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Subject: map\_set doesn't return a map  
Posted by [wdolan](#) on Mon, 29 Jun 2015 15:36:24 GMT  
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Warning: new IDL user here. I'm trying to plot points on a map. I've got a lat variable, and a long variable.

In the command line window I type:

```
lat=btstruc.latitude  
lon=btstruc.longitude  
map_set  
map_continents  
oplot, lon, lat
```

I get no error messages, but no map pops up at all. I'm not sure why this is! Any advice?

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Subject: Re: map\_set doesn't return a map  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 29 Jun 2015 15:39:30 GMT  
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wdolan@oxy.edu writes:

```
> Warning: new IDL user here. I'm trying to plot points on a map. I've got a lat variable, and a  
> long variable.  
>  
> In the command line window I type:  
>  
> lat=btstruc.latitude  
> lon=btstruc.longitude  
> map_set  
> map_continents  
> oplot, lon, lat  
>  
> I get no error messages, but no map pops up at all. I'm not sure why this is! Any advice?
```

What does HELP, /DEVICE tell you?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: map\_set doesn't return a map  
Posted by [wdolan](#) on Mon, 29 Jun 2015 20:19:18 GMT  
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Also the map\_set works when I haven't run the program I wrote, but once I run the program, and then do map\_set, nothing comes up. This leads me to think that the ps file I set up in the program isn't closing (even though at the end of the program I say device, /close

When I type help, /device after running the program I get this:  
Available Graphics Device, CGM HP LJ NULL PCL PRINTER PS REGIS TEK X Z  
Current graphics device: PS

and it continues for a while

but the map isn't printing to that .ps file that I set up either (its not there if I open the file in GIMP)

Thanks,

Wayana

On Monday, June 29, 2015 at 8:39:31 AM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

> wdolan@oxy.edu writes:

>

>> Warning: new IDL user here. I'm trying to plot points on a map. I've got a lat variable, and a long variable.

>>

>> In the command line window I type:

>>

>> lat=btstruc.latitude

>> lon=btstruc.longitude

>> map\_set

>> map\_continents

>> oplot, lon, lat

>>

>> I get no error messages, but no map pops up at all. I'm not sure why this is! Any advice?

>

> What does HELP, /DEVICE tell you?

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> Cheers,

>

> David

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: map\_set doesn't return a map  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 29 Jun 2015 20:40:57 GMT  
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wdolan@oxy.edu writes:

> Also the map\_set works when I haven't run the program I wrote, but once I run the program, and then do map\_set, nothing comes up. This leads me to think that the ps file I set up in the program isn't closing (even though at the end of the program I say device, /close  
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> Current graphics device: PS  
>  
> and it continues for a while  
>  
> but the map isn't printing to that .ps file that I set up either (its not there if I open the file in GIMP)

Yes, you are getting a little confused. :-)

It is not enough to simply close the PostScript file, you must also switch back to your normal graphics device (X, in your case), if you want to create graphics windows with plots and maps in them.

The normal sequence of commands looks something like this:

```
thisDevice = !D.Name  
Set_Plot, 'PS'  
Device, ... ; Configure PostScript Device  
.... whatever graphics commands you use go here....  
Device, /Close  
Set_Plot, thisDevice
```

In this way, you will be set up to do "normal" IDL graphics again.

Cheers,

David

--

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Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
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Subject: Re: map\_set doesn't return a map  
Posted by [wdolan](#) on Mon, 29 Jun 2015 20:47:08 GMT  
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Great, thank you, it works! The only line of code I was missing was the Set\_Plot, thisDevice.

On Monday, June 29, 2015 at 1:40:59 PM UTC-7, David Fanning wrote:

```
> wdolan@oxy.edu writes:
>
>> Also the map_set works when I haven't run the program I wrote, but once I run the program,
and then do map_set, nothing comes up. This leads me to think that the ps file I set up in the
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> In this way, you will be set up to do "normal" IDL graphics again.
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> Cheers,
>
> David
>
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.idlcoyote.com/
```

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