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Subject: Re: Where can I find a description of the !MAP structure tags?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 14 Jan 2010 14:54:49 GMT

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Nicolas writes:

> I'm trying to use and adapt IDL mapping module to produce planetary  
> map products.  
> Where can I find a description of the !MAP structure tags?  
> IDL documentation doesn't say a word and I can't find anything  
> anywhere. :'(

I think you are looking in the wrong place. If I were going to produce planetary map products, I would be studying the MAP\_PROJ\_\*\*\*\* routines. These will create the map structure that you can use for any of your needs without knowing anything much about it.

In any case, if you want to know more about it, you will have to study Snyder or some other, equally technical, book on map projections. Nothing in the IDL documentation will help.

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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Subject: Re: Where can I find a description of the !MAP structure tags?

Posted by [Nicolas](#) on Fri, 15 Jan 2010 14:11:20 GMT

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Hi David,

I actually make use of both the MAP\_PROJ\*\*\* routines and the Snyder book, but I wanted to make sure to understand what IDL does and the meaning of each tag in the !MAP structure.

Thank you anyway,

Nicolas

On Jan 14, 3:54 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Nicolas writes:  
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> David  
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> --  
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Subject: Re: Where can I find a description of the !MAP structure tags?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 15 Jan 2010 14:51:26 GMT

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Nicolas writes:

> I actually make use of both the MAP\_PROJ\*\*\* routines and the Snyder  
> book,  
> but I wanted to make sure to understand what IDL does and the meaning  
> of each tag in the !MAP structure.

Well, mostly what IDL does (at least with the MAP\_PROJ\_\*\*\* routines)  
is implement the USGS GCTP map projection routines. These are  
quite old now and are showing their age. In our shop we are moving  
in the direction of Python for our data visualization needs,

where we can take advantage of proj4 and gdal mapping tools.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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