
Subject: Re: Amazingly accurate UTM <-> Lat/Lon transformations

Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Wed, 18 Sep 2013 09:13:02 GMT

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On 09/17/2013 08:16 PM, David Fanning wrote:

> I agree that IDL's map projection software is probably overdue for an
> update. But, I'm not convinced this is any kind of a deal breaker.

I forwarded Tom's post to my colleagues, because many of them are not aware of these problems and Tom nicely showed the huge discrepancies that can occur when using UTM. Having said this, I am also concerned that even if the LonLat->EastingsNothings->LonLat transforms work better with Tom's code, it might still not be a good idea to use UTM for large maps.

Regarding the map projections in IDL, it seems that IDL is far behind many other GIS softwares (correct me if I'm wrong):

- the panel of "out of the box" projections is small
- there is no datum shift transformation tool (!)
- the accuracy, as shown by Tom, could be higher

I believe this is due to the fact that Exelis wants to sell ENVI to IDL users in need for more complete/accurate projection engines...
