
Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot

Posted by [tortoisesaregreat](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2013 22:07:12 GMT

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On Tuesday, 15 January 2013 20:56:23 UTC, lj...@fsmail.net wrote:

> I am trying to do a contour plot of a latitude-longitude array, but I keep getting gaps in my plot, as shown in the following image: <http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteel/contour.png>. I'm stumped as to the reason, as it's not as if it's missing contours at the very end ranges of the contour values - it's somewhere in between. Anyhow, I'm sure the knowledgeable folks on here will know!

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> I have defined a blue-white-red colour scheme and loaded it in with tvlct, but the problem occurs with other colour schemes too. I am calculating my contour levels and colours as follows (with ncont the number of contours I'm plotting):

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> minv = floor(min(array))
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> maxv = ceil(max(array))
>
> maxval = max([abs(array),abs(array)])
>
> clevels = -maxval + findgen(ncont)/(ncont-1)*2*maxval
>
> ccol = floor(findgen(ncont)/(ncont-1)*250)

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> I am then plotting my contour plot as:

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> device, decomposed=0
>
> bwr_colour, red_vec, grn_vec, blu_vec
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> tvlct, red_vec, grn_vec, blu_vec
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> contour, array, lon, lat, \$
>
> levels=clevls, c_colors=ccol, /fill, \$
>
> background=cgColor('white'), color=cgColor('black'), \$
>
> xrange=[-180,180], yrange=[-90,90], xstyle=1, ystyle=1, \$
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> yticks=6, ytickv=[-90,-60,-30,0,30,60,90], $
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> xticks=6, xtickv=[-180,-120,-60,0,60,120,180], $
>
> xtitle='Longitude', ytitle='Latitude', charsize=1.5, $
>
> title=plotsym+' (all motions) / g m!u-1!n s!u-1!n'
>
>
>
> If anyone can offer any suggestions then I'll be very grateful, as it's bugging me now!
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>
> Cheers,
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>
> Liam

```

Sorry - I made a mistake when typing the code to the newsgroup. The maxval statement actually reads:

```
maxval = max([abs(minv),abs(maxv)])
```

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
 Posted by [DavidF\[1\]](#) on Tue, 15 Jan 2013 22:14:04 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Tuesday, January 15, 2013 1:56:23 PM UTC-7, lj...@fsmail.net wrote:

```

> I am trying to do a contour plot of a latitude-longitude array, but I keep getting gaps in my plot,
> as shown in the following image: http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteel/contour.png. I'm stumped
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>     yticks=6, ytickv=[-90,-60,-30,0,30,60,90], $
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>     xticks=6, xtickv=[-180,-120,-60,0,60,120,180], $
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Just seeing "lon", "lat", and "contour" causes me to think that one of your problems is that you should be using the CELL_FILL keyword, rather than the FILL keyword.

http://www.idlcoyote.com/color_tips/fill_colors.html

If that doesn't work, I'd try cgCONTOUR. That routine will fill up the "normal" hole Contour creates.

http://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/contour_hole.php

Cheers,

David

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot

Posted by [tortoisesaregreat](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 00:11:50 GMT

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

On Tuesday, 15 January 2013 22:14:04 UTC, Coyote wrote:

> On Tuesday, January 15, 2013 1:56:23 PM UTC-7, lj...@fsmail.net wrote:

>

>> I am trying to do a contour plot of a latitude-longitude array, but I keep getting gaps in my plot, as shown in the following image: <http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteel/contour.png>. I'm stumped as to the reason, as it's not as if it's missing contours at the very end ranges of the contour values - it's somewhere in between. Anyhow, I'm sure the knowledgeable folks on here will know!

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>> tvlct, red_vec, grn_vec, blu_vec
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> Cheers,
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> David

```

Thanks David - I'll give both a try tomorrow and see what happens!

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
Posted by [Sir Loin Steak](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 09:51:49 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wednesday, January 16, 2013 12:11:50 AM UTC, tortoise...@gmail.com wrote:

> On Tuesday, 15 January 2013 22:14:04 UTC, Coyote wrote:

>

>> On Tuesday, January 15, 2013 1:56:23 PM UTC-7, lj...@fsmail.net wrote:

>

>>

>

>>> I am trying to do a contour plot of a latitude-longitude array, but I keep getting gaps in my plot, as shown in the following image: <http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteele/contour.png>. I'm stumped as to the reason, as it's not as if it's missing contours at the very end ranges of the contour values - it's somewhere in between. Anyhow, I'm sure the knowledgeable folks on here will know!

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>>> levels=clevels, c_colors=ccol, /fill, $
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>>> background=cgColor('white'), color=cgColor('black'), $
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>>> xrange=[-180,180], yrange=[-90,90], xstyle=1, ystyle=1, $
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>>> yticks=6, ytickv=[-90,-60,-30,0,30,60,90], $
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>>> xticks=6, xtickv=[-180,-120,-60,0,60,120,180], $
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>>> xtitle='Longitude', ytitle='Latitude', charsize=1.5, $
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>>> title=plotsym+' (all motions) / g m!u-1!n s!u-1!n'
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> Thanks David - I'll give both a try tomorrow and see what happens!

Hmm, well neither cell_fill nor cgcontour fix the problem. I'll have to have another fiddle and see what I can do, but it seems like it should work!

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
Posted by [Sir Loin Steak](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 10:28:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wednesday, January 16, 2013 9:51:49 AM UTC, [lj...@fsmail.net](#) wrote:
> On Wednesday, January 16, 2013 12:11:50 AM UTC, [tortoise...@gmail.com](#) wrote:
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> Hmm, well neither cell_fill nor cgcontour fix the problem. I'll have to have another fiddle and see what I can do, but it seems like it should work!

Right, I've just done some more checking, and when I specify the colour values to range from 0-255 it works, but when I set them to range from 0-250 it doesn't. The two plots are shown at <http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteale/contour2>.

In the two plots shown, the left is done using `ccol=floor(findgen(ncont)/(ncont-1)*255)` and the right is done using `ccol=floor(findgen(ncont)/(ncont-1)*250)`, with `ncont=30`. So, the only change is going from 255 to 250, with the contours being correct at 255.

Does anyone know why this would be causing a problem?

Cheers,

Liam

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 14:15:50 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

ljs15@fsmail.net writes:

> Hmm, well neither cell_fill nor cgcontour fix the problem. I'll have to have another fiddle and see what I can do, but it seems like it should work!

If neither of those work, then I think the next thing to look for are unfounded assumptions in the input to the Contour routine. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 14:34:52 GMT

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

ljs15@fsmail.net writes:

> Right, I've just done some more checking, and when I specify the colour values to range from 0-255 it works, but when I set them to range from 0-250 it doesn't. The two plots are shown at <http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteele/contour2>.

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>

> Does anyone know why this would be causing a problem?

I think you have a fairly odd way of selecting colors and contours, which is causing a mismatch between the contours, the data, and the colors. What happens if you set the contours and colors up this way:

```
minv = Floor(min(array))
maxv = Ceil(max(array))
ncont = 30
clevels = Findgen(ncont) * ((maxv - minv) / ncont) + minv
LoadCT, 25, NCOLORS=ncont, BOTTOM=1
ccol= Bindgen(ncont)+1B
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot

Posted by [Sir Loin Steak](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 14:47:01 GMT

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

On Wednesday, January 16, 2013 2:34:52 PM UTC, David Fanning wrote:

> ljs15@fsmail.net writes:

>

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>

>> Right, I've just done some more checking, and when I specify the colour values to range from 0-255 it works, but when I set them to range from 0-250 it doesn't. The two plots are shown at <http://www.physics.open.ac.uk/~lsteele/contour2>.

>

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>

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>

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> LoadCT, 25, NCOLORS=ncont, BOTTOM=1

>

> ccol= Bindgen(ncont)+1B

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

Hi David.

The reason for specifying the contours is that the data range from positive to negative values, and I'm using a blue-white-red colour scale to plot (+ve is red, -ve is blue).

In order to make sure white represents 0, I need to set the contour levels to span the maximum range. So if the data had minv = -20 and maxv = +50, I want the contours to range from -50 to +50.

There may be a better way of doing it than what I'm doing though!

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 16 Jan 2013 14:57:39 GMT
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ljs15@fsmail.net writes:

> The reason for specifying the contours is that the data range from positive to negative values, and I'm using a blue-white-red colour scale to plot (+ve is red, -ve is blue).
>
> In order to make sure white represents 0, I need to set the contour levels to span the maximum range. So if the data had minv = -20 and maxv = +50, I want the contours to range from -50 to +50.
>
> There may be a better way of doing it than what I'm doing though!

Well, I would do it like this:

```
maxval = Max(Abs(array))
clevels = Scale_Vector(Findgen(ncont), Floor(-maxval), Ceil(maxval))
cgLoadCT, 22, /Brewer, /Reverse, NCOLORS=ncont, BOTTOM=1
ccols = Bindgen(ncont)+1B
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
Posted by [Sir Loin Steak](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2013 17:34:06 GMT
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On Wednesday, January 16, 2013 2:57:39 PM UTC, David Fanning wrote:

> ljs15@fsmail.net writes:

>
>
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>> The reason for specifying the contours is that the data range from positive to negative values, and I'm using a blue-white-red colour scale to plot (+ve is red, -ve is blue).

>
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> Well, I would do it like this:

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> maxval = Max(Abs(array))

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> clevels = Scale_Vector(Findgen(ncont), Floor(-maxval), Ceil(maxval))
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> cgLoadCT, 22, /Brewer, /Reverse, NCOLORS=ncont, BOTTOM=1
>
> ccols = Bindgen(ncont)+1B
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
>
>
> David
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>
>
> --
>
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
>
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
>
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
>
> Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
```

Much neater than my hackneyed version. I'll revert to this method - thanks David.

P.S. I never realised there were Brewer colour tables. Whenever I've wanted blue-white-red I've always created my own. This will make my life much easier!

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 17 Jan 2013 18:02:58 GMT
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ljs15@fsmail.net writes:

```
> P.S. I never realised there were Brewer colour tables. Whenever I've wanted blue-white-red I've
always created my own. This will make my life much easier!
```

Yes, so will a lot of other Coyote Library routines. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: Missing fill colours in contour plot
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Sun, 20 Jan 2013 18:25:01 GMT
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On 1/17/13 10:34 am, ljs15@fsmail.net wrote:

> P.S. I never realised there were Brewer colour tables. Whenever I've
> wanted blue-white-red I've always created my own. This will make my
> life much easier!

Brewer color tables were added to IDL in 8.2.1.

Mike

--

Michael Galloy
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Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation
