
Subject: plotting a vector field in 3d

Posted by [Petros Syntelis](#) on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 10:14:12 GMT

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Hi,

I am trying to plot a vector field in 3d and i have great difficulty in doing so.

I have 3 variable, bx,by,bz that have (nx,ny,nz) dimentionions which represent the vector field.

My questions are:

1) How can i plot this vector field. I have tryied a variety of things (flow3 etc) i found online but all advices seems to lack some part of information and i fail to reproduce the results.

I also whould like a hint on how i could overplot those lines above an xy image on the bottom of the plot.

2) Is there a way to trace the field lines and have, lets say 3 variables of dimentionions (nlines,nx),(nlines,ny),(nlines,nz)?

3) Because i am pretty sure that no answer whould be sufficient explanatory, as you can't explain everything in a group discussion, which book/references whould you recommend me to read?

Thank you very much,
Petros

Subject: Re: plotting a vector field in 3d

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 16:01:29 GMT

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On 6/21/13 4:14 am, Petros Syntelis wrote:

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> in doing so. I have 3 variable, bx,by,bz that have (nx,ny,nz)

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> Thank you very much, Petros
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Check out this post:

<http://michaelgalloy.com/2008/03/19/overview-of-flow-visualization-in-idl.html>

Mike

--

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

Subject: Re: plotting a vector field in 3d
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 16:30:47 GMT
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On 6/21/13 10:01 AM, Michael Galloy wrote:

> On 6/21/13 4:14 am, Petros Syntelis wrote:
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>
>
> Mike

The article is very 2D-centric, but there are a few 3-dimensional examples. I don't think there are very many good options for 3-dimensional (or 2-dimensional, for that matter) vector field visualization in IDL.

Mike

--

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

Subject: Re: plotting a vector field in 3d
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 16:34:23 GMT
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Michael Galloy writes:

> Check out this post:
>
> <http://michaelgalloy.com/2008/03/19/overview-of-flow-visualization-in-idl.html>

I agree the Flow3 example in the documentation sucks (sigh...), but it's pretty easy to put axes around the flow:

```
vx = RANDOMU(seed, 5, 5, 5)  
vy = RANDOMU(seed, 5, 5, 5)  
vz = RANDOMU(seed, 5, 5, 5)
```

```
; Set up the 3D scaling system:  
cgSurf, dist(30), xr=[-1,5], yr=[-1,5], zr = [-1,5], $  
  /nodata, xst=1, yst=1
```

```
; Plot the vector field:  
!P.Color=cgColor('black')  
FLOW3, vx, vy, vz
```

Now that I look at it, Flow3 sucks, too. :-)

There is probably a good Ph.D. thesis in here for someone who wants to

develop some useable software.

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: plotting a vector field in 3d

Posted by manodeep@gmail.com on Mon, 24 Jun 2013 01:23:16 GMT

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Some of the most stunning flow renderings I have seen come are here:

<http://skysrv.pha.jhu.edu/~miguel/videos.html>

In particular, I would love to know how to re-create "Interactive visualization of the Cosmic Web" video (even if without the interactive part). Any ideas? If I remember correctly, that video was made with LIC that Mike wrote about in his vector flow plot.

And apologies to Petros for not having a solution and posting (hopefully) a teaser.

Cheers,

Manodeep

On Friday, June 21, 2013 11:34:23 AM UTC-5, David Fanning wrote:

> Michael Galloy writes:

>

>

>

>> Check out this post:

>

>>

>

>> <http://michaelgalloy.com/2008/03/19/overview-of-flow-visualization-in-idl.html>

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>
>
>
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> vy = RANDOMU(seed, 5, 5, 5)
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> vz = RANDOMU(seed, 5, 5, 5)
>
>
>
> ; Set up the 3D scaling system:
>
> cgSurf, dist(30), xr=[-1,5], yr=[-1,5], zr = [-1,5], $
>
> /nodata, xst=1, yst=1
>
>
>
> ; Plot the vector field:
>
> !P.Color=cgColor('black')
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> FLOW3, vx, vy, vz
>
>
>
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> There is probably a good Ph.D. thesis in here for someone who wants to
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> develop some useable software.
>
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>
> 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: plotting a vector field in 3d
Posted by [Petros Syntelis](#) on Wed, 26 Jun 2013 09:02:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Friday, June 21, 2013 1:14:12 PM UTC+3, Petros Syntelis wrote:

> Hi,
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explain everything in a group discussion, which book/references whould you recommend me to
read?
>
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>
> Thank you very much,
>
> Petros

I really thank you all for your answers! After reading Mike's article i got a little bit disappointed from the examples that use IDL routines.
But this paper you had on different techniques might prove to be usefull!

Thanks again,
Petros

Subject: Re: plotting a vector field in 3d
Posted by [Krishnapriya M](#) on Mon, 05 May 2014 04:46:58 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Friday, June 21, 2013 9:31:29 PM UTC+5:30, Mike Galloy wrote:

> On 6/21/13 4:14 am, Petros Syntelis wrote:
>
>> Hi,
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> www.michaelgalloy.com
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> Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)
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> Research Mathematician
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Hi,

I'm trying to plot a 2D vector plot(lon v/s Depth) using IDL..... but I don't know the exact syntax... please help me to resolve this.....

Krishnapriya M
NIO, Goa

Subject: Re: plotting a vector field in 3d
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 05 May 2014 12:12:42 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Krishnapriya M writes:

> I'm trying to plot a 2D vector plot(lon v/s Depth) using IDL..... but I don't know the exact syntax... please help me to resolve this.....

```
IDL> cgDrawVectors, x_vec_component, y_vec_component, $  
      x_position_of_vector, y_position_of_vector
```

Documentation here:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/idldoc/cg/cgdrawvectors.html>

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.")
