Subject: Using contour in postscripts produces a "stripe" effect?
Posted by robparker23 on Sun, 15 Mar 2009 17:11:48 GMT

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I was hoping that someone could help.

When I create contour plots in the postscript device, they always seem
to contain some manner of "striping".

My code looks like:

```
SET_PLOT, 'ps'

loadct, 39
!p.color=0
!p.background=255

filename = 'contour.eps'
DEVICE, FILENAME=filename, /COLOR, BITS_PER_PIXEL=8, /ENCAPSULATED, /
PORTRAIT, XSIZE=18, YSIZE=8, XOFFSET=5, YOFFSET=2

contour,mean,lons,heights, /cell_fill, yrange=[300,50], xrange=
[-175,175], levels=lev, ystyle=1, xstyle=1
, position=[0.1,0.15,0.85,0.9], charsize=1, charthick=2

DEVICE, /CLOSE
```

Hopefully you can see from the image here what I mean:
 http://img19.imageshack.us/img19/5319/contourstripingexample .png

Anyone any ideas what I'm doing wrong?

Subject: Re: Using contour in postscripts produces a "stripe" effect?
Posted by David Fanning on Sun, 15 Mar 2009 21:49:05 GMT

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robparker23@googlemail.com writes:

> I'm using cell_fill as I'm plotting contours on maps as well and
> wanted it to be consistent and after reading this:
> http://www.dfanning.com/color_tips/fill_colors.html thought I should
> avoid /fill.
>

> I'll see if it gives the same problems with the striping.
>
> What I assumed the problem was was maybe the size of my plots or the
> length/width ratio producing the stripes but changing those hasn't
> fixed it.

Well, whatever the problem is, I don't think there is
much you can do about it. So I was just trying to find
out if we had any alternatives before I delivered the
bad news. :-)

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Using contour in postscripts produces a "stripe" effect?
Posted by robparker23 on Sun, 15 Mar 2009 21:58:30 GMT
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> Well, whatever the problem is, I don't think there is
> much you can do about it. So I was just trying to find
> out if we had any alternatives before I delivered the
> bad news. :-)

So this isn't a common problem with contour/postscript?

Thanks for your help, I can live with it if I have to but just thought
it might be something simple I was doing wrong.

Subject: Re: Using contour in postscripts produces a "stripe" effect?
Posted by David Fanning on Sun, 15 Mar 2009 22:33:22 GMT
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robparker23@googlemail.com writes:

> So this isn't a common problem with contour/postscript?

It isn't anything I've seen before, but...I'm pretty
sure I haven't seen everything. :-)

> Thanks for your help, I can live with it if I have to but just thought
> it might be something simple I was doing wrong.

Have you tried slightly smoothing your data before you
contour it? Did FILL do any good?

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Using contour in postscripts produces a "stripe" effect?
Posted by Andy Heaps on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 10:16:14 GMT

Hi Rob,
    did you use the ImageMagick command convert to produce the PNG file?
If so then try:
convert -density 400 -resize 25% file.eps file.png

    Cheers
       Andy

robparker23@googlemail.com wrote:
> I was hoping that someone could help.
>
> When I create contour plots in the postscript device, they always seem
> to contain some manner of "striping".
>
> My code looks like:
>
>
>
> SET_PLOT, 'ps'
>
> loadct, 39
> !p.color=0

> !p.background=255
>
> filename = 'contour.eps'
> DEVICE, FILENAME=filename, /COLOR, BITS_PER_PIXEL=8, /ENCAPSULATED, /
> PORTRAIT, XSIZE=18, YSIZE=8, XOFFSET=5, YOFFSET=2
>
> contour,mean,lons,heights, /cell_fill, yrange=[300,50], xrange=
> [-175,175], levels=lev, ystyle=1, xstyle=1
> , position=[0.1,0.15,0.85,0.9], charsize=1, charthick=2
>
> DEVICE, /CLOSE
>
>
>
> Hopefully you can see from the image here what I mean:
> http://img19.imageshack.us/img19/5319/contourstripingexample .png
>
> Anyone any ideas what I'm doing wrong?

Subject: Re: Using contour in postscripts produces a "stripe" effect?
Posted by Homeyer on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 15:30:12 GMT
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On Mar 15, 4:58 pm, robparke...@googlemail.com wrote:
>> Well, whatever the problem is, I don't think there is
>> much you can do about it. So I was just trying to find
>> out if we had any alternatives before I delivered the
>> bad news. :-)
>
> So this isn't a common problem with contour/postscript?
>
> Thanks for your help, I can live with it if I have to but just thought
> it might be something simple I was doing wrong.

I have seen the same issues with using CONTOUR and /CELL_FILL with
some cross-sections I have produced. It appears to be a dithering-like
artifact. I have looked through much of ITTs documentation and have
found nothing regarding dithering. I think it is just something you'll
have to live with. It may be something simple enough to question ITT
about. I assume this "striping" feature is not their intention with
PostScript.

Cheers,
Cameron Homeyer

Subject: Re: Using contour in postscripts produces a "stripe" effect?
Posted by robparker23 on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 20:19:35 GMT

> I have seen the same issues with using CONTOUR and /CELL_FILL with
> some cross-sections I have produced. It appears to be a dithering-like
> artifact. I have looked through much of ITTs documentation and have
> found nothing regarding dithering. I think it is just something you'll
> have to live with. It may be something simple enough to question ITT
> about. I assume this "striping" feature is not their intention with
> PostScript.
>
> Cheers,
> Cameron Homeyer

Thanks for that, I'm sort of glad it's not just me ;-)

This doesn't appear to happen with /fill but then the colours are all
incorrect as per the link to David's site I posted above.

To Andy: It's also not an artifact of converting between eps and png,
it's actually in the original eps files before I convert them to PNG.