
Subject: map_set coastline data

Posted by [paul wisehart](#) on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 17:01:06 GMT

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Hi,

How do I get at the data that map_set uses
to plot coastline/continents?

I can find the actual files on my machine, I
just don't know how to open them.i

in the directory:

/usr/local/rsi/idl/resource/maps/low

there are files:

clow.dat clow.ndx ... etc.

can I open them using some flags to the
openr command?

I don't care about formatting as long as
I can get an ascii representation of the
data.

--

paul wisehart

wisehart <at> runbox <dot> com

Subject: Re: map_set coastline data

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 20:56:49 GMT

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"paul wisehart" <wisehart@runbox.com> wrote in message
news:slrnb1omah.3qf.wisehart@stingray.mcst.ssai.biz...

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I have a couple of routines to read these files and can send them to you if
you want.

But, as Rick comments, there are better sources of coastline data. These
days I use GSHHS:

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

--

Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: map_set coastline data
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 22:09:22 GMT
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"Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz> wrote in message
news:avi3pn\$mgf\$2@newsreader.mailgate.org...
> "paul wisehart" <wisehart@runbox.com> wrote in message
> news:slrnb1omah.3qf.wisehart@stingray.mcst.ssai.biz...
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I've written a short procedure to plot the GSHHS binary data files. It's
available at

<ftp://origin.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/gumley/IDL/gshhs/>

The files required are plot_gshhs.pro and little_endian.pro (the GSHSS files
are stored in big-endian order). Here's a few examples:

```
IDL> window, /free, xs=800, ys=600
IDL> map_set
IDL> gshhs_plot, 'gshhs_l.b' ; Low resolution (5.0 km)
IDL> gshhs_plot, 'gshhs_l.b', /fill
IDL> map_set, 45, -90, scale=20e6
IDL> gshhs_plot, 'gshhs_i.b' ; Intermediate resolution (1.0 km)
IDL> gshhs_plot, 'gshhs_i.b', level=2
IDL> map_set, 25, -80, scale=4e6
IDL> gshhs_plot, 'gshhs_h.b' ; High resolution (0.2 km)
IDL> gshhs_plot, 'gshhs_h.b', level=3, /fill
```

The procedure could be made faster through by a smart indexing scheme: this version always reads the entire file. But it does seem to do a reasonable job, and it fixes some of the gross inaccuracies of the old CIA WDBII data use by map_continents.pro.

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>
