Subject: Re: coordinates on land

Posted by davidf on Thu, 09 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Klaus Scipal (kscipal@ipf.tuwien.ac.at) writes:

- > I am looking for an IDL procedure that tells me if a point (given in
- > longitude and latitude) is situated on land or on water.

Here is something quick and dirty. Returns a 1 if the location is on land and a 0 otherwise.

Cheers.

David

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FUNCTION On\_Land, longitude, latitude

; Longitude ranges from -180 to 180.

; Latitude ranges from -90 to +90.

On Error, 1

IF N\_Params() NE 2 THEN Message, 'Incorrect number of arguments'

; Fill window with map continents. Water = 0, Land = 1.

Window, XSize=360, YSize=180, /Free, /Pixmap Map\_Set, /Cylindrical, 0, 0, Position=[0,0,1,1], /NoBorder, Color=0L Map\_Continents, /Fill, Color=1L image = TVRD()

; Convert location to device coordinates.

location = Convert\_Coord(longitude, latitude, /Data, /To\_Device)

; Delete window. Return location pixel value.

WDelete, !D.Window RETURN, image[0 > location[0] < 359, 0 > location[1] < 179] END

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: coordinates on land

Posted by Mark Hadfield on Wed, 15 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Klaus Scipal <a href="mailto:kscipal@ipf.tuwien.ac.at">kscipal@ipf.tuwien.ac.at</a>> wrote in message news:82p4ia\$bf\$1@news.tuwien.ac.at...

>

- > I am looking for an IDL procedure that tells me if a point (given in
- > longitude and latitude) is situated on land or on water.

I'm not aware of any ready-to-run solution to this problem. The problem can be divided into two parts:

- 1.) Describe land areas as closed polygons.
- 2.) Establish if the point in question is inside any of the polygons.

There was some discussion about part 2 on this newsgroup a few weeks ago. I posted some code based on summing angles around the point in question to the polygon vertices; several other people posted code or made suggestions.

Re part 1, AFAIK the coastline datasets that come with IDL are not suitable because they contain duplicate points or intersecting edges. There is a coastline dataset designed specifically for this purpose, called "GSHHS - A Global Self-consistent, Hierarchical, High-resolution Shoreline Database", at

http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/shorelines/gshhs.html

The GSHHS data come in a straightforward binary format. I intend to write IDL routines to read the GSHHS data REAL SOON NOW.

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Mark Hadfield m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield/ National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research PO Box 14-901, Wellington, New Zealand