
Subject: Map Projection Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 14 May 2010 15:46:11 GMT

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Folks,

Here are a couple of questions I don't have time to research this morning.

How can I tell if the current data coordinate system is a map coordinate system? And, how can I tell the difference between a lat/lon map coordinate system and an XY map coordinate system?

Cheers,

David

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

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

Subject: Re: Map Projection Question

Posted by [Klemen](#) on Tue, 18 May 2010 08:00:24 GMT

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Hi David,

In general, you should look at the metadata. It also helps if you know, what kind of data you are looking at - then you can use your common sense (e.g. resolution of 0.00833333 stands probably not for meters but for decimal degrees).

To do it automatically: in Envi it is quite easy: `envi_open_data_file` + `envi_file_query` should do it. This is the easiest way if your dataset contains georeference information. In IDL read the codes from e.g. Geotiff and then compare them with <http://www.remotesensing.org/geotiff/spec/contents.html>. In the case of shapefiles you can look at the PRJ file and check the codes on the ESRI web site, you can start by: <http://resources.arcgis.com/content/kbase?fa=articleShow&d=23025> or http://webhelp.esri.com/arcgisdesktop/9.3/index.cfm?id=113&mpid=112&topicname=List_of_supported_map_projections

I hope it helps somehow, but this was not an easy question.
Cheers, Klemen
