
Subject: Re: ESRI Shapefiles
Posted by [liamgumley](#) on Thu, 06 Jul 2006 16:21:06 GMT
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David,

The following demo program may be helpful:

`ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/incoming/shapefile_plot.pro`

Here's how it can be used to plot a continent outline shapefile from the IDL distribution:

```
file = filepath(subdirectory=['resource', 'maps', 'shape'],  
'continents.shp')  
map_set, 43.0, -89.0, scale=50e6, /lambert, /grid  
shapefile_plot, file
```

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

David Bowman wrote:

```
> Dear all,  
>  
> I have an ESRI shapefile containing the surface trace of an active  
> fault. I need to extract the lat/lon from this file for use in IDL.  
> Sounds easy, right? Not so much... (at least for me)  
>  
> I know IDL includes a whole suite of programs that supposedly read and  
> manipulate GIS files, but I've found the documentation to be shockingly  
> confusing, even by RSI's standards.  
>  
> Can anybody point me to a simple explanation/procedure/resource? Small  
> words would be appreciated.  
>  
> In my career there have been two enormous time-sinks that I've managed  
> to avoid: ARC/Info and object-oriented programming. My greatest fear  
> is that I've finally come across a need for both of them. I would be  
> eternally grateful for any help avoiding that horrible fate.  
>  
> Cheers!  
> David Bowman
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Subject: Re: ESRI Shapefiles

Awesome! Thanks Liam!

liamgumley@gmail.com wrote:

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