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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 28 Jan 2007 15:47:53 GMT  
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Brian Larsen writes:

- > I imagine this is not too hard but I haven't been able to figure it
- > out. What I want to do is in the center of a polar contour plot
- > overplot a nice looking globe that can be turned and tilted to the
- > correct perspective and shaded to show where the sun is.

In my experience, any map projection that overlaps the pole  
and includes the sun is trouble:

[http://www.dfanning.com/map\\_tips/terminator.html](http://www.dfanning.com/map_tips/terminator.html)

But maybe this is because I don't understand spherical  
geometry worth a damn. :-)

- > One thing that seems hard to do with the map routines (that I am a
- > major novice at using as I really only look at space data with a
- > little earth in the center) are that I see no easy way to make a globe
- > take up -1,1 in a plot and leave the other stuff plotted around it.

Humm. Have you tried the keyword POSITION, NOERASE, and NOMARGIN?  
It seems to me that would be about as easy as it comes. You might  
need to use CONVERT\_COORD to convert data coordinate space into  
normalized space for the POSITION keyword, but that is the only  
complication I can think of.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Sun, 28 Jan 2007 18:32:01 GMT  
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Thanks, this is huge forward progress

I notice that the output from convert\_coord doesn't match position  
keyword (typical idl annoyance)

something like this is what you had in mind? (looking straight down from over the pole and w/o worrying about shading yet)

```
IDL> plot, findgen(11)-5, findgen(11)-5, /nodata, /iso
```

```
IDL> print, convert_coord([-1,1], [-1,1], /data, /to_normal)
```

```
0.356255 0.441672 0.00000
```

```
0.468755 0.591672 0.00000
```

```
IDL> MAP_SET,90,0,0,/ORTHOGRAPHIC,/ISOTROPIC, /CONTINENTS,/HORIZON, $  
E_continents={FILL:1},
```

```
position=[0.356255,0.441672,0.468755,0.591672], /noerase, /noborder
```

(I will of course code in the position as variables since it will change)

thanks much

Brian

-----  
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Space Science and Engineering Lab (SSEL)  
Montana State University - Bozeman  
Bozeman, MT 59717

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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images

Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Sun, 28 Jan 2007 18:55:56 GMT

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Well adding more to my own posts, interestingly the map is not in the right spot. Any insight here?

Looking at the plot generated (sorry for the terrible colors) it is pretty clear that the earth is not centered at 0,0 is there some trick I don't know here?

```
loadct, 11
```

```
contour, dist(10), findgen(10)-5, findgen(10)-5, /fill, nlevels=30, /iso
```

```
pos = convert_coord([-1,1], [-1,1], /data, /to_normal)
```

```
loadct, 12
```

```
MAP_SET,90,0,0,/ORTHOGRAPHIC,/ISOTROPIC, /CONTINENTS,/HORIZON, $
```

```
E_continents={FILL:1, color:23}, $
```

```
position=[pos[0,0], pos[0,1], pos[1,0], pos[1,1]], $
```

```
/noerase, /noborder, $
```

```
E_HORIZON={FILL:1, COLOR:100}
```

Brian

-----  
Brian A. Larsen  
Dept. of Physics  
Space Science and Engineering Lab (SSEL)  
Montana State University - Bozeman  
Bozeman, MT 59717

---

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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 28 Jan 2007 21:42:48 GMT  
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Brian Larsen writes:

```
> Well adding more to my own posts, interestingly the map is not in the
> right spot. Any insight here?
>
> Looking at the plot generated (sorry for the terrible colors) it is
> pretty clear that the earth is not centered at 0,0 is there some trick
> I don't know here?
>
> loadct, 11
> contour, dist(10), findgen(10)-5, findgen(10)-5, /fill, nlevels=30, /
> iso
> pos = convert_coord([-1,1], [-1,1], /data, /to_normal)
> loadct, 12
> MAP_SET,90,0,0,/ORTHOGRAPHIC,/ISOTROPIC, /CONTINENTS,/HORIZON, $
> E_continents={FILL:1, color:23}, $
> position=[pos[0,0], pos[0,1], pos[1,0], pos[1,1]], $
> /noerase, /noborder, $
> E_HORIZON={FILL:1, COLOR:100}
```

You set up your position wrong. It should be set like this:

```
position=[pos[0,0], pos[1,0], pos[0,1], pos[1,1]], $
```

Then, it is right where it is suppose to be. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Sun, 28 Jan 2007 22:46:34 GMT  
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In my best Homer Simpson, "Doh!!"

At the risk of it being hacked apart, to finish off the thread for any to come later I will attach the final code that I ended up using as a procedure plot\_earth.pro

```
;+
; NAME:
; plot_earth
;
;
; PURPOSE:
; overplot the earth onto a plot measured in Re
;
;
; INPUTS:
; none
;
;
; OPTIONAL INPUTS:
; none
;
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
; FANCY - plot the earth as a globe
; BLANK - for non fancy output blank out the region, ignored when
;         fancy is specified
; TIME - the time of the fancy earth to plot, defaults to zero
;        This can be specifed in fractional hours (e.g. 12.345) or as
;        an EUVtime (e.g. 20012001234   yyyydddhmmss)
;
;
;
; OUTPUTS:
; the earth onto the current plot
;
;
; OPTIONAL OUTPUTS:
; none
;
;
; COMMON BLOCKS:
; none
;
;
; SIDE EFFECTS:
```

```

; - puts the earth on the plot
; - messed up the colortable, need to reload ct after a run of this
;
; RESTRICTIONS:
; - Only works well for iso plots measured in Re from the earth.
Could
; be modified to work in meters or the like at a later date
; - Only works for directly over the North Pole as that I what I am
doing
; now
;
;
; EXAMPLE:
; loadct, 13
; contour, dist(10), findgen(10)-5, findgen(10)-5, /fill, nlevels=30, /
iso
; plot_earth, /fancy, time=12.345

;
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;
; Sun Jan 28 15:41:46 2007, Brian Larsen
; <larsen@ssel.montana.edu>
;
; written and tested with help from comp.lang.idl-pvwave
; http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/
browse_thread/thread/4ba6a41393fc8f6f/?hl=en#
;
;-

```

```

pro plot_earth, BLANK=blank, FANCY=fancy, TIME=time

```

```

IF NOT KEYWORD_SET(fancy) THEN BEGIN
  IF KEYWORD_SET(blank) THEN BEGIN
    circ_r = fltarr(200)
    circ_r[*] = 1
    circ = findgen(200)*2*!pi/200
    x_=circ_r * sin(circ)
    y_=circ_r * cos(circ)
    polyfill, x_, y_, color=0
  ENDIF
  rad_ = 2.*!pi*findgen(100)/100.
  earth_ = fltarr(100)
  earth_[*] = 1

```

```

    oplot, /polar, earth_[*], 2.*rad_[*]
    plots, [0,1],[0,0], linestyle=2
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
;; for time we are expecting either an euv time or factional hours
;; - an euvtime will be a string
IF N_ELEMENTS(time) EQ 0 THEN rot = 0 ELSE BEGIN
    IF size(time, /type) EQ 7 THEN BEGIN
        rot = euv_date2arr( time)
        rot = (rot[2]+rot[3]/60.+rot[4]/3600.)/24.*360 - 270
    ENDIF ELSE rot = time/24. * 360 - 270
ENDELSE

;; day side
pos1 = convert_coord([0,1], [-1,1], /data, /to_normal)
;; night side
pos2 = convert_coord([-1,0], [-1,1], /data, /to_normal)

;; day side
loadct, 12
MAP_SET,90,0,rot,/ORTHOGRAPHIC,/ISOTROPIC, /CONTINENTS,/HORIZON, $
    E_continents={FILL:1, color:23}, $
    position=[pos1[0,0], pos1[1,0], pos1[0,1], pos1[1,1]], $
    /noerase, /noborder, $
    E_HORIZON={FILL:1, COLOR:100}, $
    limit=[0,rot,90,rot+180]

;; night side
loadct, 0
MAP_SET,90,0,rot,/ORTHOGRAPHIC,/ISOTROPIC, /CONTINENTS,/HORIZON, $
    E_continents={FILL:1, color:119}, $
    position=[pos2[0,0], pos2[1,0], pos2[0,1], pos2[1,1]], $
    /noerase, /noborder, $
    E_HORIZON={FILL:1, COLOR:33}, $
    limit=[0,rot+180,90,rot]

ENDELSE

END

```

-----  
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 Space Science and Engineering Lab (SSEL)  
 Montana State University - Bozeman  
 Bozeman, MT 59717

---



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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 29 Jan 2007 00:39:23 GMT  
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---

Brian Larsen writes:

> At the risk of it being hacked apart, to finish off the thread for any  
> to come later I will attach the final code that I ended up using as a  
> procedure plot\_earth.pro

Ah, bueno! Verdad?

Saludo,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Mon, 29 Jan 2007 15:58:32 GMT  
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---

Como la mayor parte de nosotros mi español es muy malo y se retarda,  
pero te parece gozar de tu viaje a España  
:)

Brian

-----  
Brian A. Larsen  
Dept. of Physics  
Space Science and Engineering Lab (SSEL)  
Montana State University - Bozeman  
Bozeman, MT 59717

On Jan 28, 5:39 pm, David Fanning <d...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Brian Larsen writes:  
>> At the risk of it being hacked apart, to finish off the thread for any  
>> to come later I will attach the final code that I ended up using as a  
>> procedure plot\_earth.proAh, bueno! Verdad?  
>  
> Saludo,  
>

> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Mon, 29 Jan 2007 17:02:44 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Brian Larsen writes:  
>  
>> I imagine this is not too hard but I haven't been able to figure it  
>> out. What I want to do is in the center of a polar contour plot  
>> overplot a nice looking globe that can be turned and tilted to the  
>> correct perspective and shaded to show where the sun is.  
>  
> In my experience, any map projection that overlaps the pole  
> and includes the sun is trouble:  
>  
> [http://www.dfanning.com/map\\_tips/terminator.html](http://www.dfanning.com/map_tips/terminator.html)  
>  
> But maybe this is because I don't understand spherical  
> geometry worth a damn. :-)

I've just taken a quick look at that code. My initial impression is that you shouldn't have a problem if you check whether a give point is inside or outside the terminator polygon, by performing the check in projection coordinates, rather than latitude/longitude. However, that depends upon the details of the Inside() subroutine, about which I know nothing that isn't implied by it's name.

Another, more direct approach is possible. Convert both the ground location and the sub-solar location into unit vectors in earth-centered rotating coordinates (if you want to take into consideration the fact that the earth isn't perfectly spherical, the equations get more complicated):

$\langle \cos(\text{lat}) \cdot \cos(\text{lon}), \cos(\text{lat}) \cdot \sin(\text{lon}), \sin(\text{lat}) \rangle$

There are many different definitions of the day/night distinction, depending upon whether you want nightfall to occur when the center of the sun is on the horizon, or when the entire sun is below the horizon. It also depends upon whether you want to use the geometric position of the sun, or the shifted position due to atmospheric refraction. All of these issues can be covered by choosing a suitable



value for the terminator\_angle, the angle between the sun's position and the terminator; if you're using the center of the sun with no correction for refraction, the terminator\_angle should be  $\pi/2$  radians, or 90 degrees..

If the dot product of the ground position unit vector and the sub-solar point's unit vector is greater than  $\cos(\text{terminator\_angle})$ , then the ground position is on the day side of the terminator. If it's less, then it's on the night side.

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Subject: Re: Overplot nice looking globe on 2d satellite images  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Mon, 29 Jan 2007 17:31:39 GMT  
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Oops, I found an error that is pretty important.

The following two lines make the Earth turn the wrong way

```
>      rot = (rot[2]+rot[3]/60.+rot[4]/3600.)/24.*360 - 270  
>      ENDIF ELSE rot = time/24. * 360 - 270
```

replace them with:

```
      rot = -(rot[2]+rot[3]/60.+rot[4]/3600.)/24.*360 + 90  
      ENDIF ELSE rot = -time/24. * 360 + 90
```

for an Earth that turns the correct direction.

Brian

-----  
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Space Science and Engineering Lab (SSEL)  
Montana State University - Bozeman  
Bozeman, MT 59717

---