Subject: Re: UTM Map Projection Produces Incorrect Results Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 01 Nov 2011 17:59:12 GMT

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Chris Torrence writes:

- > Second, there was a bug in the GCTP library: for the
- > UTM projection it did not let you pass in arbitrary
- > semimajor/semiminor axis values. Instead, you could
- > only use one of the predefined 20 ellipsoids, which
- > did not include WGS84. In the IDL documentation for
- > MAP_PROJ_INIT, ellipsoids 0-19 would work fine.
- > while 20-24 would just default to the Clark 1866
- > sphere. Now, ellipsoid #12 (Walbeck) is *identical*
- > to WGS84, and will give you the *exact* same results
- > as if you had used WGS84.

I note that the Walbeck ellipsoid is only identical to WGS84 in IDL 8.x. It wasn't identical in IDL 7.1, but it was so damn close that I'm not going to quibble with you. I only mention it because of your emphasis around the words "identical" and "exact".;-)

- > Third, in the !MAP structure, there is a !MAP.A and
- > !MAP.E2 which should contain the semimajor and
- > eccentricity(squared) values. If !MAP.E2 is zero,
- > then you are using a spherical ellipsoid.

Well, they "should", but they don't always.

IDL> map = Map_Proj_Init(101, DATUM='WALBECK', ZONE=4)
IDL> Print, map.a, map.e2
 6370997.0 0.00000000

These numbers should be 6378137.0 and 0.00669438, respectively. In this case the value of the eccentricity in the map structure is misleading, to say the least.

Cheers,

David

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