
Subject: Re: Apply a shapefile to raster images in IDL
Posted by [Kelly Dean](#) on Mon, 04 Oct 2004 20:17:15 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

It certainly can be done, but as David has pointed out, it is not trivial. The IDL shapefile read routine requires knowledge of IDL's Objects.

I use shapefiles to add the graphics to satellite imagery using IDL's shapefile read routines. See my image contribution to RSI's User Contributions at www.rsinc.com. I use the county.shp to add the Colorado county boundaries to the AVHRR imagery centered over Colorado.

To avoid the shapefile issue, I suggestion you use ArcView (or ArcGIS) and save the shapefile as an Excel spread sheet. Then within Excel, save the columns of latitude and longitude values as a text file and use the IDL's OPEN/READ routines to read the text file and save the values in separate latitude and longitude arrays. Then use the IDL's MAP_COORD routine to convert the latitude and longitude values to window coordinates, assuming the polar stereographic grid you desire is the same as IDL's MAP_SET, /Stereo --- just a suggestion. However, learning to read shapefiles directly with the IDL objects is the best and long term why to go. The opportunities are endless.

Kelly Dean
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado

Jenny wrote:

- > Dear Listers,
- > I'm a novice in IDL, not sure if my questions are totally improper. I
- > want to use an Arcview format shapefile as a mask, to a huge number of
- > raster images, which are in a polar stereographic grid format with
- > separate image data files and lat/lon files. I would really appreciate
- > if you could give me any hint about the following questions:
- >
- > 1. How to read the shapefile into an IDL variable?
- > 2. How to tailor the shapefile to my raster image grid?
- > 3. If the above questions are not proper or impossible in IDL, would
- > you give me some suggestions to do the work?
- >
- > Thank you in advance,
- > Jenny