

---

Subject: Re: union or overlap of two plots

Posted by [Spon](#) on Tue, 22 Jul 2008 08:31:14 GMT

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

---

On Jul 22, 3:00 am, kedmond <kedm...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hello,  
> I have two plots of data on the same axes. I need to figure out  
> the area of their overlap. I think defining the data as two polygons  
> and using polyfillv() would help, but I'm not sure about how to do  
> this. I was also considering finding all of the interceptions between  
> the two plots, and using tsum() to calculate the area of each  
> subsection of overlap. Anyways, if there's an easier way, I'd  
> appreciate it.  
>  
> -kedmond

How about something like this:

```
plot, x, y1  
oplot, x, y2
```

```
ymin = min( [[y1], [y2]], dim=2)  
oplot, x, ymin, thick = 2
```

```
auc = int_tabulated(x, ymin)
```

Regards,  
Chris

---

Subject: Re: union or overlap of two plots

Posted by [kedmond](#) on Tue, 22 Jul 2008 14:59:25 GMT

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

---

Chris,

Thanks for the quick response. Your solution worked amazingly well....now I have to sit and figure out why! To make the min() function work, I had to set y1 and y2 equal to their transpose() since min() wants the data to be in vector form. Once I did that, your instructions work as stated.

Thanks again.

-Kazem

On Jul 22, 4:31 am, Spon <christoph.b...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Jul 22, 3:00 am, kedmond <kedm...@gmail.com> wrote:

>  
>> Hello,  
>> I have two plots of data on the same axes. I need to figure out  
>> the area of their overlap. I think defining the data as two polygons  
>> and using polyfillv() would help, but I'm not sure about how to do  
>> this. I was also considering finding all of the interceptions between  
>> the two plots, and using tsum() to calculate the area of each  
>> subsection of overlap. Anyways, if there's an easier way, I'd  
>> appreciate it.  
>  
>> -kedmond  
>  
> How about something like this:  
>  
> plot, x, y1  
> oplot, x, y2  
>  
> ymin = min( [[y1], [y2]], dim=2)  
> oplot, x, ymin, thick = 2  
>  
> auc = int\_tabulated(x, ymin)  
>  
> Regards,  
> Chris

---

---

Subject: Re: union or overlap of two plots  
Posted by [Spon](#) on Tue, 22 Jul 2008 16:26:46 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Jul 22, 3:59 pm, kedmond <kedm...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Chris,  
>  
> Thanks for the quick response. Your solution worked amazingly  
> well....now I have to sit and figure out why!

All I'm doing is finding out which is the lower of the two values for each point in the dataset with the MIN call, and storing the result in YMin. Then I'm using integration to find the area under the new YMin curve.

> To make the min()  
> function work, I had to set y1 and y2 equal to their transpose() since  
> min() wants the data to be in vector form. Once I did that, your  
> instructions work as stated.

Yes, I had forgotten that PLOT will automatically 'flatten out' the input in a way that array concatenation won't.

I guess to make the solution more general you could add in the Reform command before the concatenation:

```
ny = N_Elements(y1)
FlatY1 = Reform(y1, ny)
FlatY2 = Reform(y2, ny)
YMin = Min([[FlatY1], [FlatY2]], Dim = 2)
```

Here's some tutorials to help you figure out what IDL's doing here:

[http://www.dfanning.com/tips/rebin\\_magic.html](http://www.dfanning.com/tips/rebin_magic.html)

[http://www.dfanning.com/tips/array\\_concatenation.html](http://www.dfanning.com/tips/array_concatenation.html)

The second one explains what all the square brackets are doing, but I've found it's far easier to get your head around if you take the time to read the first one beforehand!

```
>
> Thanks again.
>
> -Kazem
```

All the best,  
Chris

---