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Subject: Re: closed contour paths: clockwise or anticlockwise - or actually a mixture?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 03 Jan 2014 21:01:23 GMT

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George.millward@yahoo.com writes:

>  
> Hi there,  
>  
> I'm doing some very straightforward contour plotting - but instead of actually plotting the contours - I'm writing out the path data of closed contours by using the path\_info and path\_xy keywords.  
>  
> This is all working fine, but I have a problem: Some of the contour paths (written out as x,y arrays) close in a clockwise order, some close in an anticlockwise order. This is causing trouble when I export the paths to other mapping software because the latter is strictly wanting the paths to always be clockwise.....

This seems unlikely. Are you sure you are not confusing the high and low contours? In other words, one path describes a mound, the other path describes a hole. The normal should be pointing toward you in the counterclockwise (mound) contour, and away from you in the clockwise (hole) contour.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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