
Subject: Re: MAP_SET error: linux
Posted by [Andy Lough](#) on Fri, 06 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

- > I'm just not sure it's helpful for them or us to cast our
- > complaints with so much heat. I think we should identify
- > problems, be persistent in asking for them to be fixed, but do
- > it in a way that recognizes that RSI is not the enemy.
- >
- > Save the heat for your internet service provider and the IRS.

Good point.

I am also guilty of a little mud slinging
toward RSI when I become frustrated with IDL.

--

Andrew F. Lough |
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fax:(303)497-7013

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us
with
sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use."
-Galileo

Subject: Re: MAP_SET error: linux
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 06 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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[A copy of this article was sent to the cited author.]

Andy Lough writes:

- > David,
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- > It appears you don't rely heavily upon map_set when using IDL.
- > These "low priority" grid line issues are **very** important to
- > me. At our lab we are judged not only by the quality of our
- > research, but also by the quality of the presentation of that
- > research. Next week we will present work to ABC television,
- > and I will use map_set to illustrate development of the current
- > El Nino. If these maps (to be presented in a movie loop using

> Xinteranimate) all have a missing grid lines, to me and other geography
> types it will make the presentation look second rate. If the same
> occurs when I submit graphics for final publication to a journal,
> the presentation will look second rate to thousands of journal
> subscribers. I hope you see my point. Sure, there may be simple
> work arounds to this, but have fun applying those work arounds to all
> your IDL code which uses map_set. Software is supposed to make your
> life simpler and more enjoyable... to increase your productivity, not
> the other way around!
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> I agree with Bob that it is frustrating to have a bug identified,
> but not fixed. I've been there before, I'm there now. Certainly
> I underestimate the magnitude of the task being undertaken by RSI,
> but I hope they can be responsive, especially to those who put forth
> the effort (at no charge) to beta test their proposed new releases.
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> Andy

My apologies to both Andy and Bob (who, BTW, admits that he *was*
having a bad day in a private e-mail to me) if I stepped on their
toes. I know perfectly well that one person's minor problem is
another person's show stopper, but that is my point, pretty much.
RSI has their own priorities that (hopefully) have to do with
business decisions and keeping the largest number of customers
happy at any one time.

Lord knows I'm frustrated too. Right now I'm in the middle of
a problem where "persistent" object graphics ain't acting so
persistent. But I know some of those folks at RSI, and I can
assure you that the ones I know are not sitting on their hands
up there. They are working long, long hours to get this code
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I'm just not sure it's helpful for them or us to cast our
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Save the heat for your internet service provider and the IRS.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Customizable IDL Programming Courses

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Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Fri, 06 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

- > Geez, Bob, having a bad day?
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- > Not even RSI has unlimited resources. Things have to be prioritized.
- > Given the huge number of changes that IDL 5 has required and the
- > problems that inevitably arise, I don't find it hard to believe that
- > a grid line, for goodness sake, gets a low priority.

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Subject: Re: MAP_SET error: linux
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 06 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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Bob Mallozzi (mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov) writes:

> When I try this MAP_SET under linux, the left-most grid line does not
> get plotted:
>
> IDL> PRINT, !VERSION
> { x86 linux unix 5.0 Apr 28 1997}
> IDL>
> IDL> MAP_SET, 0, 0, /GRID, /AITOFF, /CONTINENTS, /NOBORDER
>
> I notified RSI about this during beta testing. It apparently did not
> get fixed. This is not the first time that I reported an error and it
> did not get fixed.

Geez, Bob, having a bad day?

Not even RSI has unlimited resources. Things have to be prioritized.
Given the huge number of changes that IDL 5 has required and the
problems that inevitably arise, I don't find it hard to believe that
a grid line, for goodness sake, gets a low priority.

> For example, try this one:
>
> PLOT_OO, FINDGEN(100)+1, FINDGEN(100)+1, XR = [2, 8], XSTY = 1
>
> This was also reported. Geeze, what is the use in beta testing...

What is wrong with this, other than it calls a procedure that has
been retired 3 versions ago? It works like I expect it to on my
machine, even when I call it the correct way:

Plot, FINDGEN(100)+1, FINDGEN(100)+1, XR = [2, 8], XSTY = 1, \$

/XLog, /Ylog

Cheers,

David

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>
IDL 5 Reports: <http://www.dfanning.com/documents/anomaly5.html>

Subject: RE: MAP_SET error: linux
Posted by [mallozzi](#) on Sat, 07 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

>
> [A copy of this article was sent to the cited author.]
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I agree with what you said about IDL not having unlimited resources, but the errors I pointed out are not related to anything new that was introduced in IDL5.0. The PLOT function has been around since day 1, and it, in my opinion, produces an error when using log scales. It does not matter if one uses "a procedure that has been retired 3 versions ago", or the /xlog, /ylog keywords. Take a look the image

ftp://crazyhorse.msfc.nasa.gov/pub/idl_log_err.gif

This plot was produced with the command

Plot, FINDGEN(100)+1, FINDGEN(100)+1, XR = [2, 8], XSTY = 1,/XLog, /Ylog

on my linux PC. In answer to your question "What is wrong with this...", the xticks are not labeled, rendering the plot useless. I realize this can be fixed by labeling the ticks explicitly, but I still must insist that this is an error in the PLOT routine that has been around forever.

These same arguments can be applied to the MAP_SET function. It is not a new function. Do you not agree that errors in established functions should be fixed before (or at least concurrent with) new features? I must say, David, that I very much disagree with your statement "I don't find it hard to believe a grid line, for goodness sake, gets low priority." Putting a plot like that in a proposal or publication is not, I think, a good way to impress your colleagues.

I guess little, persistent errors like these, combined with the very expensive cost of IDL, has me a little upset. All in all, I think RSI is doing a good job, and that IDL is one of the best languages around. I will certainly continue to use it. Also, you are right that it's probably not helpful for them or us to cast our complaints with so much heat. It's just very frustrating to report the bug, RSI responds with "Ok, got it", and then nothing happens. In fact, with the log plot error, it was (sort of) fixed in 5.0b5, then in 5.0b6, it was back to the old error...

OK, rant is done, thanks for listening :-)

Sincerely,

bob mallozzi

--

Dr. Robert S. Mallozzi
University of Alabama in Huntsville
<http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/>
