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Subject: Re: MAP\_GRID and MAP\_CONTINENTS question ?  
Posted by [chris\\_torrence@NOSPAM](#) on Mon, 10 Jan 2011 23:41:38 GMT  
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On Jan 7, 1:42 pm, nata <bernat.puigdomen...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> I can answer my first question : I could read the shape files from my  
> IDL distribution in /usr/local/itt/idl/resource/maps/shape/ and then  
> plot them using IDLgrPolyLines.  
> I hope in IDL 8 is easier than that.  
>  
> nata

Hi nata,

The direct graphics map\_continents and map\_grid procedures are unchanged in IDL 8.0. However, in IDL 8.0/8.0.1 we have new Map(), MapGrid(), and MapContinents() functions which produce much nicer looking maps. Here's an example of the syntax:

```
; Define a map of Europe.  
map = MAP('STEREOGRAPHIC', FILL_COLOR = 'Light Blue', $  
  LIMIT = [30.0, -15.0, 68.0, 55.0])  
; Add the country outlines and fill color.  
mc = MAPCONTINENTS(/COUNTRIES, FILL_COLOR='beige')  
; Add the rivers.  
rivers = MAPCONTINENTS(/RIVERS, COLOR='blue')
```

Hope this helps.  
Cheers,  
Chris  
ITTVIS