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Subject: cgmmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [pvelissariou](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 00:09:28 GMT  
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Apparently, in the recent versions ( $\geq 2.2$ ) of gshhs database the units of the header.area changed from  $1/10 \text{ km}^2$  to  $1/10 \text{ m}^2$ .  
For cgmmap\_gshhs to work properly the line:  
    polygonArea = header.area \* 0.1 (ok for gshhs < 2.2)  
should be changed to:  
    polygonArea = header.area \*  $1.0\text{e-}7$  (for gshhs  $\geq 2.2$ )

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Subject: Re: cgmmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 00:33:16 GMT  
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pvelissariou@fsu.edu writes:

- > Apparently, in the recent versions ( $\geq 2.2$ ) of gshhs database
- > the units of the header.area changed from  $1/10 \text{ km}^2$  to  $1/10 \text{ m}^2$ .
- > For cgmmap\_gshhs to work properly the line:
- >   polygonArea = header.area \* 0.1 (ok for gshhs < 2.2)
- > should be changed to:
- >   polygonArea = header.area \*  $1.0\text{e-}7$  (for gshhs  $\geq 2.2$ )

Here is what the creators of the data base say:

"The area of small ( $< 0.1 \text{ km}^2$ ) polygons got truncated to 0. This would cause gshhs to consider them as lines (borders or rivers) instead of polygons. Furthermore, the areas were recomputed using the WGS-84 ellipsoid as the previous area values were based on a spherical calculation. Thanks to José Luis García Pallero for pointing this out. We now store the area with a magnitude scale tuned to each polygon."

I don't really know what "tuned to each polygon" means, but I'm not convinced it means what you seem to think it means.

Does anyone else know anything about this?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
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Subject: Re: cgmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [pvelissariou](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 02:05:30 GMT  
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On Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:09:28 PM UTC-5, Panagiotis Velissariou wrote:

> Apparently, in the recent versions ( $\geq 2.2$ ) of gshhs database  
>  
> the units of the header.area changed from  $1/10 \text{ km}^2$  to  $1/10 \text{ m}^2$ .  
>  
> For cgmap\_gshhs to work properly the line:  
>  
> `polygonArea = header.area * 0.1` (ok for gshhs < 2.2)  
>  
> should be changed to:  
>  
> `polygonArea = header.area * 1.0e-7` (for gshhs  $\geq 2.2$ )

David,

Thank you for the reply. You are right.

The problem is that from version 2.2 and on they have introduced a magnification factor for the area, see the header structure below:

```
struct GSHHS { /* Global Self-consistent Hierarchical High-resolution Shorelines */
  int id; /* Unique polygon id number, starting at 0 */
  int n; /* Number of points in this polygon */
  int flag; /* = level + version << 8 + greenwich << 16 + source << 24 + river << 25 + p << 26 */
  /* flag contains 6 items, as follows:
   * low byte: level = flag & 255: Values: 1 land, 2 lake, 3 island_in_lake, 4 pond_in_island_in_lake
   * 2nd byte: version = (flag >> 8) & 255: Values: Should be 9 for GSHHS release 9
   * 3rd byte: greenwich = (flag >> 16) & 3: Values: 0 if Greenwich nor Dateline are crossed,
   * 1 if Greenwich is crossed, 2 if Dateline is crossed, 3 if both is crossed.
   * 4th byte: source = (flag >> 24) & 1: Values: 0 = CIA WDBII, 1 = WVS
   * 4th byte: river = (flag >> 25) & 1: Values: 0 = not set, 1 = river-lake and GSHHS level = 2 (or
WDBII class 0)
   * 4th byte: area magnitude scale p (as in  $10^p$ ) = flag >> 26. We divide area by  $10^p$ .
   */
  int west, east, south, north; /* min/max extent in micro-degrees */
  int area; /* Area of polygon in  $\text{km}^2 * 10^p$  for this resolution file */
  int area_full; /* Area of corresponding full-resolution polygon in  $\text{km}^2 * 10^p$  */
  int container; /* Id of container polygon that encloses this polygon (-1 if none) */
  int ancestor; /* Id of ancestor polygon in the full resolution set that was the source of this polygon
(-1 if none) */
};
```

I have modified the code in cgmap\_gshhs.pro as follows:

```
  ; Discriminate polygons based on header information.
  IF version LT 9 THEN BEGIN
    area_mag = 1.0e-1 ;  $\text{km}^2 / 10 \rightarrow \text{km}^2$ 
```

```
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
  area_mag = 10.0 ^ ( - ISHFT(f, -26) ); km^2 / 10^p -> km^2
ENDELSE
polygonArea = header.area * area_mag
```

and it seems that gives the correct results.

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Subject: Re: cgmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 04:10:47 GMT  
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Panagiotis Velissariou writes:

> Thank you for the reply. You are right.  
> The problem is that from version 2.2 and on they have introduced a  
> magnification factor for the area, see the header structure below:

Yes, thanks. I found this independently and have already made the changes you suggest. I just have to do a bit of testing in the morning, and I'll check it into the Library. Appreciate your help with this. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: cgmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [Takis.Velissariou](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 15:57:59 GMT  
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On Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:09:28 PM UTC-5, pvelis...@fsu.edu wrote:

> Apparently, in the recent versions ( $\geq 2.2$ ) of gshhs database  
>  
> the units of the header.area changed from  $1/10 \text{ km}^2$  to  $1/10 \text{ m}^2$ .  
>  
> For cgmap\_gshhs to work properly the line:  
>  
> `polygonArea = header.area * 0.1` (ok for gshhs < 2.2)  
>  
> should be changed to:  
>

> polygonArea = header.area \* 1.0e-7 (for gshhs >= 2.2)

David,

I saw the modified code in gmap\_gshhs.pro and I think that:

magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 1B

should change to:

magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 255B

also

polygonArea = header.area \* 0.1 \* 10^magnitude

should change to:

polygonArea = header.area \* 0.1 (for version lt 9)

and

polygonArea = header.area \* 10^(-magnitude) (for version gt 9)

---

Subject: Re: cgmmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 16:22:32 GMT

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Takis.Velissariou@deep-c.org writes:

>  
> On Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:09:28 PM UTC-5, pvelis...@fsu.edu wrote:  
>> Apparently, in the recent versions (>= 2.2) of gshhs database  
>>  
>> the units of the header.area changed from 1/10 km^2 to 1/10 m^2.  
>>  
>> For cgmmap\_gshhs to work properly the line:  
>>  
>> polygonArea = header.area \* 0.1 (ok for gshhs < 2.2)  
>>  
>> should be changed to:  
>>  
>> polygonArea = header.area \* 1.0e-7 (for gshhs >= 2.2)  
>  
> David,  
>  
> I saw the modified code in gmap\_gshhs.pro and I think that:  
> magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 1B  
> should change to:  
> magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 255B  
>

Well, here is the header I am using to figure this out:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc/gshhs.h>

I presume the magnitude is the 6th byte in the flag (not the 4th as the documentation indicates). I see no evidence that we are to use a negative magnitude power. My way of pulling out the flag value is consistent with how I find the other byte values in the flag.

```
> also
> polygonArea = header.area * 0.1 * 10^magnitude
> should change to:
> polygonArea = header.area * 0.1 (for version lt 9)
> and
> polygonArea = header.area * 10^(-magnitude) (for version gt 9)
```

Since I set magnitude=0 if magnitude is not found in the file, and  $10^0$  is 1, I think my way of doing this is equivalent to yours.

Do you have a polygon you KNOW the area of that we can test?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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---

Subject: Re: cgmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 16:39:27 GMT  
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Takis.Velissariou@deep-c.org writes:

```
> I saw the modified code in gmap_gshhs.pro and I think that:
> magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 1B
> should change to:
> magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 255B
```

I think I am doing this correctly:

```
IDL> print, binary(f)
00000101000000110000100100000001
IDL> print, binary(ishft(f,-26))
0000000000000000000000000000000001
```

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: cmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 16:46:58 GMT  
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---

David Fanning writes:

```
>
> Takis.Velissariou@deep-c.org writes:
>
>> I saw the modified code in cmap_gshhs.pro and I think that:
>>   magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 1B
>> should change to:
>>   magnitude = ISHFT(f, -26) AND 255B
>
> I think I am doing this correctly:
>
> IDL> print, binary(f)
> 00000101000000110000100100000001
> IDL> print, binary(ishft(f,-26))
> 00000000000000000000000000000001
```

I've changed my mind. I think you are right about this. :-)

It should be AND 255B.

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: cmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 16:50:49 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Takis.Velissariou@deep-c.org writes:

```
> also
> polygonArea = header.area * 0.1 * 10^magnitude
> should change to:
> polygonArea = header.area * 0.1 (for version lt 9)
> and
> polygonArea = header.area * 10^(-magnitude) (for version gt 9)
```

I still don't know what to make of this. The documentation is screwy.

At one place in the header file you find this:

```
"area magnitude scale p (as in 10^p) = flag >> 26.
We divide area by 10^p."
```

Then, in the next couple of lines, you find this *\*twice\**:

```
"Area of polygon in km^2 * 10^p for this resolution file"
```

We need to know the area of known polygons to be able to tell.

David

--

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---

Subject: Re: cgmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [pvelissariou](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 17:34:29 GMT  
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---

On Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:09:28 PM UTC-5, pvelis...@fsu.edu wrote:

```
> Apparently, in the recent versions (>= 2.2) of gshhs database
>
> the units of the header.area changed from 1/10 km^2 to 1/10 m^2.
>
> For cgmap_gshhs to work properly the line:
>
> polygonArea = header.area * 0.1 (ok for gshhs < 2.2)
>
> should be changed to:
>
```

> polygonArea = header.area \* 1.0e-7 (for gshhs >= 2.2)

David,

From gshhs.c file we have:

```
line = (h.area) ? 0 : 1; /* Either Polygon (0) or Line (1) (if no area) */
if (version >= 9) { /* Variable magnitude for area scale */
    m = h.flag >> 26;
    scale = pow (10.0, (double)m); /* Area scale */
}
area = h.area / scale; /* Now im km^2 */
f_area = h.area_full / scale; /* Now im km^2 */
```

so, in the cgmap\_gshhs.pro

we should have something like:

magnitude = 10.0 ^ ( - ISHFT(f, -26) ) for version >= 9

and

magnitude = 0.1 for version < 9

and

polygonArea = header.area \* magnitude

in order to produce the correct results for the polygon area

---

---

Subject: Re: cgmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 2013 17:37:53 GMT

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---

David Fanning writes:

>

> Takis.Velissariou@deep-c.org writes:

>

>> also

>> polygonArea = header.area \* 0.1 \* 10^magnitude

>> should change to:

>> polygonArea = header.area \* 0.1 (for version lt 9)

>> and

>> polygonArea = header.area \* 10^(-magnitude) (for version gt 9)

>

> I still don't know what to make of this. The documentation is screwy.

>

> At one place in the header file you find this:

>

> "area magnitude scale p (as in 10^p) = flag >> 26.

> We divide area by 10^p."

>



> Then, in the next couple of lines, you find this \*twice\*:  
>  
> "Area of polygon in km^2 \* 10^p for this resolution file"  
>  
> We need to know the area of known polygons to be able to tell.

OK, I agree with you about dividing by the magnitude, too. :-)

I have an example using the Australian polygon, and I get the correct area for the land mass only by dividing: `header.area / 10^magnitude`.

I'm currently having trouble with v. 2.1 of the GSHHS data. Clearly the header is different from the one for v 2.0 and 2.2, but I can't figure out what it is. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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---

Subject: Re: `cgmap_gshhs.pro` minarea issue  
Posted by [pvelissariou](#) on Sun, 24 Nov 2013 04:03:03 GMT  
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---

On Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:09:28 PM UTC-5, [pvelis...@fsu.edu](#) wrote:

> Apparently, in the recent versions ( $\geq 2.2$ ) of gshhs database  
>  
> the units of the `header.area` changed from  $1/10 \text{ km}^2$  to  $1/10 \text{ m}^2$ .  
>  
> For `cgmap_gshhs` to work properly the line:  
>  
> `polygonArea = header.area * 0.1` (ok for gshhs < 2.2)  
>  
> should be changed to:  
>  
> `polygonArea = header.area * 1.0e-7` (for gshhs  $\geq 2.2$ )

David,

I think the following changes are required:

the line: `river = ISHFT(f, -25) AND 255B`  
should be: `river = ISHFT(f, -25) AND 1B`

also, header.area is of type LONG and 10^magnitude is of type INT  
therefore the calculated polygonarea is wrong, I have modified the  
following lines as:

from:

```
IF version LE 8 THEN BEGIN
  polygonArea = header.area * 0.1 ; km^2
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
  polygonArea = header.area / 10^magnitude ; km^2
ENDELSE
```

to:

```
IF version LT 9 THEN BEGIN
  polygonArea = Double(header.area) * 0.1 ; km^2
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
  polygonArea = Double(header.area) / 10.0^magnitude ; km^2
ENDELSE
```

---

Subject: Re: cgmap\_gshhs.pro minarea issue  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 24 Nov 2013 05:15:05 GMT  
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---

pvelissariou@fsu.edu writes:

```
> I think the following changes are required:
>
> the line: river = ISHFT(f, -25) AND 255B
> should be: river = ISHFT(f, -25) AND 1B
>
> also, header.area is of type LONG and 10^magnitude is of type INT
> therefore the calculated polygonarea is wrong, I have modified the
> following lines as:
>
> from:
>   IF version LE 8 THEN BEGIN
>     polygonArea = header.area * 0.1 ; km^2
>   ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
>     polygonArea = header.area / 10^magnitude ; km^2
>   ENDELSE
> to:
>   IF version LT 9 THEN BEGIN
>     polygonArea = Double(header.area) * 0.1 ; km^2
>   ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
>     polygonArea = Double(header.area) / 10.0^magnitude ; km^2
>   ENDELSE
```

OK, I'm going to assume you can make more sense of that documentation

than I can. ;-)

I'll check this in tomorrow with the other changes. Thanks for your help.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

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