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Subject: Re: IDL projections (MAP\_PROJ\_IMAGE) and ENVI projections, Select spatial subsets of images

Posted by [sh](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 2010 08:50:55 GMT

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On Jun 6, 7:32 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Sebastian writes:

>> I have a problem using map projections since I didn't get the same  
>> results for IDL and ENVI.

>

>> My task is to reproject an image in lat/lon's (WGS 84, Geographic lat  
>> lon) to mercator for Australia and show/save (\*.png) only spatial  
>> defined subsets of this reprojected image. (And also define "bigger"  
>> spatial subset and pin the image on the right position)

>

>> I tested MAP\_IMAGE and MAP\_PROJ\_IMAGE in IDL, but in both cases I had  
>> a problem with the output dimension. MAP\_IMAGE seems to act in  
>> accordance with the predefined windows size and with MAP\_PROJ\_IMAGE it  
>> is possible to set it by yourself. On the contrary, ENVI makes a  
>> suggestion concerning the output pixel size, but I didn't get it how  
>> ENVI calculates this output size.  
>> So I guess the sampling rate and/or pixel size is responsible for the  
>> suggestion of ENVI?? Or even the distortion introduced by the map  
>> projection??

>

> To transform one map projection into another you have  
> to put all the pixel information into XY coordinates  
> (sometimes called UV coordinates in IDL). In other  
> words, you have to do this in projected coordinate  
> space, not geographic coordinate (lat/lon) space.  
> The pixel resolution you are referring to is the pixel  
> spacing in this projected coordinate space. Or, another  
> way of saying this, the projected grid spacing. The  
> output resolution of the image is how many grid units  
> you want to have in your final image.

>

> To do this gridding, you create a projected grid and for  
> every grid unit, you find the latitude and longitude  
> of that point (Map\_Proj\_Inverse). Then, you calculate  
> a new value by interpolating that point from your original  
> image values. This is basically what Map\_Proj\_Image does  
> for you.

>

>> Anyway, for my further comparison between ENVI and IDL I used the  
>> output dimension suggested by ENVI to reproject the image. And to  
>> compare the results I made to plots with the coast lines, which in  
>> BOTH (!) cases didn't match (the result of ENVI was a little bit  
>> better somehow)

>  
> Humm. Don't know about this. I've never had trouble putting  
> map boundaries on images, if I have set up the map coordinate  
> space in the correct way. Mostly this means setting up a  
> projected grid range (rectangular array) so that I can "plot"  
> the map boundaries on it. I use the MapCoord object in my  
> Catalyst Library to do this. It always does a good job for  
> the map projections I use. (I use the Map\_Outline object to  
> draw the map boundaries and the Map\_Grid object to draw map  
> grids.)  
>  
>> Now I have several questions/comments:  
>  
>> - I have seen that there are 2 libraries within IDL (IDL, GCTP), so I  
>> tested both of them. The only difference I realized was that you can't  
>> set an ellipsoid for the IDL (map\_set) library. Which library uses  
>> ENVI??  
>  
> Neither. :-)  
>  
> At the time ENVI was written IDL only had the Map\_Set map  
> projections. There were (and still are!) completely inadequate  
> for the kind of precision ENVI wanted, so the ENVI folks wrote  
> their own map projection software, which I presume they still  
> use.  
>  
> Later, IDL added the GCTP map projections and these are  
> much better (and the only ones you should be using if you  
> want professional map projections), but there have always  
> been problems with them (several of which are *\*finally\**  
> fixed in the upcoming IDL 8) and they are also becoming  
> a bit long of tooth. Better open source map projections  
> exist (proj4 routines) and, in my mind, should be incorporated  
> into IDL if the folks at ITTVIS want to be current with  
> what's going on in this field.  
>  
>> - I use congrid to resize the image to a "plotable" size. Maybe this  
>> causes the shifting between the coastlines?  
>  
> Well, I guess it depends on how you are using it. :-)  
>  
> I always use TVImage to display my images, and it uses  
> Congrid, of course. As I say, I've never had problems  
> aligning boundaries on images.  
>  
>> - How can I select a spatial subset from the image and plot it into a  
>> "bigger" spatial subset? e.g. to show only the east coast of australia  
>> but with new zealand (where no image data is available) I think the

>> "problem" here is to find the right position?  
>  
> This is really just a gridding problem. One of the  
> weaknesses of IDL is that it doesn't really allow  
> the kind of map image gridding you need for working  
> with images in map projections. (I say this with  
> some trepidation because I am convinced that IDL  
> probably \*does\* provide this kind of support, but  
> in five or six years of trying to use IDL to do it,  
> I have come up completely empty.) At NSIDC, this  
> kind of gridding is done with our mapx utilities,  
> which are only available on UNIX platforms.  
>  
> In any case, it is probably not too difficult to  
> produce the kind of output you want, if you set your  
> "data" coordinate space up correctly. Again, I would  
> rely on my MapCoord object to do this.  
>  
>> some lines of my code:  
>  
>> ; to display IDL result  
>  
>> geographical\_extend= [-39.5,112.5,-10.5,154.0]  
>> range =  
>> [geographical\_extend[1],geographical\_extend[0],geographical\_  
extend[3],geographical\_extend[2]]  
>  
>> ; c is the image with the size 9960, 6960 and pixelspacing 0.00417°  
>> map4 = map\_proj\_init(105, ellipsoid=8, limit=geographical\_extend)  
>> warped4 = map\_proj\_image(c, range, dimensions=[10983,7797],  
>> map\_structure=map4, uvrage=uvOut4, xindex=xindex4, yindex=yindex4)  
>  
> To do this correctly, the "range" should not be in  
> geographical coordinates, but in projected XY coordinates.  
> Earlier documentation (i.e., prior to IDL 7.1) of  
> Map\_Proj\_Image was misleading on this point.  
>  
> I gave a talk on IDL map projections at the last IDL  
> Users Group meeting which you may find helpful. You can  
> find my Powerpoint presentation here:  
>  
> [http://www.dfanning.com/powerpoint/map\\_projections\\_idl.pdf](http://www.dfanning.com/powerpoint/map_projections_idl.pdf)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>  
> --

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

Thanks a lot David for your detailed answer!

I already saw your example of how to warpe images, but this only shows how to project already projected images. And my image is "raw" lat,lon.

Anyway, at least I found a (very old) program which does and can exactly what I want. Maybe someone could take a look, if the results are correct!? Or where is room for improvement?!

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/imagemap.html>

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/idl/imagemap.pro>

thx!

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