
Subject: Re: IDL5.2: map_proj_info
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 10 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Andy Loughe (afl@cdc.noaa.gov) writes with regard to the new MAP_PROJ_INFO function(?!):

```
>> Calling Sequence
>>
>> Result = MAP_PROJ_INFO [, iproj]
>>
> Does this calling sequence work for you?
```

No. But I often start my IDL courses with a Barry Lopez story called "Directions". One of my favorite lines in the story goes like this:

"Where it says go right, go left sometimes. Where it says go North, read South...sometimes."

Here is one of those cases.

This routine is a procedure, not a function.

Map_Proj_Info, thisProjIndex, /Current

```
> If so, that would be great-- for an informational
> routine could simply pass into "Result" a structure
> variable from which "information" is gleaned.
> Unfortunately, I don't think map_proj_info works that way.
> Please educate me if I am wrong (is that fee-based?).
```

No. Only my correct answers are fee-based. What you get here is exactly what you get here. :-)

```
>> LL_LIMITS
>>
>> The geocoordinate rectangle of the current map in degrees (Lonmin, Latmin,
>> Lonmax, Latmax). This range may not always be available, especially if the
>> LIMIT keyword was not specified in the call to MAP_SET. If either or both the
>> longitude and latitude range are not available, the minimum and maximum values
>> will be set to zero.
>
> This is unfortunate. In IDL, limits are normally given by
> [latmin,lonmin,latmax,lonmax].
```

Sheesh. The technical writer must have been having a bad day. Or, possibly, they take their own documentation more

seriously than the rest of us. :-) This documentation is clearly wrong. You will be glad to hear, however, that the results are consistent with what you expect, rather than what you have been led to believe. :-)

On a related note, I have *finally* figured out how to do filled contours consistently in IDL! Those of you who have fooled around with this to any extent know that this is no small feat. My wife threatened to divorce me over the profusion of foul language coming out of my office over the past week or so. But it turns out it (the language) was useful in beating the problem into submission. (I guess.)

I haven't decided yet if I'm going to keep this knowledge to myself and try to get rich on another book deal, or share it with the larger community as a major public service. But I'll let you know. :-)

Cheers,

David

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