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Subject: Re: overlaying graphs on top of maps  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 30 Sep 2005 15:47:56 GMT  
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Martin wrote:

- > Hi guys,
- >
- > I'm trying to overlay several graphs on top of a map projection in
- > order to show varying degrees of pollution in different parts of the
- > globe.
- >
- > Out of naivety or optimism I tried using OPLOTT although I got the
- > error;
- > % OPLOTT: Value of Latitude is out of allowed range.
- >
- > Could someone give me a clue about how to go about doing this at all? I
- > have a sneaking suspicion that someone will say Object Graphics!

Do you mean you want the map projection to be the plot background, and you just want to plot over it (without erasing it) ??

Maybe you can use the Z-buffer (same method used to overplot surfaces, surface+contour, etc). Only problem then is you're restricted to the crappy screen fonts for output.

Do you need this plot for a presentation/document? If so I would just let IDL do what IDL does best and plot the data. I would then save it as a PS file (great fonts), convert it to a transparent gif(or png), and then simply import it over my map of the world image in the final application (e.g. Powerpoint or Word, or Photoshop, etc.)

The above (if it's at all what you need) may sound complicated, but it would take me about, oh, maybe an hour total (including figuring-it-out time). Doing everything in IDL via object graphics would take me at \*least\* a week. :o)

paulv

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Paul van Delst  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC

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Subject: Re: overlaying graphs on top of maps  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 30 Sep 2005 16:10:36 GMT  
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Martin writes:

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> have a sneaking suspicion that someone will say Object Graphics!

Object Graphics!? I don't think so. I would have said  
PLOT with the NOERASE keyword set. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Your OPLOTT would have worked if you had set  
up a plot coordinate system first. There are many  
ways to do this, but one way would have been to  
make a pixmap of your map window and draw a plot  
into that window. Then you could switch back to your  
map window and do your OPLOTT there.

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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