
Subject: projection info (.prj file) from ESRI Shape
Posted by [Weihua FANG](#) on Tue, 07 Feb 2006 11:01:59 GMT
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hi, all,

Just finished some codes for reading vector and attribute data from ESRI Shape by using IDLffShape Object.

ESRI shape file stores its projection (if any) in a text file (.prj). But IDLffShape does not support reading it. My shape files can be in different projection, very tedious to change them manually to longitude/latitude in other GIS like ArcGIS.

Is there any IDL routine, which can read/ parse the projection information from projection file (.prj file) of ESRI Shape?

thanks.

Fang

Subject: Re: projection info (.prj file) from ESRI Shape
Posted by [Mariolncandenza](#) on Wed, 08 Feb 2006 17:10:33 GMT
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Fang,

The routine you're looking for may not be out there. Thing is, not even all of ESRI's own software bothers to read the .PRJ files.

But, if you open them up, you can see that the format is very simple, and you could handily write a reader for them. But if you are really dealing with many different projections, that could be too much.

The GDAL package, a free Unix/Linux project, includes a utility called OGR2OGR (<http://www.gdal.org/ogr/ogr2ogr.html>). Docs for that program assert that "This program can be used to convert simple features data between file formats performing various operations during the process such as spatial or attribute selections, reducing the set of attributes, setting the output coordinate system or even reprojecting the features during translation."

This program can take shapefile input and give shapefile output, and (since it is Unix) can be run in batch mode.

Subject: Re: projection info (.prj file) from ESRI Shape
Posted by [Weihua FANG](#) on Thu, 09 Feb 2006 10:51:48 GMT
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Hi, Hyer,

Gonna hack around the library.

Thank you for your information.

Fang

Ed Hyer Wrote:

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