Subject: v8: Little love for astronomers?
Posted by Matt Haffner on Fri, 01 Apr 2011 21:24:28 GMT

ITTVIS,

Despite some concerns over the speed of plotting, there are many
things I like about NG. However, the new map and image routines have
reverted to be (or in some cases are still) very "geo"-centric. I ran
across these items right away in trying to display images from the sky
on map projections:

1) Grid labels always have cardinal directions appended and don't seem
to be able to be given custom labels like regular plotting. Delving
into the code, it looks like they are statically applied,
unfortunately.

2) No built-in way to display a projection with longitude running
opposite the geocentric (top-down) convention. My current DG codes
negate longitudes to fake this, but it's a pain interacting with the
plot afterwards. It would be great to stop having to do this!

3) The ability to use 0-360 for longitude ranges. I've had to have a
parallel version of MAP_SET for years to allow this.

Those are the ones off the top of my head after fooling around with
these new routines for about a day or so. If others have already found
workarounds for any of these, I'd love to hear. But it'd be great
getting them into the base since many of us use it heavily.

mh

Subject: Re: v8: Little love for astronomers?
Posted by Mark Piper on Mon, 04 Apr 2011 16:02:59 GMT

#3 is fixed in IDL 8.1, due out next week. I'll add #1 to our request database. Would you please
send me (mpiper at ittvis dot com) an example of what #2 should look like? (IANA astronomer, so
I want to make sure I understand it.)

mp