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Subject: Re: Convert pixel coordinates to LAT/LON  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 24 Jan 2008 18:38:48 GMT  
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Gary writes:

> Many apologies for what might be an entirely newbie question, which I  
> am. I am trying to determine the lat/lon of a given position on a  
> radar image. I have the lat/lon of the center point of the image. The  
> image space covers less than a full degree of longitude and covers  
> double the latitude. The difference in the meters/degree of latitude  
> over the range is ~6m, so I linearly scale latitude over the range of  
> pixels. For the longitude, I determine the meters/degree longitude for  
> the given latitude (determine from the linear scaling). I then  
> multiply the pixel coordinates by the meters/degree, and determine the  
> degree offset from the edge of the image and add this to the lat or  
> lon of the edge of the image. I understand all of this might be  
> tedious and better served by using IDL's mapping functions, however,  
> I'm trying to do all of this in as simple a fashion as possible in a  
> GUI I've cobbled together which is already growing. I'm looking for  
> some validation of this as a method that will provide reasonable  
> results. Of course, I recognize I may have failed to supply adequate  
> info, so please let me know if anything else is required. Thanks

Well, depending upon what kind of map projection this image is in you are either going to be in the ball park with this approach, or wildly wrong. It is unlikely that you are going to be spot on. :-)

Assuming you are not using a Mercator projection (since we are on the verge of proclaiming the one normally used in IDL worthless), I think you would be MUCH further ahead to use a map projection to make these calculations.

[http://www.dfanning.com/map\\_tips/pixel\\_to\\_ll.html](http://www.dfanning.com/map_tips/pixel_to_ll.html)

It's really pretty easy if you can get the map projection set up correctly.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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