
Subject: IDL Expert Programmers Convention Coming Up

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 10 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi Folks,

The Programming Committee of the IDL Expert Programmers Convention has asked me to come up with new criteria for being invited to this year's secret convocation of IDL masters. (Last year's question, you remember, was how many characters did the Execute command allow before it quit working?) Since RSI has fixed the Execute command we need something else.

How would you feel about inviting anyone who could write a simple contour plot in object graphics in under 8 hours? I figure that is going to eliminate about 99% of the riffraff out there. :-)

Has anyone seen this stuff? Unbelievable!

Andy Loughe is going to love this because he won't have to jump on RSI all the time about what a bad job they did with the contour command. He can write his own routine...from scratch...every time. This is exceedingly low-level stuff. You basically have to get the path information from the *old* contour command and then build your own contour plot, including all the axes, annotation, contour lines, etc.

I can't find any sensible way to label the contour intervals, so basically I was left with having to use color to indicate different levels. This in itself is maybe not so bad, but it certainly requires some kind of legend, which is nowhere to be found. Anyway, I have a contour plot working (without legends) and I'll put it up on my web page tomorrow. If someone would like to take this as a starting point and try to make something useful out of it, please be my guest. I'm moving on to something easier like trapezoidal tessellated volumes in Freudian n-space.

To be honest, I actually **like** this object stuff. It is alluring because I can see that some of the things that are really hard to do in IDL 4 are really easy to do with object graphics. Resizeable windows, for example, are just too easy to believe. But I get frustrated at how incredibly hard it is to accomplish some of the most basic, simple things. And the frustration is just magnified many times over by the complete absence of any meaningful examples in the manual or on-line.

Come on, RSI, help us out a little.

Cheers,

David

BTW, I won't be attending the IDL Expert Programmers Convention this year because...er, well, because I'll be out of town. :-(

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