
Subject: Re: Map Projection Bug

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 15 Jan 2009 22:25:56 GMT

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cgpadwick@gmail.com writes:

> I see what you are getting at now. !MAP indeed does not change during
> the successive calls. I think your theory that there is an
> undocumented internal variable is sound. thanks for posting this,
> I'll keep this in mind when working with the map stuff.

In a discussion today among NSIDC programmers it was pointed out that the reason we built some of our own map re-gridding software was that the GCTP map projection software was not re-entrant. That is to say, this problem is built directly into the GCTP software and not necessarily something ITTVIS has introduced. Of course, the GCTP software is **extremely** old now, and anyone doing map projections professionally is probably using some version of the proj4 software.

My personal belief is that the map projection software in IDL has exceeded its shelf life. Useful map projections (equal area cylindrical, for example) are missing, others use only spherical projections, when most of the world is using ellipsoid projections, etc.

I really hate to admit this, but more and more of IDL is becoming irrelevant to me. It's always good for a quick one-off, but there are better tools for doing particular jobs, and I'm becoming increasingly motivated to learn them.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
