
Subject: Re: CONTOUR: how to get rid of that zero tick name?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 13:28:09 GMT

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Timm Weitkamp writes:

> I would like to make a CONTOUR plot with self-defined tick names, like
> in this example (where the x tick names are user-defined):
>
> IDL> contour, dist(3), [-1,0,1], [-1,0,1], xticks=3, xtickv=[-1,0,1],
> xtickname=['a', 'b', 'c']
>
> That should work, I thought. But it doesn't. What happens is tha IDL
> overplots a zero ("0") over the "b". (See screenshot of the plot at
> <<http://www.sendspace.com/file/0uhh4q>>.)
>
> Does this happen on other IDL installations than mine? Is it a bug? A
> feature? And, above all: how can I get rid of this behavior? Any help
> appreciated.

You have a mismatch between the number of tick *intervals*
you specify (with TICKS) and the number of tick names
you provide. If you provide three tick names, then you
only want two tick intervals. If you put XTICKS=2 this
will work the way you expect it to work.

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: CONTOUR: how to get rid of that zero tick name?

Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 13:39:43 GMT

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On Jun 7, 3:28 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Timm Weitkamp writes:
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> will work the way you expect it to work.
```

Oops. Reading the manual more carefully would have helped. Sorry, and thank you!

Timm

Subject: Re: CONTOUR: how to get rid of that zero tick name?
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 22:12:23 GMT
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Timm Weitkamp wrote:

```
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> Oops. Reading the manual more carefully would have helped. Sorry, and
> thank you!
```

While it's true that careful reading of the manual reveals the solution, I reckon the fault lies with the keyword names themselves. I mean, what would one intuitively expect a keyword called "XTICKS" to specify?? *Especially* when the other tick-related keywords are tick related, not ticket-interval related.

It's one of those annoying special-case situations where you either have to remember the rules, or continually RTFM.

cheers,

paulv

p.s. I'm only grouching about it because I made exactly the same error today.

p.p.s. While this aspect of IDL's plotting interface was undoubtedly settled very early on, I think me reading Donald Norman's "The Design of Everyday Things" back in the '90s has made me rather intolerant of poorly designed interfaces.

Subject: Re: CONTOUR: how to get rid of that zero tick name?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 22:26:27 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

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> rules, or continually RTFM.

I've been waiting all day for this to come up. But
I didn't want to get into it. I have my own problems
with a misspent youth. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: CONTOUR: how to get rid of that zero tick name?
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 23:10:14 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> Paul van Delst writes:

>

>> While it's true that careful reading of the manual reveals the solution, I reckon the
>> fault lies with the keyword names themselves. I mean, what would one intuitively expect a
>> keyword called "XTICKS" to specify?? *Especially* when the other tick-related keywords are
>> tick related, not ticket-interval related.

>>

>> It's one of those annoying special-case situations where you either have to remember the
>> rules, or continually RTFM.

>

> I've been waiting all day for this to come up. But

> I didn't want to get into it. I have my own problems

> with a misspent youth. :-(

Misspent youth!?!? Mate, I'm still waiting for the wisdom light to come on (insert
Reinhold Niebuhr quote here). What I need right now, as Frank Costanza exclaimed, is
SERENITY NOW!

:o)

cheers,

paulv
