
Subject: Orientation of Contour Labels

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 27 Feb 2014 22:27:05 GMT

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Folks,

I just discovered that the keyword `C_Use_Contour_Orientation=1` will make the contour labels readable on the contour function command. Well, when I say "readable" I mean in areas of the plot where they are not all jumbled together. I seem to recall some way to "thin" these jumbled contour labels. Does anyone recall something like that?

Humm. Just found `C_Label_Interval`. I think this is what I remember. You can play with this value. But in steep areas of the contour (see the Basic Contour Plot we have been trying to get right all day), they still stack up on themselves no matter what value you use.

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: Orientation of Contour Labels

Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Fri, 28 Feb 2014 03:18:46 GMT

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On Thursday, February 27, 2014 3:27:05 PM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,

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>

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> David Fanning, Ph.D.
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You could also use the LABEL_THRESHOLD property that was added to IDLgrContour in IDL 8.3. For some reason we didn't expose it on the Contour function...

```
IDL> c = contour(/test)
IDL> c.setproperty, label_threshold=0.5,/undoc
```

-Chris

Subject: Re: Orientation of Contour Labels
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 2014 14:23:23 GMT
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Chris Torrence writes:

> You could also use the LABEL_THRESHOLD property that was added to IDLgrContour in IDL

8.3. For some reason we didn't expose it on the Contour function...

```
>  
> IDL> c = contour(/test)  
> IDL> c.setproperty, label_threshold=0.5,/undoc
```

Thanks, Chris. I'm curious, though. Why is the default behavior of the Contour command to display contour labels upside down? It's a curious choice. I honestly can't think how this default feature might be to some advantage. Maybe if you are a spy and have to read documents upside down.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Orientation of Contour Labels

Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Fri, 28 Feb 2014 18:21:35 GMT

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On Friday, February 28, 2014 7:23:23 AM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

```
>  
> Thanks, Chris. I'm curious, though. Why is the default behavior of the  
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>  
> David  
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> --  
>  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
```

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

I don't think they are intentionally upside down, are they? Don't the labels just "blindly" follow the contour lines, so that "half" of them appear upside down?

Maybe just change your perspective. :-)

-Chris

Subject: Re: Orientation of Contour Labels
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 2014 18:35:22 GMT
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Chris Torrence writes:

> I don't think they are intentionally upside down, are they? Don't the labels just "blindly" follow the contour lines, so that "half" of them appear upside down?
>
> Maybe just change your perspective. :-)

It's just like PostScript landscape output. Just rotate the damn sheet of paper if you think it's upside down! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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