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Subject: Re: Apply a shapefile to raster images in IDL  
Posted by [envi35](#) on Wed, 06 Oct 2004 01:49:26 GMT  
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Hi Kelly,

Thanks for your suggestion. I'd like to try it. But my polar stereographic grid is a special one. Can I set parameters such as the origin of the projection and the grid size (resolution) with map\_set in IDL? Sorry, I've looked the online help of map\_set in IDL, but I'm still not sure. Are P0lat and P0lon in map\_set the origin of the projection?

Many thanks, Jenny

Kelly Dean <[krdean@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:krdean@lamar.colostate.edu)> wrote in message news:<[4161afcf@news.ColoState.EDU](mailto:4161afcf@news.ColoState.EDU)>...

> 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](http://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

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