
Subject: Re: Display of topo map in MAP routines.
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 19:22:53 GMT
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Paul van Delst writes:

> Can someone outline (real quick) the steps needed to display a topo map in the background
> of a map projection? Other point data will be overplotted over this background.

Do you really mean "topo map"? If you do, I'm not sure there *is* a quick way to do this. Maybe if you could get ahold of a digital topo map in GeoTIFF format you might be OK. But even the smallest topo map is going to be HUGE and difficult to work with. I have a topo map of Canyonlands National Park in front of me on the wall. It's about 3 by 4 feet. I hate to think what size it would be in digital format. :-)

> Does a DEM file come with IDL, or do I need to visit the USGS?

IDL does not come with a DEM file. Is this what you mean by a "topo map"?

Maybe you could clarify what you are trying to do, including some explanation of the tools you plan to use. I have a feeling you are asking about building a 18,000 sq ft dream home, but have the plans for a dog house in front of you. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Display of topo map in MAP routines.
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 20:39:52 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

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> a 18,000 sq ft dream home, but have the plans for a
> dog house in front of you. :-)

If I grok the analogy correctly, I think I mean the opposite. I'll be quite happy with the doghouse version. :o)

But I did mean a digital elevation map (i.e. lat, lon, height). A colleague supplied the GTPO30 DEM data from the USGS and I bumbled my way through to actually displaying the elevation data on a map (yay!).

I was trying to avoid the hassle of writing code to read the DEM file - but it ended up being relatively simple. Once I have x, y, and z data in IDL I can figure out how to display stuff by browsing your site and my books -- it was getting said data from disk file to IDL variable that I was being lazy about. I thought there was some well know-about file with an object reader in IDL (at least, to the DEM/IDL cognoscenti) but I guess not.

Sorry for the newsgroup noise...

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: Display of topo map in MAP routines.
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 20:41:10 GMT
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In article <h9b1dm\$kse\$1@news.woc.noaa.gov>,
Paul van Delst <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> wrote:

> Hello,

>
> I'm sure this question has come up before (I did a quick search of David Fanning's tips
> but didn't immediately see anything). Apologies in advance for being a bit lazy....
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> Thanks for any info/help.
>
> cheers,
>
> paulv

If you go to my downloads page

<http://idl.tamu.edu/Downloads.html>

and download my library

http://csrp.tamu.edu/downloads/idl/bowman_lib.zip

it includes some routines to read your choice of two different
global topography databases. (They are included in the download.)

These data are on 5-minute and 10-minute lat-lon grids, and may
not have the resolution that you need.

There is also a land-ocean data base with associated access routines.

Plot the maps and then fire away with PLOTS.

Cheers, Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Display of topo map in MAP routines.
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 22 Sep 2009 20:56:50 GMT
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Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:

> In article <h9b1dm\$kse\$1@news.woc.noaa.gov>,
> Paul van Delst <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> wrote:
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> not have the resolution that you need.
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> There is also a land-ocean data base with associated access routines.
>
> Plot the maps and then fire away with PLOTS.

Excellent, thanks!

cheers,

paulv
