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Subject: Re: Land/Water Database

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Wed, 11 Oct 2006 23:22:21 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

- > Folks,
- >
- > Does anyone know of a database where I can get fairly
- > high-resolution land/water data for a particular lat/lon?
- > In other words, I want to make a water mask for a particular
- > image. If I know the lat/lon of each pixel, do you know
- > of a way I can look in a database to see if that pixel
- > is over land or water (or, presumably) both?
- >
- > I can think of graphical ways to do this, but
- > supposedly this is not of sufficient accuracy for the
- > person asking the question.

David,

You don't say just how accurate you need to be!

GTOPO30 gives you 1km by 1km resolution. Takes 5 CD's to cover the globe.

The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) DEM gives you much higher resolution, but I think only covers +/- 40 (50?) degrees of latitude.

Takes 13 DVD's

to cover that central "belly" portion of the globe. Extra hires data available for USA.

The GSHHS shoreline database includes lakes and islands down to itty-bitty size, and could satisfy almost all needs using a graphical method.

Cheers,

Andrew C.

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Subject: Re: Land/Water Database

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 11 Oct 2006 23:28:50 GMT

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Andrew Cool writes:

- > The GSHHS shoreline database includes lakes and islands down to
- > itty-bitty size, and could satisfy almost all needs using a graphical

> method.

Well, that's what I thought, and recommended. I'll have to wait and see what they think.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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