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Subject: contour...pathfile problem in WAVE  
Posted by [Fred Wolf](#) on Fri, 01 Aug 1997 07:00:00 GMT  
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hi,

I have a problem with the contour routine in pv-wave.  
I would like to directly access the contour-paths that  
the contour program calculates.

E.G. The comand

```
contour,x,levels=[0],PATH_FILENAME="cont", /FOLLOW
```

is suposed to write the 0-contours of x in the file  
"cont". Any indiviudal contour-data-set starts with  
a header of the structure

```
h = {CONTOUR_HEADER, TYPE : 0B, HIGH : 0B, LEVEL : 0, $  
NUM : 0L, VALUE : 0.0}
```

followed by NUM floating coordinate pairs.

When I try to read the file cont, I get junk.  
The main problem is that h.num appears to contain a  
fantasie number instead of the number of contour points.  
A minor problem is that any closed contour-path begins  
with the coordinates (0,0).

The following sequence of comand illustrates the problem:

```
x = shift(dist(20),10,10)^2-16  
contour,x,levels=[0],PATH_FILENAME="cont", /FOLLOW, /noerase  
h = {CONTOUR_HEADER, TYPE : 0B, HIGH : 0B, LEVEL : 0, $  
NUM : 0L, VALUE : 0.0}
```

```
y = ftarr(2,34)  
openr,1,"cont"  
readu,1,h  
readu,1,y  
close,1  
print,h
```

```
plot,y(0,*),y(1,*)
```

print,h gives "{ 1 0 0141733920768 0.00000}"  
while the contour-path however actualy contains only 34 but not  
141733920768 entries.

Is this a bug? Does anybody know how to reveal the true number of contour-path entries?

Thanks a lot in advance  
Fred

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