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**Subject:** Spherical Contour Plotting  
Posted by [Adam Bayliss](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2002 16:22:53 GMT  
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Hi,  
I'd like take a 2d array (containing a surface component of a vector) and make a contour plot on a sphere. So basically I'd like to take the results of the "contour" procedure, and project this graph onto a sphere. Any ideas would be appreciated.

Adam

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**Subject:** Re: Spherical Contour Plotting  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 09 Jan 2002 23:57:12 GMT  
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Adam Bayliss <[rabayliss@students.wisc.edu](mailto:rabayliss@students.wisc.edu)> writes:

> Hi,  
> I'd like take a 2d array (containing a surface component of a vector)  
> and make a contour plot on a sphere. So basically I'd like to take the  
> results of the "contour" procedure, and project this graph onto a  
> sphere. Any ideas would be appreciated.

Are you looking for the ORTHOGRAPHIC mapping projection? See MAP\_SET, and try this to see if it is what you want,

map\_set, /continents, name='orthographic'

You should be able to /OVERPLOT your contours directly, after you selection the viewpoint of course.

Good luck,  
Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL: [craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu)  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

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**Subject:** Re: Spherical Contour Plotting  
Posted by [k-bowman](#) on Thu, 10 Jan 2002 17:03:06 GMT  
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Sorry, my newsreader wrapped my last posting.

Ken

PRO SPHERICAL\_PLOT

COMPILE\_OPT IDL2

cr = "

nx = 65

;Grid resolution in longitude

ny = 33

;Grid resolution in latitude

x = (360.0/(nx-1))\*FINDGEN(nx)

;Longitude grid

y = -90 + (180.0/(ny-1))\*FINDGEN(ny)

;Latitude grid

xx = x # REPLICATE(1.0, ny)

;2-D longitude grid

yy = REPLICATE(1.0, nx) # y

;2-D latitude grid

z = SIN(!DTOR\*xx) \* COS(!DTOR\*yy)

;Test function to contour

;Standard contour plot on satellite map projection

MAP\_SET, /SATELLITE, /CONT, /ISOTROPIC

CONTOUR, z, x, y, LEVELS = -0.95 + 0.1\*FINDGEN(20), /OVERPLOT ;Contour z

PRINT, 'Enter <cr> to continue.'

READ, cr

;Get contour info

CONTOUR, z, x, y, PATH\_INFO = path\_info, PATH\_XY = path\_xy, \$

;Contour z, save

contour info

/PATH\_DATA\_COORDS, CLOSED = 0, LEVELS = -0.95 + 0.1\*FINDGEN(20)

;2-D plot using contour info

PLOT, [0, 0], [1, 1], /NODATA, \$

XTITLE = 'Longitude', \$

XSTYLE = 1, \$

XRANGE = [0.0, 360.0], \$

XTICKS = 4, \$

YTITLE = 'Latitude', \$

YSTYLE = 1, \$

YRANGE = [-90., 90.0], \$

YTICKS = 6

FOR k = 0, N\_ELEMENTS(path\_info)-1 DO BEGIN

i0 = path\_info[k].offset

;First element of the k'th contour

i1 = i0 + path\_info[k].n - 1

;Last element of the k'th contour

; PRINT, k, path\_info[k].type, i0, i1

xc = REFORM(path\_xy[0,i0:i1])

;Extract x-coords of k'th contour

yc = REFORM(path\_xy[1,i0:i1])

;Extract y-coords of k'th contour

IF (path\_info[k].type EQ 1) THEN BEGIN

;Close contours, if needed

  xc = [xc, path\_xy[0,i0]]

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yc = [yc, path_xy[1,i0]]
ENDIF

PLOTS, xc, yc                                ;Plot contours
ENDFOR
PRINT, 'Enter <cr> to continue.'
READ, cr

;3-D plot using contour info
PLOT_3DBOX, [0,0], [0,0], [0,0], /NODATA, $
XTITLE = 'X', $
XSTYLE = 1, $
XRANGE = [-1.0, 1.0], $
XTICKS = 4, $
YTITLE = 'Y', $
YSTYLE = 1, $
YRANGE = [-1., 1.0], $
YTICKS = 4, $
ZTITLE = 'Z', $
ZSTYLE = 1, $
ZRANGE = [-1.0, 1.0], $
ZTICKS = 4

r = 0.9
FOR k = 0, N_ELEMENTS(path_info)-1 DO BEGIN
    i0 = path_info[k].offset                  ;First element of the k'th contour
    i1 = i0 + path_info[k].n - 1              ;Last element of the k'th contour
    ; PRINT, k, path_info[k].type, i0, i1
    xc = REFORM(path_xy[0,i0:i1])             ;Extract x-coords of k'th contour
    yc = REFORM(path_xy[1,i0:i1])             ;Extract y-coords of k'th contour
    IF (path_info[k].type EQ 1) THEN BEGIN
        xc = [xc, path_xy[0,i0]]                ;Close contours, if needed
        yc = [yc, path_xy[1,i0]]
    ENDIF

    x3 = r * COS(!DTOR*yc) * COS(!DTOR*xc)
    y3 = r * COS(!DTOR*yc) * SIN(!DTOR*xc)
    z3 = r * SIN(!DTOR*yc)
    PLOTS, x3, y3, z3, /T3D
ENDFOR

END

```

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