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Subject: Re: gridding XYZ to surface: how to blank no data?  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 15 Feb 2014 15:52:48 GMT  
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Paula writes:

> i've been using the excellent post by David at [https://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/grid\\_surface.html](https://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/grid_surface.html)  
to show a bunch of XYZ data as contour plots.  
>  
> there is a detail i didn't manage to solve though. there are combinations of XY in the original  
table where there are no data (at all, i don't mean Z=0), which is at the end plotted in the contour  
as if Z=0 (understandably).  
>  
> but i would like to show these regions in the contour plot as non-existent, to differentiate from  
"true Z=0" regions.  
>  
> in other words, in my final contour plot, i'd like to show true Z=0 values as a certain color, the  
minimum of the color table i adopt, but non-existent XY values as blank white.  
>  
> any advice?

This really shouldn't take any effort at all. Set the missing data  
points to !Values.F\_NAN. (Make sure your array is floating type before  
you do this.) Use the CELL\_FILL keyword on your contour command NOT the  
FILL keyword. The rest should happen automatically:

```
data = cgDemoData(2)
cgLoadCT, 33
cgDisplay, WID=0
cgContour, data, /FILL, /OUTLINE

missing = RandomU(-3L, 10) * 41 * 41L
data[missing] = !Values.F_NaN
cgDisplay, WID=1
cgContour, data, /CELL_FILL, /OUTLINE
```

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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