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Subject: Re: Digital Chart of World (WorldMap)

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Thu, 03 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Nando Iavarone wrote:

> Hi all,  
> I need to access to the IDL database of DCW.  
>  
> Particularly I need a function returning a vector  
> of lat/lon coordinates of a feature (e.g. rivers or coasts)  
> in a region of interest,  
> starting from the coordinates of ROI (e.g. 4 corners in lat/lon).  
>  
> Does someone know how to resolve this problem?  
>  
> Greetings,  
>     Nando  
>  
> --  
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I can only suggest a quick "lowres" resolution to your question: Draw your map in a limited window  
map\_set...,limit=[..] and overlay your "feature" in a specific color. Then you can perform a tvrd() and "query" the resulting byte array for values of that specific color (e.g. rivers = where(image eq 3)). You would still have to convert the pixel index to coordinates (so you better choose a simple projection), and you cannot resolve individual features (i.e. you will not get a vector of say the amazon river). So, probbaly, this isn't of too much help.

One more thing: I discovered that there may be some inconsistencies in the map database: when I tried something like the above to create maps with individually color coded countries, I discovered, there were a few places where country boundaries did not end at a coastline but left a little gap instead (this screwed up my fill algorithm). Same thing may be true for rivers, so if you get your vectors, and you want to re-construct a river you may end up forming a lake if two rivers don't meet exactly (this was with the low res data set).

Martin.

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