
Subject: Re: Overplot behalfts strange

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Nov 2010 16:51:08 GMT

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sirvival writes:

```
> I am trying to plot an array and then do an overplot with a contour of
> the same data.
>
>
> My code is like this
>
> colors
> y = indgen((ey-5)-(sy+5)+1)+(sy+5)
> window,5,xsize=1280,ysize=1000
> loadct,0
> display,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,/log,xtitle='Pixel',ytitle='Pixel'
> colors
> contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,nlevels=15,thick=2.5,col= 2,/
> overplot
>
>
> This does not work like I want it too. The contour does not get plotted
> as it seems.
>
> But if I do another plot in advance that looks the same but uses the /
> noerase keyword with contour I get what I am looking for.
> e.g.
> window,0
> display,ordim
> contour,ordim,nlevels=20,/noerase
>
> If I close idl it gets "reseted" and I have to do the /noerase plot
> again to get my plot working.
>
> Its not an big issue but I wonder whats happening.
>
> What I want is:
> http://img841.imageshack.us/img841/9059/contour.jpg
```

Ah, yes, timely question. I am working on this section of my book now. You are going to like it. :-)

The problem you have is that "Display" is probably just displaying an image, not setting up a data coordinate space. Hence, there is nothing for Contour to "overplot" on. No data coordinate space!!

With images, it is typically necessary (because image don't create data coordinate spaces in IDL), to "draw" a data coordinate space over the top of them. We try to do this invisibly, of course, so we usually turn the axes completely off. Your commands should be something like this:

```
contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,nlevels=15,thick=2.5,$
  col=2, xstyle=5, ystyle=5, /nodata
display,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,/log,xtitle='Pixel',$
  ytitle='Pixel'
contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,nlevels=15,thick=2.5,$
  col=2,/overplot
```

Or, you could just continue to use that NOERASE keyword. That's what I would probably do. You just need to remember to erase your display window before you display your image, since I doubt Display remembers to do that for you either.

By the way, you are doing your contour plots all wrong, too. :-)

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/tips.html#CONTOURPLOTTIPS>

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: Overplot behalfts strange

Posted by [sirvival](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 11:02:47 GMT

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On 3 Nov., 17:51, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> sirvival writes:

>> I am trying to plot an array and then do an overplot with a contour of
>> the same data.

>

>> My code is like this

>

>> colors

>> y = indgen((ey-5)-(sy+5)+1)+(sy+5)

```

>> window,5,xsize=1280,ysize=1000
>> loadct,0
>> display,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,/log,xtitle='Pixel',ytitle='Pixel'
>> colors
>> contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,nlevels=15,thick=2.5,col= 2,/
>> overplot
>
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> of my book now. You are going to like it. :-)
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> just displaying an image, not setting up a data
> coordinate space. Hence, there is nothing for Contour
> to "overplot" on. No data coordinate space!!
>
> With images, it is typically necessary (because
> image don't create data coordinate spaces in IDL),
> to "draw" a data coordinate space over the top of them.
> We try to do this invisibly, of course, so we usually
> turn the axes completely off. Your commands should be
> something like this:
>
> contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,nlevels=15,thick=2.5,$
>   col=2, xstyle=5, ystyle=5, /nodata
> display,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,/log,xtitle='Pixel',$
>   ytitle='Pixel'
> contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,nlevels=15,thick=2.5,$
>   col=2,/overplot
>
> Or, you could just continue to use that NOERASE keyword.

```

> That's what I would probably do. You just need to remember
> to erase your display window before you display your image,
> since I doubt Display remembers to do that for you either.
>
> By the way, you are doing your contour plots all wrong, too. :-)
>
> <http://www.dfanning.com/documents/tips.html#CONTOURPLOTTIPS>
>
> 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.")

Thanks.

Strange thing is I used /noerase on a different window in my code and
it still does what I want (display is from
<http://www.astro.uu.se/~piskunov/RESEARCH/REDUCE/display.pro>).
Even if it is in a differnt pro that I run prior.

With wrong you mean nlevels?

Subject: Re: Overplot behalfts strange
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 13:04:45 GMT
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survival writes:

> Strange thing is I used /noerase on a different window in my code and
> it still does what I want (display is from
> <http://www.astro.uu.se/~piskunov/RESEARCH/REDUCE/display.pro>).
> Even if it is in a differnt pro that I run prior.

Yes, any time you do a Plot or Contour command,
a data coordinate system is established and stored
in system variables. It doesn't matter what window
you issue the command in. But, if you rely on
commands outside your program to do things for you,
you will be shocked and awed, sooner rather than
later, at how quickly things can turn bad for you.
And it is usually during the big demo of your new
software to your boss. :-)

> With wrong you mean nlevels?

When you use the NLEVELS keyword in a contour plot, you are only guaranteed the number of levels won't exceed N. How many *less* than N you get is a matter of which phase the moon is in and whether you have attended religious services in the past 10 days.

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: Overplot behalfts strange

Posted by [sirvival](#) on Thu, 04 Nov 2010 13:38:05 GMT

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On 4 Nov., 14:04, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Yes, any time you do a Plot or Contour command,
> a data coordinate system is established and stored
> in system variables. It doesn't matter what window
> you issue the command in.

Ah ok. If it gets stored as system variable then the behavior makes sense.

The extra pro was only mentioned by me because thats how I noticed the "problem" (I used an existing pro and reduced its code for my purpose. The /noerase was missing therefor. When I compared both pros the only difference I noticed was the /noerase that was done in the original prior to the main plot).

> When you use the NLEVELS keyword in a contour plot,
> you are only guaranteed the number of levels won't
> exceed N. How many *less* than N you get is a matter
> of which phase the moon is in and whether you have
> attended religious services in the past 10 days.

Final code (with correct nlevels as shown in your example):

```
levels = 15
step = (Max(ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5]) - Min(ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5])) /
levels
userLevels = IndGen(levels) * step + Min(ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5])
```

```
y = indgen((ey-5)-(sy+5)+1)+(sy+5)
window,5,xsize=1280,ysize=1000
loadct,0
  contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,nlevels=15,thick=2.5,col= 2,
xstyle=5, ystyle=5, /nodata
  display,ordim[sx:ex,sy+5:ey-5],x,y,/log,xtitle='Pixel',ytitle='Pixel'
  colors
  contour,ordim[sx:ex,sy
+5:ey-5],x,y,xtitle='Pixel',ytitle='Pixel',levels=userLevels ,thick=2.5,col=2,/
overplot
write_jpeg,'contour.jpg',tvrd(true=1),true=1,quality=100
```

Thx again
