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Subject: Question about projection for Google Earth  
Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Fri, 09 Aug 2013 02:11:55 GMT  
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Hi Guys,

I'm trying to finish off some unfinished code that wasn't written by me. I'm fairly new to using projections, mapping, etc in IDL but from what I understand to map an image to Google Earth I need to use something like:

```
mapStruct = MAP_PROJ_INIT( 117 , /GCTP, limit=limit) ; Equirectangular projection
xy = Map_Proj_Forward(lon, lat, MAP_STRUCTURE=mapStruct)
lon = Reform(xy[0, *])
lat = Reform(xy[1, *])
```

The problem is that my lon/lat values contain a different number of values and Map\_Proj\_Forward() is complaining about this. Why do they need to be the same? My overlay is a rectangular shape rather than a square why can this not be handled?

The code that I was left with does something like this but the image doesn't overlay correctly on Google Earth I assume this is because it uses the incorrect projection.

```
limit = dblarr(4)
limit[0] = min(lat)
limit[1] = min(lon)
limit[2] = max(lat)
limit[3] = max(lon)
```

```
polon = limit[1]+0.5*(limit[3]-limit[1])
map_set, 0,polon,0,/cyl,limit=limit, /noborder, xmargin=0,ymargin=0
```

```
contour, values*mask,lon,lat, levels=levels,C_color=c_levels,/overplot,c_labels = 0,/cell_fill,
min_value = 2
```

```
hamax = 0 & bathy_mask = 0 & lat = 0 & lon = 0
```

```
most_image = tvrd()
Device, close = 1
```

```
; output image to a PNG file with transparency
name = 'test.png'
outputOverlayFile = filepath(name, root_dir=sourcepath(), subdir=['output'])
```

```
; set transparency
idx = where(most_image LT 240, trans_count)
if trans_count GT 0 then begin
  write_png,outputOverlayFile ,most_image, r2,g2,b2, transparent=idx
```

endif

Anyhelp or tips on this would be greatly appreciated. I have looked at some of David Fanning's guides on creating images for Google Earth but could find anything on this exact issue.

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