
Subject: strange things in CONTOUR

Posted by [Sverre Solberg](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2005 14:33:09 GMT

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Perhaps I have done a very basic and stupid error in the program below, or there's some very mysterious explanation.

The problem in a stripped version is simply to plot a contour plot on top of another plot. As basic as that. However, the following code does not show the contour fields (at least not on my screen):

```
loadct, 0
f = dist(100, 100)
pencolor = 0
background = !D.n_colors-1
y = findgen(100)
plot, y, color = pencolor, background = background
contour, f, /overplot, color = pencolor
```

The mysterious part is that when I add the line:

```
contour, f, color = pencolor, background = background, /nodata
```

anywhere **before** the plot command, it works perfectly ok.

What is wrong?

(IDL 5.5 for Unix)

Sverre

Subject: Re: strange things in CONTOUR

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2005 14:46:14 GMT

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Sverre Solberg writes:

```
> What is wrong?
>
> (IDL 5.5 for Unix)
```

I think you answered your own question. Works well here on Windows. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say back in the early 1970's (or whenever it was

IDL 5.5 was fashionable) the way color worked was changing with every IDL version. This probably has something to do with your problem. It doesn't seem to be a problem now.

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Subject: Re: strange things in CONTOUR
Posted by [btt](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2005 15:57:19 GMT
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Sverre Solberg wrote:

```
> Perhaps I have done a very basic and stupid error in the program below,  
> or there's some very mysterious explanation.  
>  
> The problem in a stripped version is simply to plot a contour plot on  
> top of another plot. As basic as that. However, the following code does  
> not show the contour fields (at least not on my screen):  
>  
> loadct, 0  
> f = dist(100, 100)  
> pencolor = 0  
> background = !D.n_colors-1  
> y = findgen(100)  
> plot, y, color = pencolor, background = background  
> contour, f, /overplot, color = pencolor  
>  
> The mysterious part is that when I add the line:  
> contour, f, color = pencolor, background = background, /nodata  
> anywhere *before* the plot command, it works perfectly ok.  
>  
> What is wrong?  
>  
> (IDL 5.5 for Unix)  
>
```

Hi,

I'm not sure what could be wrong but shall point out two things:

!D.N_COLORS is not necessarily the same thing as !D.Table_Size, in this case you are using indexed coloring - so you should use !D.Table_Size

Using OVERPLOT requires you to specify the contour levels (LEVELS) or number of

levels (NLEVELS) according to the online help...

"You must explicitly specify either the values of the contour levels or the number of levels (via the NLEVELS keyword) when using this option, unless geographic mapping coordinates are in effect."

The second thing is interesting because David says it works fine for him (presumably without specifying levels.) I believe that that is one of his rewards for being one with IDL - IDL simply intuit his desires.

Cheers,
Ben

Subject: Re: strange things in CONTOUR
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2005 16:05:14 GMT
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Ben Tupper writes:

> The second thing is interesting because David says it works fine for him
> (presumably without specifying levels.) I believe that that is one of his
> rewards for being one with IDL - IDL simply intuit his desires.

Uh, yeah, I've noticed this, especially with iTools. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I've heard St. John's Wort is good for those black thoughts.

--

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