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Subject: Re: very simple but weird problem with CONTOUR  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 01 Sep 2012 22:20:57 GMT  
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mxsfong2012@gmail.com writes:

> Thanks, David, for your response! I am sorry that I don't get it. What did you mean by "your first contour  
> is going to be drawn at 1.0"? In my example, I have 6 levels ranging from 0 to 1. By setting max\_value=0.5, my intention was to draw the contours only at the levels of 0, 0.2, and 0.4. Please forgive the newbie question, as most of my research is on numerical calculations, and didn't have many experiences on IDL plotting.

My apologies. I was heading out the door and confused the c\_levels variable with the levels variable. Sorry.

Basically, I wouldn't be using the MAX\_VALUE keyword with a contour plot, because "missing values" will be ignored by the contour algorithm. The result is always unpredictable, and rarely what you had in mind. If you want to contour only the first three contours, then just pass the first three contours to the LEVELS keyword.

And, if I were new to IDL, I'd be using Coyote Graphics routines, rather than the normal IDL direct graphics routines. Things will make a good deal more sense to you. :-)

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/graphics\\_tips/coyote\\_graphics.php](http://www.idlcoyote.com/graphics_tips/coyote_graphics.php)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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