
Subject: Re: ESRI Shapefiles

Posted by [David Bowman](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 18:24:46 GMT

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Awesome! Thanks Liam!

liamgumley@gmail.com wrote:

> David,

>

> The following demo program may be helpful:

>

> ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/incoming/shapefile_plot.pro

>

> Here's how it can be used to plot a continent outline shapefile from
> the IDL distribution:

>

> file = filepath(subdirectory=['resource', 'maps', 'shape'],

> 'continents.shp')

> map_set, 43.0, -89.0, scale=50e6, /lambert, /grid

> shapefile_plot, file

>

> Cheers,

> Liam.

> Practical IDL Programming

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

>

> David Bowman wrote:

>> Dear all,

>>

>> I have an ESRI shapefile containing the surface trace of an active

>> fault. I need to extract the lat/lon from this file for use in IDL.

>> Sounds easy, right? Not so much... (at least for me)

>>

>> I know IDL includes a whole suite of programs that supposedly read and

>> manipulate GIS files, but I've found the documentation to be shockingly

>> confusing, even by RSI's standards.

>>

>> Can anybody point me to a simple explanation/procedure/resource? Small

>> words would be appreciated.

>>

>> In my career there have been two enormous time-sinks that I've managed

>> to avoid: ARC/Info and object-oriented programming. My greatest fear

>> is that I've finally come across a need for both of them. I would be

>> eternally grateful for any help avoiding that horrible fate.

>>

>> Cheers!

>> David Bowman