glinethick=0.5  
>> ;-----
```

>

>> Has anyone used these routines and experienced the same problem? Or  
>> can anyone suggest any other routines that produce something similar?  
>> I'm stumped!

>

> I would try using the keyword CELL\_FILL instead of FILL.  
> Not only will these problems probably disappear, but your  
> color will actually be correct! :-)

>

> [http://www.idlcoyote.com/color\\_tips/fill\\_colors.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/color_tips/fill_colors.html)

>

> CELL\_FILL should \*always\* be used to put filled contour  
> plots on map projections.

>

> 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.")

Brilliant! Thanks a lot David. It's funny how it always turns out to be something simple. I'll remember to use cell fill from now on!

Liam

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