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Subject: Map Projections and Contour Plots.  
Posted by [Grady Daub](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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I have data that corresponds to latitude and longitude.  
example. data=40 , lat=20, lon=20

How would I...

...make the correct arrays expected by CONTOUR?  
/IRREGULAR and TRIANGULATION work, but, I think they're causing  
problems.

...smooth the contours?

The documentation says something about MIN\_CURVE\_SURF, but, it seems to  
need the same format array as CONTOUR.

...plot the contours correctly over a map projection?

When I try to CONTOUR over a map projection, I get some lines across the  
plot. The lines look like the contour tried to plot from, say, longitude  
180 to -180.

So far, I'm only able to put a map ONTO a CONTOUR, not the other way  
around. This doesn't help me when I want to use, say, /MOLLWEIDE.

-Grady Daub  
GFDI

To reply by email, please, remove "ZOOKS" and "MMER".

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Subject: Re: Map Projections and Contour Plots.  
Posted by [Grady Daub](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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Martin Schultz wrote:

- > LONs and LATs have to be monotonically increasing for a contour plot.
- > Default is -180 to 180 for a global map, but if you want to center your
- > map say on the Pacific, you need to "convert" your longitude coordinates

> to e.g. 0 to 360. You can try my convert\_lon program (attached) for  
> this. It is called as  
>    convert\_lon,lon [,/ATLANTIC] [,/PACIFIC]  
> and makes sure you get longitudes modulo 360.  
>

Your convert\_lon program was not attached.

Would your program make my non-monotonic lat,lon,data arrays in a form expected by CONTOUR ?

I've tried TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID and SPH\_SCAT (the latter exactly as shown on dfanning.com, except with my own data) and the results are weird. Is SPH\_SCAT, when applied to data with max/min of around 200/-200, supposed to produce output past 50000? That's the weird part.

TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID just don't like me. :-(  
What's the deal with FVALUE?

> Finally (to complete the most prominent issues with contours on maps),  
> if you plan to plot filled contours, there are occasions when you need  
> the /CELL\_FILL keyword \*AND\* CONTOUR will use the first fill color for  
> values ABOVE your first threshold, i.e. you should add a very low number  
> to your C\_LEVEL specification if you have one.

Where is /CELL\_FILL documented? It's not in the index and I've not found it anywhere near the CONTOUR section.

-Grady Daub

(Remove MMER and ZOOKS to reply by email.)

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Subject: Re: Map Projections and Contour Plots.  
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Wed, 16 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Grady Daub wrote:

>  
> Martin Schultz wrote:  
>

> Your convert\_lon program was not attached.

sorry! this time it should be ...

>

> Would your program make my non-monotonic lat,lon,data arrays in a form expected by CONTOUR ?

no. it just converts lon value by lon value to fall into the range of -180 to +180 or 0 to 360. You would need to use the SORT function to get monotonic values first.

>  
> I've tried TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID and SPH\_SCAT (the latter exactly as shown on dfanning.com, except with my own data)

> and the results are weird. Is SPH\_SCAT, when applied to data with max/min of around 200/-200, supposed to produce

> output past 50000? That's the weird part.

I haven't used triangulate and the likes for a long time, and I must have deleted the code where I last did it. But I remember it had helped me a great deal to actually plot the triangles returned by triangulate in order to believe what IDL (and I) were doing...

(The CELL\_FILL question was already answered by wmc)

Regards,

Martin

--

```
|||||-----//|  
Martin Schultz, DEAS, Harvard University, 29 Oxford St., Pierce 109,  
Cambridge, MA 02138 phone (617) 496 8318 fax (617) 495 4551  
e-mail mgs@io.harvard.edu web http://www-as/people/staff/mgs/  
; $Id: convert_lon.pro,v 1.11 1999/05/20 00:58:48 mgs Exp $
```

```
;-  
;  
;+  
; NAME:  
;   CONVERT_LON  
;  
; PURPOSE:  
;   Convert longitudes from -180..180 to 0..360 or vice  
;   versa.  
;  
; CATEGORY:  
;   Tools  
;  
; CALLING SEQUENCE:  
;   CONVERT_LON,data,names,Pacific=Pacific,Atlantic=Atlantic, $  
;   minval=minval  
;  
; INPUTS:  
;   DATA -> A data array (lines,vars) or vector containing  
;   longitude data. If DATA is a 2D array, the NAMES  
;   parameter must be given to identify the LONGitude variable.
```

```

;
;
; NAMES -> A string list of variable names. The longitude data
; must be labeled 'LON', unless specified with the LONNAME
; keyword. The NAMES parameter is not needed, if a data
; vector is passed.
;
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
; PACIFIC -> Convert longitudes from -180..180 to 0..360
;
; ATLANTIC -> Convert from 0..360 to -180..180
;
; LONNAME -> Name of the longitude variable if a name other
; than 'LON' is used.
;
;
; OUTPUTS:
; The longitude column in the data array will be changed.
;
; SUBROUTINES:
;
; REQUIREMENTS:
;
; NOTES:
;
; EXAMPLE:
; londat = [ -180.,-179.,-0.1,0.1,179.,180.,270.,359.]
; CONVERT_LON,londat,/Pacific
; print,londat
;
; CONVERT_LON,londat,/Atlantic
; print,londat
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
; mgs, 25 Aug 1998: VERSION 1.00
; mgs, 19 May 1999: - now makes sure that longitude range does
; not exceed -180..180 or 0..360
;
;
; -
; Copyright (C) 1998, Martin Schultz, Harvard University
; This software is provided as is without any warranty
; whatsoever. It may be freely used, copied or distributed
; for non-commercial purposes. This copyright notice must be
; kept with any copy of this software. If this software shall
; be used commercially or sold as part of a larger package,
; please contact the author to arrange payment.
; Bugs and comments should be directed to mgs@io.harvard.edu
; with subject "IDL routine convert_lon"
;-----

```

```

pro convert_lon,data,names,pacific=pacific,atlantic=atlantic, $
    lonname=lonname

minval = -180.0001

if (n_elements(lonname) eq 0) then lonname = 'LON'

if (n_elements(data) lt 2) then return

; get size information of data and find LON column
s = size(data)
if (s[0] eq 1) then ind = 0 $ ; data is vector
else begin
    ; Find LON variable
    ind = where(strucase(names) eq lonname)
    if (ind[0] lt 0) then begin
        print, '*** CONVERT_LON: Cannot find ',lonname,' in data set!'
        return
    endif
endelse

; Atlantic: Convert longitudes greater 180 by subtracting 360
; also add N*360 to longitude values less than -180
if (keyword_set(Atlantic)) then begin
    repeat begin
        lon = data[* ,ind[0]]
        index = where(lon gt 180.,count)
        if (index[0] ge 0) then data[index,ind[0]] = lon[index]-360.
    endrep until(count eq 0)
    repeat begin
        lon = data[* ,ind[0]]
        index = where(lon lt -180.,count)
        if (index[0] ge 0) then data[index,ind[0]] = lon[index]+360.
    endrep until(count eq 0)
endif

; Pacific: convert negative longitudes by adding 360
; also subtract N*360 for longitude values greater than 360
if (keyword_set(Pacific)) then begin
    repeat begin
        lon = data[* ,ind[0]]
        ; index = where(lon gt minval AND lon lt 0.)
        index = where(lon lt 0., count)
        if (index[0] ge 0) then data[index,ind[0]] = lon[index]+360.
    endrep until(count eq 0)
endif

```

```

    endrep until(count eq 0)
  repeat begin
    lon = data[* ,ind[0]]
    index = where(lon gt 360., count)
    if (index[0] ge 0) then data[index,ind[0]] = lon[index]-360.
  endrep until(count eq 0)
endif

return
end

```

## File Attachments

1) [convert\\_lon.pro](#), downloaded 124 times

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**Subject: Re: Map Projections and Contour Plots.**  
 Posted by [wmc](#) on Wed, 16 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Grady Daub <gadZOOKS8371@garnet.acns.fsummer.edu> wrote:  
 > Martin Schultz wrote:

> I've tried TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID and SPH\_SCAT (the latter exactly as shown on  
 > dfanning.com, except with my own data)  
 > and the results are weird. Is SPH\_SCAT, when applied to data with max/min of around  
 > 200/-200, supposed to produce  
 > output past 50000? That's the weird part.

I have had problems with sph\_scatt, especially near the (South) pole - see my recent  
 post with sph\_scatt in the title and the reply I received which might help you.

For my part, to get acceptable interpolation near the poles, I had to go via device  
 coordinates. The following code fragment might help (or not...)

```

;
; Use sph_scatt
;
if (keyword_set(sphere)) then begin
  lo=data(0,*)
  la=data(1,*)
  d2=data(2,*)
  res=sph_scatt(lo,la,d2,gs=gs,bounds=[xr(0),yr(0),xr(1),yr(1)])
;
; Go via device coords
;
endif else if (keyword_set(by_dev)) then begin
; Convert from data coords to device coords. Its up to you to make sure that the
; mapping you want has been set up - eg by set_ps_map

```

```

xy=convert_coord(data(0,*),data(1,*),/data,/to_dev)
triangulate,xy(0,*),xy(1,*),triangles
; Now, regrid onto a grid regular in device space
  res1=trigrd(xy(0,*),xy(1,*),data(2,*),triangles,nx=int_res, ny=int_res,xg=xg,yg=yg)
; Now, generate the lat-lon grid we want and convert it too into device coord
x=xc(pp,/arr,/as) & y=yc(pp,/arr)
xy1=convert_coord(x,y,/data,/to_dev)
; Now, interpolate from our new regular grid onto the xformed lat-lon grid...
; Since interpolate assumes that the input grid has coords 0..n-1 we need to xform
; the coords into this range...
; Compute scaling that *would* xform xg, yg to 0...int_res-1
xr=makerange(xg) & yr=makerange(yg)
mn=[xr(0),yr(0)] & sc=1./[xr(1)-xr(0),yr(1)-yr(0)]
xy1a=xy1 & for i=0,1 do xy1a(i,*)=(int_res-1)*(xy1(i,*)-mn(i))*sc(i)
res=interpolate(res1,xy1a(0,*),xy1a(1,*))
res=reform(res,pp.lbnpt,pp.lbrow)
;
; Or just do it in lat-lon coords - OK if not too near the pole
;
endif else begin
  triangulate,data(0,*),data(1,*),triangles
  res=trigrd(data(0,*),data(1,*),data(2,*),triangles,gs,[xr(0),yr(0),xr(1),yr(1)])
endelse

```

>> Finally (to complete the most prominent issues with contours on maps),  
>> if you plan to plot filled contours, there are occasions when you need  
>> the /CELL\_FILL keyword ...

> Where is /CELL\_FILL documented? It's not in the index and I've not found it anywhere near the  
CONTOUR section.

/cell\_fill was supposed to be obsolete and was actually removed in one release  
(5.0?) - it fills cell-by-cell not contour-by-contour. I too find that it needs  
to be used sometimes, which is annoying because it is slow and doesn't work with  
patterns. RSI please note and fix this!

- William

--

William M Connolley | wmc@bas.ac.uk | <http://www.nbs.ac.uk/public/icd/wmc/>  
Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself

Subject: Re: Map projections  
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Mon, 12 Nov 2001 16:16:11 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

James Kuyper wrote:

- > Is there any way to get at the coordinate conversion function for the
- > currently active map projection? I'm talking about a function that takes
- > a physical position in latitude and longitude coordinates, and converts
- > it into an image position using either data, device, or normal
- > coordinates. It doesn't matter which; once the position is in any one of
- > those forms, I can get the others by using CONVERT\_COORD. Such functions
- > have to exist in order for IDL to perform mapping, but they don't seem
- > to be publically exposed. I'd also like to have access to the inverse
- > function, to get a lat/lon corresponding to an image position.

James,

When a map projection is active, longitude and latitude correspond to x/y data coordinates. Therefore CONVERT\_COORD will allow you to obtain the device or normal coordinates for a given lon/lat. For example:

```
window, /free
map_set, 45, -90, scale=20e6, /usa
lon = -89.6
lat = 43.5
print, convert_coord(lon, lat, /data, /to_device)
      326.465   217.622   0.000000
print, convert_coord(lon, lat, /data, /to_normal)
      0.510102   0.425044   0.000000
```

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>

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