
Subject: Re: Confusions with map_image!
Posted by [jameskuyper](#) on Sat, 13 Jun 2009 00:49:27 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

...
> MAP_IMAGE is really a *display* technique (and a
> poor one at that). It would probably be much better
> to fit a map coordinate system to your image, rather
> than fit the image to your coordinate system.

It sounds like the original data he's using are MODIS L2 products, in which case the the most appropriate coordinate system to use for any given orbit's worth of data would be virtually any cylindrical projection with it's axis tilted so that the "equator" of the projection corresponds roughly to the ground path of the satellite (it can't be an exact fit). However, he's interested in an entire day's worth of data covering (incompletely) the entire globe. No single projection is going to be a good fit for all of the orbits of an entire day's worth of data. I think he's stuck with fitting his data to his coordinate system, and not vice versa.

MODIS data, because of the high inclination of it's orbit, heavily over-samples the polar regions. About the only thing he could do to adapt his projection to the data is to choose one that exaggerates the size of the polar regions; but that would only make sense if he's actually interested in the polar regions.
