
Subject: Re: Shift label positions in contour plots?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Sep 2009 14:57:00 GMT

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

Charles writes:

> Using "contour", I've made a contour plot with 3 sets of contours.
> I've got them with no fills and each has a different line style. I've
> labeled the contour levels, so the value of each contour appears along
> the curves in a couple of places:
>
> contour, z0, x, y, levels=findgen(10)/10d, c_labels=findgen(10),
> c_charsize=1, ,c_line=0
> contour, z1, x, y, levels=findgen(10)/10d, c_labels=findgen(10),
> c_charsize=1, ,c_line=1, /overplot
> contour, z2, x, y, levels=findgen(10)/10d, c_labels=findgen(10),
> c_charsize=1, ,c_line=2, /overplot
>
> A sample of the plot is here: <http://bit.ly/12e1Y7>
>
> My problem is that the labels overlap with each other in several
> places. If the contour sets were similar enough, I would just label
> one set and imply that each label applied to all of the nearest
> curves. But each contour set is different, so I need a label on every
> contour. I'd prefer not to decrease the font size very much.
>
> My question is - it is possible to shift the positions of the labels
> along the contours using "contour" or some other routine?

It is NOT possible using the direct graphics routine CONTOUR.

You would have a great deal more control if you were to use the object graphics routine IDLgrCONTOUR. But, there would be a significantly longer learning curve. You might be able to use XContour from my web page as a place to jump-start the process:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/xcontour.pro>

XContour is **very** old. If you manage to improve it, I'd like to hear about it. :-)

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: Shift label positions in contour plots?
Posted by [Charles\[1\]](#) on Wed, 30 Sep 2009 17:33:46 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Thanks, David -- I didn't realize it was a nontrivial problem. I came up with an inelegant solution that will save time (in the short term). I can budge the labels a bit by making strings with extra spaces:

```
labeltext=' 0.'+STRTRIM(indgen(10),2)+' '
```

Then I explicitly use those strings as the contour labels:

```
contour, z0, x, y, c_annotation=labeltext ...
```

Because of the spaces, there are now slight gaps in the contours but on the whole it's an improvement.

Chaz

Subject: Re: Shift label positions in contour plots?
Posted by [penteado](#) on Wed, 30 Sep 2009 18:16:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Sep 30, 11:57 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> It is NOT possible using the direct graphics routine CONTOUR.
>
> You would have a great deal more control if you were to use
> the object graphics routine IDLgrCONTOUR. But, there would
> be a significantly longer learning curve. You might be able
> to use XContour from my web page as a place to jump-start
> the process:

It is easy using icontour instead of contour. The keyword `c_label_interval` probably can solve this, using a different interval for each plot. If its keywords or editing interactively is not enough, you can get its contour object and change only what is needed, which would save the work of setting up all the objects.
