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Subject: Re: reading shapefiles & IDL objects  
Posted by [kristen234](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2012 21:40:41 GMT  
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On Wednesday, December 21, 2011 2:27:27 PM UTC-7, desertdryad wrote:

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> On Dec 21, 2:16 pm, desertdryad <dry...@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> The simplest way is just to march through the entities
>>> and keep track of the entities's bounds. This is how
>>> cgDrawShapes works, when you set the AutoDraw keyword.
>>
>>>     FOR j=0,N_Elements(*entities)-1 DO BEGIN
>>>         thisEntity = (*entities)[j]
>>>         entityMinX[j] = thisEntity.bounds[0]
>>>         entityMaxX[j] = thisEntity.bounds[4]
>>>         entityMinY[j] = thisEntity.bounds[1]
>>>         entityMaxY[j] = thisEntity.bounds[5]
>>>     ENDFOR
>>>     xrange = [Min(entityMinX), Max(entityMaxX)]
>>>     yrange = [Min(entityMinY), Max(entityMaxY)]
>>>     cgPlot, xrange, yrange, ....
>>
>>> Cheers,
>>
>>> David
>>
>> I think I get that. Thanks, David!!
>
> PS - all the pieces are in the same directory.. I know GIS better than
> I know IDL :)
```

Did you ever figure out why moving your shapefile to the directory with 'states.shp' was necessary? I'm having the same problem with my shapefile, but I'm not permitted to save files to the IDL distribution directories. Thanks for the help!

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