
Subject: Re: ESRI Shapefiles

Posted by [liamgumley](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 16:21:06 GMT

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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
