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Subject: Re: Contour Plot Issues

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 12 Jul 2012 20:44:35 GMT

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ecatcom1@gmail.com writes:

> Hi All! I have a seemingly-simple issue that I can't for the life of me get to work, and another issue mainly of existence.

>

> The first: I am trying to get a contour plot to plot with the spacing between minor/major ticks to be the same in the x and y direction. No matter what I try, I can't get this to work. I need to size of the plot itself to be able to change (so if i have 10 major ticks in x and 20 in y, I don't want the plot to be that size when, say, the next plot has 5 ticks in x and 15 in y because then the spacing between the x and y ticks won't be the same). Hope that made sense!

>

> Here's my code:

>

> cgContour,z,x,y, /Fill,\$ ;Position=[0.125,0.025,0.9,0.8] I had a colorbar, but I can't hardcode a size to this plot since it will mess with my tick interval lengths depending on number of ticks I have, so commented this out

>       levels=levels, C\_colors=Indgen(numLevels(1))+1,\$

>       c\_labels=levels, /Outline,\$

>       xminor=5, yminor=5,\$ ;tried hardcoding the number of minor ticks

>       xtickinterval=10, ytickinterval=10,\$ ;tried hardcoding the interval size

>       xticks=20,yticks=20,\$ ;even tried hardcoding the number of ticks

>       xstyle=1, ystyle=1,\$

>       xrange=[-20,20],yrange=[-20,20], /Window ;and tried to give it the same range as a last desperate plea to see if it would give me the same distance between ticks....but nope.

> Help!

Here it took me two minutes to add an ASPECT keyword to cgContour plot for you. Set the ASPECT=1.0 and you will have what you want:

```
cgContour, ..., Aspect=1.0, /Window
```

Find the new program here:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgcontour.pro>

> The second issue: Is there a contour plot option anywhere that will >

> allow me to dynamically change the x and y range so i can zoom in/out?

Alas, not on a filled contour. It would be MUCH easier if you gridded your data yourself and worked with the gridded data as an image. Then almost anything is possible. :-)

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: Contour Plot Issues

Posted by [Oana Coman](#) on Thu, 12 Jul 2012 21:59:37 GMT

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Hi David,

Thanks for the response!

Does the aspect keyword just keep the aspect ratio of the contour plot the same? I've been running it with multiple contour plots and it looks like the plot width/height is remaining constant while the distances between my tick marks have to adjust to that constant plot and so the distances between my x-ticks and y-ticks are not matching up so my contour does not look right proportionally :(

I'm looking for something where my plot width/height will adjust to keep a constant spacing between tick marks. Like, if there is 1 inch between x=0 and x=10, so then there should also be 1 inch between y=0 and y=10. Depending on what I'm plotting, sometimes my y-axis will go from -10 to 10 and my x-axis will go from -20 to 20, so I want to plot size to be smaller in the y-direction...it should only cover 2 inches whereas my x-axis should cover 4 if we use the example above. Or if my y-axis goes from -15 to 25 and my x from 0 to 10, my y-axis should cover 4 inches and x should cover 1.

Maybe I am doing it incorrectly? Updated code below:

```
cgContour,z,x,y, /Fill,$
    levels=levels, C_colors=Indgen(numLevels(1))+1,$
    c_labels=levels, /Outline,$
    xminor=5, yminor=5,$
    xtickinterval=10, ytickinterval=10,$
    xticks=20, yticks=20,$
    xstyle=1, ystyle=1,$
    Aspect=1.0, /Window
```

Or would this depend more on the Window than the contour?

Thanks for all the help!

On Thursday, July 12, 2012 1:44:35 PM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> [ecatcom1@gmail.com](mailto:ecatcom1@gmail.com) writes:

>

> &gt; Hi All! I have a seemingly-simple issue that I can't for the life of me get to work, and

another issue mainly of existence.

> &gt;

> &gt; The first: I am trying to get a contour plot to plot with the spacing between minor/major ticks to be the same in the x and y direction. No matter what I try, I can't get this to work. I need to size of the plot itself to be able to change (so if i have 10 major ticks in x and 20 in y, I don't want the plot to be that size when, say, the next plot has 5 ticks in x and 15 in y because then the spacing between the x and y ticks won't be the same). Hope that made sense!

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> &gt; Here's my code:

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> &gt; cgContour,z,x,y, /Fill,\$ ;Position=[0.125,0.025,0.9,0.8] I had a colorbar, but I can't  
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> &gt; xstyle=1, ystyle=1,\$

> &gt; xrange=[-20,20], yrange=[-20,20], /Window ;and tried to give it the same range as  
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>

> Find the new program here:

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> <http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgcontour.pro>

>

> &gt; The second issue: Is there a contour plot option anywhere that will &gt;

> &gt; allow me to dynamically change the x and y range so i can zoom in/out?

>

> Alas, not on a filled contour. It would be MUCH easier if you

> gridded your data yourself and worked with the gridded data

> as an image. Then almost anything is possible. :-)

>

> 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: Contour Plot Issues

Posted by [DavidF\[1\]](#) on Thu, 12 Jul 2012 22:30:50 GMT

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ecat...@gmail.com writes:

- > Does the aspect keyword just keep the aspect ratio of the contour plot the same?

The ASPECT keyword should be used to set the aspect ratio of the plot to whatever aspect it is you want. If you want 5 units in Y and 10 units in X, then the aspect ratio of 5./10. If you have 10 units of Y and 5 units of X, then the aspect ratio you want is 10./5. You will have to decide the aspect ratio based on the X and Y ranges of your plot. In your original post, you had these the same, so I suggested an aspect ratio of 1.0.

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: Contour Plot Issues

Posted by [Oana Coman](#) on Fri, 13 Jul 2012 19:25:43 GMT

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Hi David,

That's the big problem, though. I don't know ahead of time how my plot is going to look. I am working with someone's GUI. There's an IDL draw widget where I'm defining a region of interest, and depending on that region of interest my program computes an autocorrelation and then plots the results. So the shape of my plot will depend on the shape of the ROI, and since I'm not actually inputting numbers for this ROI but clicking and dragging in that window to create a rectangle, I don't have a way of knowing what those dimensions are before the plot (so I can't hardcode an aspect ratio ahead of time).

I feel like there has to be some way to define the plot size using the x range and y range that will still give me even tick spacing in both axes, or some way to just make the contour plot have those even tick spacings. I just don't know what it is :(

On Thursday, July 12, 2012 3:30:50 PM UTC-7, Coyote wrote:

- > ecat...@gmail.com writes:

- >

- > &gt; Does the aspect keyword just keep the aspect ratio of the contour plot the same?

- >

> The ASPECT keyword should be used to set the aspect ratio of the plot to whatever aspect it is you want. If you want 5 units in Y and 10 units in X, then the aspect ratio of 5./10. If you have 10 units of Y and 5 units of X, then the aspect ratio you want is 10./5. You will have to decide the aspect ratio based on the X and Y ranges of your plot. In your original post, you had these the same, so I suggested an aspect ratio of 1.0.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

---

Subject: Re: Contour Plot Issues

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 13 Jul 2012 19:33:57 GMT

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ecatcom1@gmail.com writes:

> That's the big problem, though. I don't know ahead of time how my plot is going to look. I am working with someone's GUI. There's an IDL draw widget where I'm defining a region of interest, and depending on that region of interest my program computes an autocorrelation and then plots the results. So the shape of my plot will depend on the shape of the ROI, and since I'm not actually inputting numbers for this ROI but clicking and dragging in that window to create a rectangle, I don't have a way of knowing what those dimensions are before the plot (so I can't hardcode an aspect ratio ahead of time).

> I feel like there has to be some way to define the plot size using the x range and y range that will still give me even tick spacing in both axes, or some way to just make the contour plot have those even tick spacings. I just don't know what it is :(

Well, you can continue to believe this if you like. Good luck with this!

But, if you are the one creating the ROI, and you seem to have some notion of the xrange and yrange, then I'd be willing to bet some money you have enough information to set the aspect ratio of the plot correctly. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

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Subject: Re: Contour Plot Issues

Posted by [Oana Coman](#) on Fri, 13 Jul 2012 20:42:10 GMT

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Whoops! Light bulb just turned on!

New Code:

```
xrange=[xmin,xmax]
yrange=[ymin,ymax]

numLevels=size(levels)
LoadCT, 33, NColorS=numLevels(1), Bottom=1
xran=xmax-xmin
yran=ymax-ymin
asp=yran/xran
cgContour,aa,x(ix),y(iy), /Fill,$
    levels=levels, C_colors=Indgen(numLevels(1))+1,$
    c_labels=levels, /Outline,$
    xminor=5, yminor=5,$
    xrange=xrange, yrange=yrange,$
    xtickinterval=10, ytickinterval=10,$
    ASPECT=asp,/Window
```

When I am resizing my window, it keeps the aspect ratio the same. Yay!

The problem is my plot doesn't show the correct aspect ratio. For example, I just plotted something with  $x=[-12,11]$   $y=[-34,33]$ ,  $asp=2.91304$  (I put a stop in my code and checked to see that all these values are correct and they are). But when it actually plots, the y-axis looks almost 5 times bigger than the x...which is not what I told it to do.

Any ideas why this could be happening? Is my code funky?

Thanks for putting up with my silliness!

On Friday, July 13, 2012 12:33:57 PM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> ecatcom1@gmail.com writes:

>

> &gt; That's the big problem, though. I don't know ahead of time how my plot is going to look. I am working with someone's GUI. There's an IDL draw widget where I'm defining a region of interest, and depending on that region of interest my program computes an autocorrelation and then plots the results. So the shape of my plot will depend on the shape of the ROI, and since I'm not actually inputting numbers for this ROI but clicking and dragging in that window to create a

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> But, if you are the one creating the ROI, and you seem to have  
> some notion of the xrange and yrange, then I'd be willing to  
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> ratio of the plot correctly. :-)  
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Subject: Re: Contour Plot Issues  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 13 Jul 2012 21:11:16 GMT  
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ecatcom1@gmail.com writes:

> Whoops! Light bulb just turned on!  
> New Code:  
>   xrange=[xmin,xmax]  
>   yrange=[ymin,ymax]  
>  
>   numLevels=size(levels)  
>   LoadCT, 33, NColorS=numLevels(1), Bottom=1  
>   xran=xmax-xmin  
>   yran=ymax-ymin  
>   asp=yran/xran  
>   cgContour,aa,x(ix),y(iy), /Fill,\$  
>        levels=levels, C\_colors=Indgen(numLevels(1))+1,\$  
>        c\_labels=levels, /Outline,\$  
>        xminor=5, yminor=5,\$  
>        xrange=xrange, yrange=yrange,\$  
>        xtickinterval=10, ytickinterval=10,\$  
>        ASPECT=asp,/Window  
>  
> When I am resizing my window, it keeps the aspect ratio the same. Yay!  
> The problem is my plot doesn't show the correct aspect ratio. For example, I just plotted  
something with x=[-12,11] y=[-34,33], asp=2.91304 (I put a stop in my code and checked to see  
that all these values are correct and they are). But when it actually plots, the y-axis looks almost 5  
times bigger than the x...which is not what I told it to do.  
> Any ideas why this could be happening? Is my code funky?

>  
> Thanks for putting up with my silliness!

I don't know. This looks right to me. Here is the code I used:

```
cgcontour, cgdemodata(2), xrange=[-12, 11], $  
    yrange=[-34,33], aspect=67./23
```

The distance from 0 to 10 on the X axis is the same as the distance from 0 to 10 on the Y axis. Isn't that what you wanted, for the distances to be in the same units?

Cheers,

David

--

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---

Subject: Re: Contour Plot Issues  
Posted by [Oana Coman](#) on Fri, 13 Jul 2012 21:57:00 GMT  
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Yep, it's exactly what I wanted.  
And your code works for me, too.  
I stripped my cgContour command down to the bare minimum and it worked(just the data, ranges, and aspect). Then started adding the extra stuff, and it worked fine until the /Window keyboard. Seems that's what is making my plot go crazy. Any reason why this should be? I added it to the code you posted, also, and /Window causes issues with that too.

On Friday, July 13, 2012 2:11:16 PM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> ecatcom1@gmail.com writes:  
>  
> &gt; Whoops! Light bulb just turned on!  
> &gt; New Code:  
> &gt; xrange=[xmin,xmax]  
> &gt; yrange=[ymin,ymax]  
> &gt;  
> &gt; numLevels=size(levels)  
> &gt; LoadCT, 33, NColorS=numLevels(1), Bottom=1



> &gt; xran=xmax-xmin  
> &gt; yran=ymax-ymin  
> &gt; asp=yran/xran  
> &gt; cgContour,aa,x(ix),y(iy), /Fill,\$  
> &gt; levels=levels, C\_colors=Indgen(numLevels(1))+1,\$  
> &gt; c\_labels=levels, /Outline,\$  
> &gt; xminor=5, yminor=5,\$  
> &gt; xrange=xrange, yrange=yrange,\$  
> &gt; xtickinterval=10, ytickinterval=10,\$  
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>  
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> The distance from 0 to 10 on the X axis is the same as  
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> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

Subject: Re: Contour Plot Issues

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 14 Jul 2012 00:17:57 GMT

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---

ecatcom1@gmail.com writes:

> Yep, it's exactly what I wanted.  
> And your code works for me, too.  
> I stripped my cgContour command down to the bare minimum and it worked(just the data, ranges, and aspect). Then started adding the extra stuff, and it worked fine until the /Window keyboard. Seems that's what is making my plot go crazy. Any reason why this should be? I added it to the code you posted, also, and /Window causes issues with that too.

Ah, yes, I've seen that problem before!

I think Coyote must have taken me out and got me liquored up the night I got the big idea to separate cgWindow from cgCmdWindow. Because I had a very nice working program one day, and something else the next, and can't really remember how it happened. :-(

Anyway, cgWindow *should* be using the WASPECT keyword to set the window aspect ratio, but somehow it got turned around to think it should be using the ASPECT keyword to do this. Naturally, we are running in to problems with this now.

So, I've gone back to the WASPECT keyword for setting Window ASPECT, like it should have been all the time.

You can download the correct programs here:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgwindow.pro>  
[http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgcmdwindow\\_\\_define.pro](http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgcmdwindow__define.pro)

Sorry for the inconvenience. I'm going to go have it out with Coyote now, if I can find him. He leaves about 2:00 in the afternoon on Fridays to start partying. Sometimes I don't see him until noon on Monday. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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