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Subject: using cgSurface to produce a scatter 3D plot with 4th dimension

Posted by on Wed, 07 Mar 2012 11:16:54 GMT

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Hi,

I have a datacube like this and two arrays with the values for the 3 axes

```
L1      DOUBLE  = Array[100]
L2      DOUBLE  = Array[100]
SINF    DOUBLE  = Array[100]
XI2MAP   DOUBLE  = Array[100, 100, 100]
```

I select a number of points using where() and now want to create a 3D plot of these points and use the color to represent their value. I managed to do this with cgsurf:

```
max_xi    = 800
select    = where(xi2map LT max_xi,count)
WhereToMulti, xi2map, select, Col, Row, Frame
xi2       = xi2map[col,row,frame]
symColors  = Fix(BytScl(xi2))

cgLoadCT, 3
cgSurf,
  dist(100),l1,l2,xrange=[min(l1),max(l1)],yrange=[min(l2),max
(l2)],zrange=[min(sinf),max(sinf)],xstyle=1,ystyle=1,$
  /NoErase, xtitle='lambda_1',ytitle='lambda_2',ztitle='stability',/
  nodata,/window,/save

cgAxis,XAxis=1,/T3D,XStyle=1,/window
cgAxis,YAxis=1,/T3D,YStyle=1,/window
cgAxis,ZAxis=0,/T3D,max(l1),min(l2),/window
cgAxis,ZAxis=0,/T3D,max(l1),max(l2),/window

cgColorbar, Divisions=4, Minor=5, Format='(F0.2)',
Range=[min(xi2map[select]), max(xi2map[select])],title='Xi2',/add

cgControl, Execute=0
FOR i=0,count-1 DO BEGIN
cgplots,[l1[col[i]],l1[col[i]],l2[row[i]],l2[row[i]],
[sinf[frame[i]],min(sinf)],color=cgcolor('light gray')]$
  ,/T3d,/add
ENDFOR

FOR i=0, count-1 DO BEGIN
```

```

cgplots,l1[col[i]],l2[row[i]],min(sinf),/
t3d,psym=3,symsize=1.0,color=cgColor('black'),/add
ENDFOR

FOR i=0, count-1 DO BEGIN
cgplots,l1[col[i]],l2[row[i]],sinf[frame[i]],/
t3d,psym=symcat(16),symsize=2,color=cgColor(StrTrim(symcolor s[i],2)),/
add
ENDFOR
cgControl, Execute=1

```

that's pretty much how David Fanning explained it in his traditional graphics book (pages 185-197). Now I am trying to get this working with cgsurface so I can rotate and zoom my xi2 map. Is this even possible with cgsurface since it only accepts the data in 2D?

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Subject: Re: using cgSurface to produce a scatter 3D plot with 4th dimension  
 Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2012 13:25:13 GMT  
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Sebastian Schäfer writes:

- > I did - but Scatter\_Surface only accepts 3 dimensions (e.g. x,y and a
- > value for each point: z). Unfortunately, I have 4 dimensions: 3
- > coordinates (x,y,z) and one value for each of these points. What is
- > missing is the option to use the color of the symbols plotted to
- > visualize the 4th dimension (like I did with cgSurf) or am I
- > overlooking something?

That simple program does "elevation shading" (i.e., in the Z direction) by default, just like in your example.

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: using cgSurface to produce a scatter 3D plot with 4th dimension  
Posted by on Fri, 09 Mar 2012 14:22:14 GMT

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On 9 Mrz., 14:25, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

> That simple program does "elevation shading" (i.e., in the  
> Z direction) by default, just like in your example.

True, but I have 4 dimensions x,y,z,f(x,y,z) and Scatter\_Surface only accepts 3 so there is no way I can plot my data with that program. One would need to extend Scatter\_surface in order to do that (which I can't), and as I said, that's two lines in gnuplot (4D, not 3D).

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Subject: Re: using cgSurface to produce a scatter 3D plot with 4th dimension  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2012 14:37:36 GMT

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Sebastian Schäfer writes:

> True, but I have 4 dimensions x,y,z,f(x,y,z) and Scatter\_Surface only  
> accepts 3 so there is no way I can plot my data with that program. One  
> would need to extend Scatter\_surface in order to do that (which I  
> can't), and as I said, that's two lines in gnuplot (4D, not 3D).

Well, really, this is a 30 second fix. But, I'm on my way to Hawaii and can't be bothered today! Maybe I'll work on this when I get back. Can't have gnuplot doing things IDL doesn't. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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