
Subject: Re: IDL Mapping package
Posted by [pat](#) on Tue, 20 Apr 1993 11:53:13 GMT
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Jim Leous (leous@geosc.psu.edu) wrote:

> I have a problem that we often encounter here. We have model and remotely
> sensed data that we want to display on a projection (most often the entire
> globe, but sometimes just the Eastern US). The map_image command seems to
> do the job very nicely. The problem occurs because we'd like to take this
> projected image and overlay continents. It seems to me that there should
> be a keyword in map_image that allows you to do this.
>
> Am I missing something in the map_image procedure? This would seem to
> be a very common need for any site doing remote sensing or numerical weather
> modelling.

no, you're not missing anything. there is no built-in way to draw
filled land masses. i have a hacked version of map_set which attempts a
polyfill on each land mass. the problem is that many of the land surfaces
in the map data (notably the former soviet union) are not specified as a
single, closed sequence of vectors. therefore, some of them do not fill
properly.

the reason the format is similar is that it is the same map as in
NCAR Graphics. note the name, "supmap.dat".

this is one of my biggest gripes about IDL. every time they come
out here to do training, i talk to them and say, "NCAR can do it; why can't
IDL?" all of our data is plotted on some kind of geographic surface. i'll
be glad when their map drawing routines catch up with NCAR.

pat

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"I have a cunning plan." -- Baldrick

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