
Subject: Re: [Q] Controlling the number of contour labels

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 18 Sep 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Iarla Kilbane-Dawe <iarla@atm.ch.cam.ac.uk> wrote:

> does anyone know of a way to control the number of labels on a
> contour using the CONTOUR procedure. IDL used to produce a reasonable
> number (one or two per contour line) but recently, presumably because of
> changes in my data, the number of labels per contour line has risen to
> about ten. Does anyone know how to keep the number down?
>

I don't believe there is a way to control the number of labels on an individual contour line. This depends on the length of the contour line, etc.

But if you have too many labels on your contour plot, you can do something about that. By default every other contour line is labeled when the FOLLOW keyword is set. If you would like to label every third contour line, for example, you can use the C_LABELS keyword like this:

```
Contour, data, /Follow, C_LABELS=[1, 0, 0]
```

The C_LABELS vector tells IDL whether a contour line should be labeled (value=1) or not (value=0). The vector wraps for more than 3 contour lines. So if you set NLEVELS=12, the 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th contour line will be labeled.

David

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Subject: Re: [Q] Controlling the number of contour labels

Posted by [Andy Lough](#) on Wed, 18 Sep 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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I am quite sure this is *NOT* controllable from within IDL, you would have to have access to the C program which performs the contouring. Contour is in need of a major re-write, as is map_set! Will these re-writes actually occur? Probably not, RSI prefers to add gee-whiz features to IDL while older core routines remain broken.

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Campus Box 449 phn:(303)492-0707 fax:(303)497-7013
Boulder, CO 80309-0449 "He who laughs last thinks slowest!"

On Wed, 18 Sep 1996, Iarla Kilbane-Dawe wrote:

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> Thanks in advance,
>
> Iarla.
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> _____
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