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Subject: How can I use the shapefiles of a particular country in plotting the country boundaries?

Posted by [atmospheric physics](#) on Tue, 24 Jun 2014 10:32:38 GMT

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Hello,

I have shapefiles of Indian subcontinent (i.e., .india\_map.m.swp, ind\_state\_2000.apr, ind\_state\_2000.dbf, ind\_state\_2000.prj, ind\_state\_2000.sbn, ind\_state\_2000.sbx, ind\_state\_2000.shx, ind\_state\_2000.wmf). I don't even know what these file formats are, but inorder to draw the Indian subcontinent with exact boundary information, how I can use these files in IDL? Also, I want to include this in lat-lon coordinate box. I know how to use these shapefiles in MATLAB, but I don't have any clue in IDL.

Any help in this regard will be highly appreciable!!!

Thanks in advance,  
Madhavan

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Subject: Re: How can I use the shapefiles of a particular country in plotting the country boundaries?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 24 Jun 2014 16:43:01 GMT

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Madhavan Bomidi writes:

> I have shapefiles of Indian subcontinent (i.e., .india\_map.m.swp, ind\_state\_2000.apr, ind\_state\_2000.dbf, ind\_state\_2000.prj, ind\_state\_2000.sbn, ind\_state\_2000.sbx, ind\_state\_2000.shx, ind\_state\_2000.wmf). I don't even know what these file formats are, but inorder to draw the Indian subcontinent with exact boundary information, how I can use these files in IDL? Also, I want to include this in lat-lon coordinate box. I know how to use these shapefiles in MATLAB, but I don't have any clue in IDL.

There are several routines in the Coyote Library for handling shape files. The two most useful, are cgShapeInfo for peering into a shape file, and cgDrawShapes for drawing them in various ways. Search for "shapefiles" on my web page for articles.

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/idldoc/maps/index.html>

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 thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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