
Subject: Re: RSI response to CONTOUR problems/questions.

Posted by [rfinch](#) on Wed, 29 Sep 1993 16:37:04 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

>>>> > On Mon, 27 Sep 1993 16:31:20 GMT, info@rsinc.com (Research Systems Inc.) said:
RSI> Nntp-Posting-Host: 192.160.108.6

RSI> Although we do not
RSI> normally respond to postings on the news group

Please reconsider this. I have been very impressed the last few days with the comp.soft-sys.matlab group because MathWorks, a maker of a commercial Matlab, has several of their people responding to questions posted to that group.

RSI> In response to Patrick Ryan's (NASA/GSFC) requests:

> 1) to "Get rid of /MAX_VALUE. put in code to do real handling of
> missing data."

RSI> Ralph Finch (Calif. Dept of Water), and Bill Thompson (NASA/GSFC) also
RSI> expressed this opinion. Part of the IDL philosophy is that since IDL
RSI> is a full feature language, it is better to solve such problems using
RSI> IDL, rather than jam in special purpose features.

Excuse me. Missing values are not a special feature in real data. We have 10 million + data points, and probably 10%-20% are missing. They are so common that they should be handled cleanly and easily. That includes not only plotting them properly, but all routines where possible should have the MISS_VALUE= keyword and deal with it: statistical routines, fourier transforms, etc.

The 'trivial' way to deal with missing values, as given in the example, certainly works but is annoying to have to do once; a real time-waster to have to do 20 times in 13,000 lines of code (our situation).

Anyway, how is MISS_VALUE any more a special feature than MAX_VALUE?

--

Ralph Finch 916-653-8268 voice

rfinch@water.ca.gov 916-653-6077 fax

Any opinions expressed are my own; they do not represent the DWR

Subject: Re: RSI response to CONTOUR problems/questions.

Posted by [turret](#) on Tue, 05 Oct 1993 18:38:25 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

RE: RSI's responses to the newsgroup. Sorry, but I agree with RSI, they should stay off the airwaves routinely. Most of the issues that are not directly bugs are best (most creatively) worked out by users, in fact there's a tug-of-war between the applications that people want built in and what is best done with the language itself. Try to go to Sun or the ANSI committee if you want a new whistle put in Fortran.

Some other developers might get into more commercial pandering, I don't know about you but I'd rather not have to deal with another Mathworks.

--Phil Turet

Subject: Re: RSI response to CONTOUR problems/questions.
Posted by [finch](#) on Tue, 05 Oct 1993 23:48:49 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

>>>> > On 5 Oct 1993 18:38:25 GMT, turet@carson.u.washington.edu (Philip Turet) said:
Philip> NNTP-Posting-Host: carson.u.washington.edu

Philip> Try to go to Sun or the
Philip> ANSI committee if you want a new whistle put in Fortran.

Non-sequiter. Fortran is in the public domain (or equivalent), and produced by tens of developers, IDL is not, and produced by only one company.

Philip> Some other developers might get into more commercial
Philip> pandering

I wouldn't call helping users with problems, instead of letting them flounder, 'commercial pandering', but I guess support, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

Philip> know about you but I'd rather not have to deal with another Mathworks.

Here is an example of what I was referring to in the comp.soft-sys.matlab group. Seems to me Mathworks' candor is refreshing, what did you find wrong with them?

From damian@mathworks.com Tue Oct 5 15:40:23 1993
Newsgroups: comp.soft-sys.matlab
From: Damian T. Packer <damian@mathworks.com>
Subject: Re: RBBOX question.
X-Xdate: Tue, 5 Oct 93 15:16:51 GMT
Organization: The MathWorks

X-Useragent: Nuntius v1.1.1d16

Date: Tue, 5 Oct 1993 19:16:51 GMT

Craig Jones,
craigj@irus.rrl.uwo.ca writes:

> Can anyone give me some sort of idea of how to use the RBBOX command?

> The help on RBBOX is not helping me very much.

>

[stuff deleted]

Since this might be of more general interest, I am posting to the group
as well as e-mailing directly to Craig.

The HELP entry for RBBOX is optimistic, but wrong.

[Rest of response deleted].

It was certainly a surprise to me to see such honesty by a vendor.

--

Ralph Finch 916-653-8268 voice

rfinch@water.ca.gov 916-653-6077 fax

Any opinions expressed are my own; they do not represent the DWR
