



The Generic Mapping Tools

ESSC4140 Seismology Introduction to GMT (Tutorial #1)

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TA office hour: Thursday 16:00-17:30

Venue for tutorial: SC329

Some useful links

GMT Homepage:

<https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/gmt/>

Online GMT Tutorial:

<http://gmt-tutorials.org/en/index.html>

Installation on personal computer:

Git: <https://git-scm.com/downloads>

GMT: <https://docs.gmt-china.org/6.0/install>

Objective of this series of tutorials

Cartesian, geographic
and various data sets

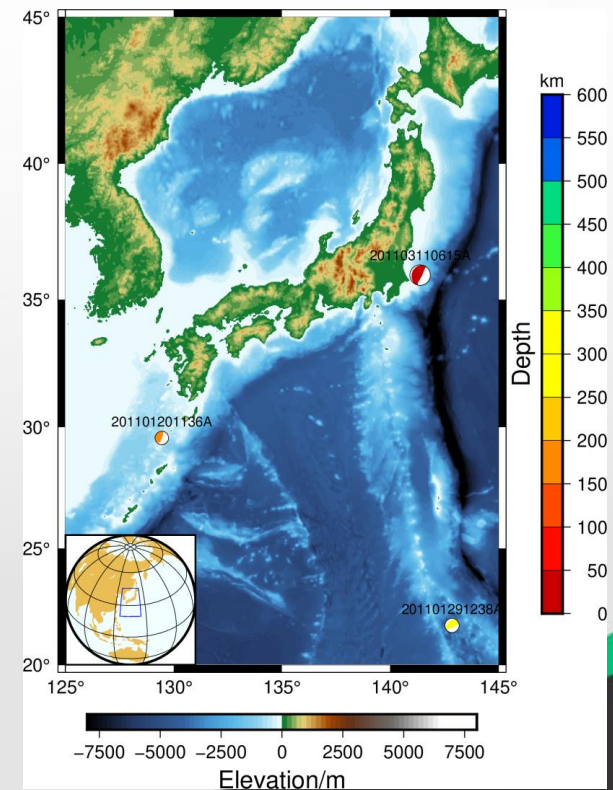
GMT

Creating simple x-y plots
or more complex graphics

```
142.906449088 20.4706618719 -2629.97607422
142.941667124 20.4706618719 -2749.20556641
142.97688516 20.4706618719 -2900.71630859
143.012103196 20.4706618719 -3173.2487793
143.047321232 20.4706618719 -3515.28955078
143.082539268 20.4706618719 -3785.9375
143.117757304 20.4706618719 -3882.34960938
143.152975341 20.4706618719 -3849.13476563
143.188193377 20.4706618719 -3768.56298828
143.223411413 20.4706618719 -3648.87768555
143.258629449 20.4706618719 -3633.97753906
143.293847485 20.4706618719 -3602.37329102
143.329065521 20.4706618719 -3683.31542969
143.364283557 20.4706618719 -3858.42016602
143.399501593 20.4706618719 -4020.11914063
143.434719629 20.4706618719 -4041.34277344
143.469937665 20.4706618719 -3989.51831055
```

```
129.45 29.56 159 -0.28 0.60 -0.32 2.51 7.49 2.02 23 X Y 201101201136A
142.85 21.71 319 1.52 -1.05 -0.47 1.16 0.29 -0.92 24 X Y 201101291238A
141.38 35.92 29 4.39 -0.31 -4.07 3.17 6.34 -1.97 27 X Y 201103110615A
```

GMT



Basic Unix commands

\$ pwd (present working directory)

\$ ls (list)

\$ cd (change directory)

- . (the current directory)
- .. (one level up from the current directory)
- path/to/the/directory

\$ mkdir/touch (make a directory/file)

\$ cp/rm/mv (copy/remove/move)

\$ cat/less/more (concatenate/read file)

\$ echo (like 'print')

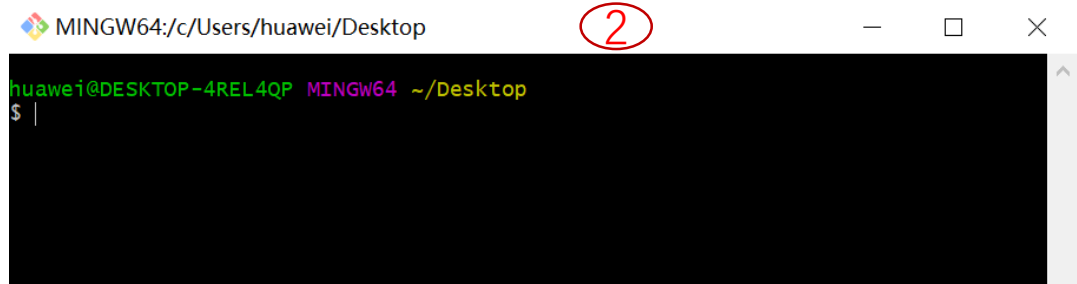
> (redirect output to and overwrite a file, use >> to append)

* represents a string of arbitrary length

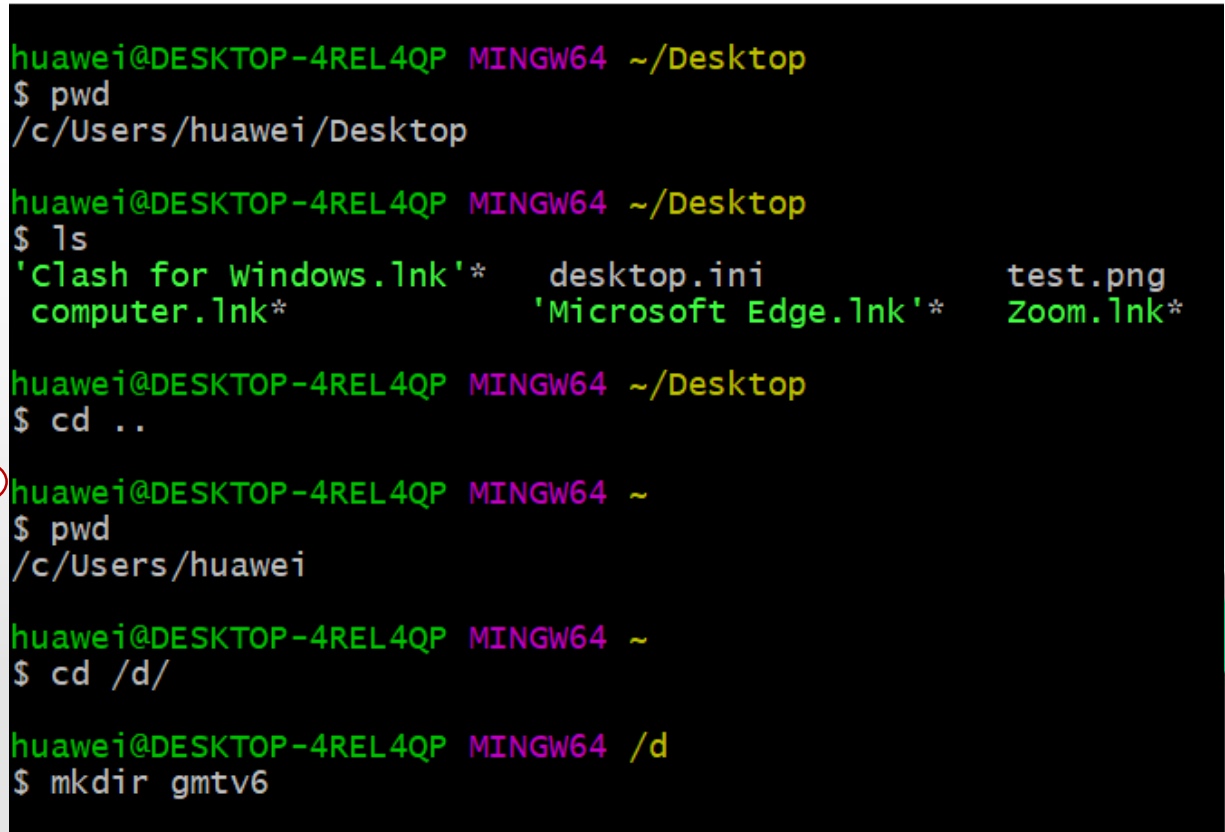
? represents exactly one character

Note that: '\$ command --help' is very useful

Open the command prompt and the command always follows \$



MINGW64:/d



After creating the working directory named "gmtv6", close the command prompt.

MINGW64:/d/gmtv6

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```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 ~/Desktop
$ cd /d/gmtv6/
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ touch first.txt
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ ls
first.txt
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ cp /c/Users/huawei/Downloads/GMT.zip .
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ ls
first.txt  GMT.zip
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ rm first.txt
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ mv first.txt ~/Desktop/
```

" ." means the present working directory

"rm" will delete the file irreversibly

Uncompress the zip file using mouse or using command-unzip like step 5

5

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ unzip GMT.zip
Archive:  GMT.zip
  creating: GMT/
  inflating: GMT/colombia.cpt
  inflating: GMT/colorbar.sh
  inflating: GMT/eq.dat
  inflating: GMT/final.sh
  inflating: GMT/inset.sh
  inflating: GMT/Japan.grd
  inflating: GMT/meca_depth.sh
  inflating: GMT/section1.sh
  inflating: GMT/source.txt
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ ls
GMT/  GMT.zip
```

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```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6
$ cd GMT

huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ ls
colombia.cpt  eq.dat      inset.sh*  meca_depth.sh  source.txt
colorbar.sh* final.sh*   Japan.grd  section1.sh*

huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ cat source.txt
129.45 29.56 159 -0.28 0.60 -0.32 2.51 7.49 2.02 23 X Y 201101201136A
142.85 21.71 319 1.52 -1.05 -0.47 1.16 0.29 -0.92 24 X Y 201101291238A
141.38 35.92 29 4.39 -0.31 -4.07 3.17 6.34 -1.97 27 X Y 201103110615A
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ echo "Hello"
Hello

huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ echo "hello" > temp

huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ cat temp
hello
```

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```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ ls colo?b*
colombia.cpt  colorbar.sh*

huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ less --help
```


Basic Unix commands

awk (a unix command to organize, find and extract information in text files)

```
$ less eq.dat
```

(Press q to quit)

```
$ awk '{print $3,$1}' eq.dat
```

```
$ awk '{print $0}' eq.dat
```

| (the pipe operator takes the result of last command and passes it to the next command)

usage: **command 1 | command 2**

e.g.

```
echo 'hello world *' | awk '{print $3}' | ls
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ echo 'hello world *' > temp
```

```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ cat temp
hello world *
```



```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ awk '{print $3}' temp
*
```



```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ ls *
colombia.cpt  eq.dat      inset.sh*   meca_depth.sh  source.txt
colorbar.sh* final.sh*   Japan.grd   section1.sh*   temp
```



```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/gmtv6/GMT
$ echo 'hello world *' | awk '{print $3}' | ls
colombia.cpt  eq.dat      inset.sh*   meca_depth.sh  source.txt
colorbar.sh* final.sh*   Japan.grd   section1.sh*   temp
```

Run commands automatically

Now let's try to write a simple shell script named 'simple.sh'

\$ touch simple.sh

```
#!/bin/sh
pwd
echo contains
# list all files and directories
ls *
echo done
```

Then run it:

\$./simple.sh or \$ sh simple.sh

The first line always starts with: #!/bin/sh to tell the default shell to use the interpreter located at /bin/sh

And use **the pound sign # to add comments**

GMT commands

First, view the basic syntax of GMT commands by typing:

```
$ gmt
```

```
usage: gmt <module name> [<module-options>]
```

Then, check the available GMT modules by typing:

```
$ gmt --help
```

section 1

basemap

plot

text

coast

section 2

grdimage

makecpt

colorbar

meca

inset

section 3

project

data download

Q&A

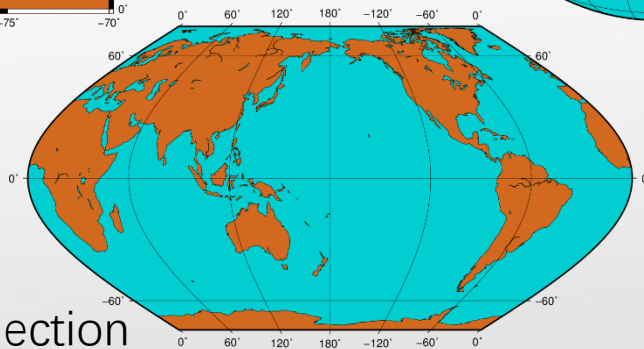
GMT Map Projections (-J)

GMT plots the spherical Earth on a flat surface, therefore,
projection is needed

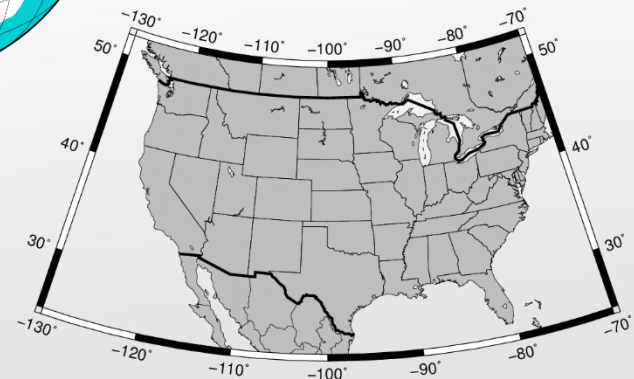
Mercator projection



Orthographic projection



Eckert VI projection



Albers projection

GMT supports more than 30 different projections, if you are interested, please refer to:

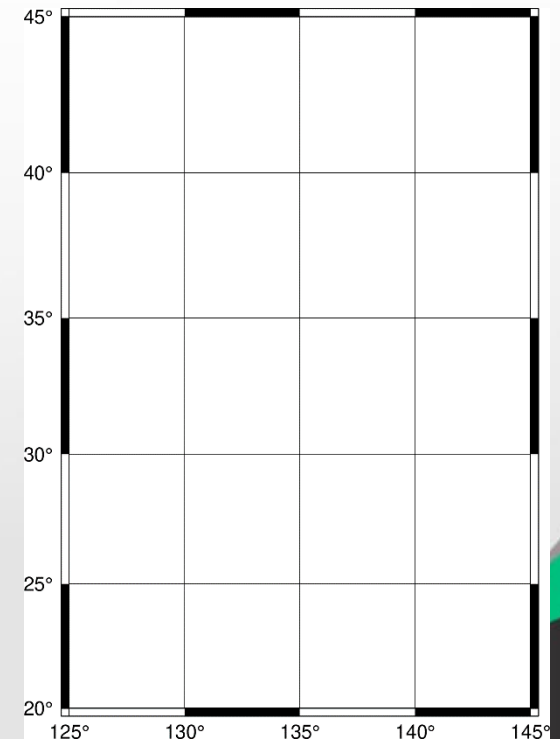
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_map_projections

https://www.generic-mapping-tools.org/GMT.jl/v0.8.0/proj_examples.html

basemap

```
gmt basemap -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Bxa5g5 -Bya5g5 -BWeSn -png Japan
```

- Use the module named **basemap** to generate a new figure
- Option: **-JM10c**
-JM indicates Mercator projection, upper case 'M' means it followed by width (the height is further determined by **-R**), and lower case 'm' means followed by scale;
10c is 10 cm, another unit usually used is i (inch).
- Option: **-R125/145/20/45**
-R specifies the data region with min/max coordinates
125/145/20/45 corresponds to xmin/xmax/ymin/ymax, here actually is west/east/south/north



basemap

```
gmt basemap -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Bxa5g5 -Bya5g5 -BWeSn -png Japan
```

Exercise:

Change the -Bx/-By values e.g. -Bxa2g5

Change -BWeSn e.g. -BWESN

➤ Options: -Bxa5g5 -Bya5g5 -BWeSn

-B specifies the boundary settings

x/y indicates the axis

a is annotation, use a5 to plot annotation every 5 degree

g is grid, use g5 to plot gridlines every 5 degree

-BWeSn

Take the left side for instance,

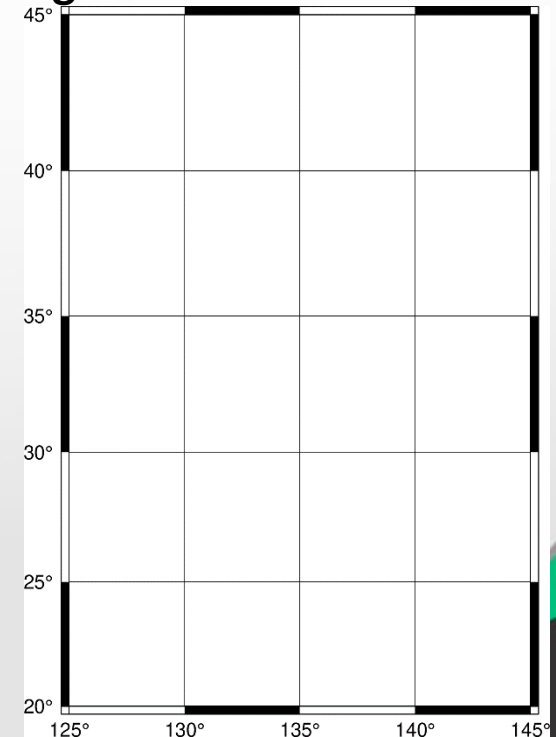
W indicates annotation exits for this side;

w indicates no annotation;

l indicates no annotation and ticks;

if omit W/w/l, then the left side would disappear.

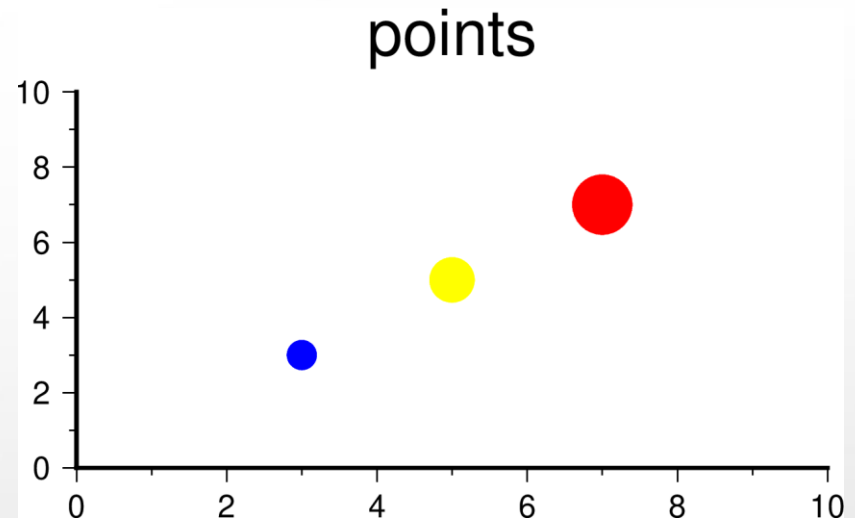
-png and Japan are the format and name
of the figure, respectively



plot

```
echo -e "3 3 0 0.4 \n 5 5 1 0.6 \n 7 7 2 0.8" | gmt plot -JX10c/5c -R0/10/0/10  
-Ba2f1 -BWS+t"points" -Sc -Cblue,yellow,red -png point
```

- Use the module named **plot** to add symbol or lines
- Option: -JX10c/10c
-JX means using linear projection
10c/10c corresponds to width/height
- Option: -Ba2f1 -BWS+t"points"
f1: plot ticks with the interval of 1;
no gridline here
+t"points": add a title



Input lines:

```
3 3 0 0.1  
5 5 1 0.2  
7 7 2 0.3
```

1st and 2nd column specify x and y position of symbol's center
3th column controls the color of symbol
4th column controls the size of symbol

plot

```
echo -e "3 3 0 0.4 \n 5 5 1 0.6 \n 7 7 2 0.8" | gmt plot -JX10c/5c -R0/10/0/10  
-Ba2f1 -BWS+t"points" -Sc -Cblue,yellow,red -png point
```

➤ Option: **-Sc**

-Sc defines the shape of **s**ymbol as **c**ircle

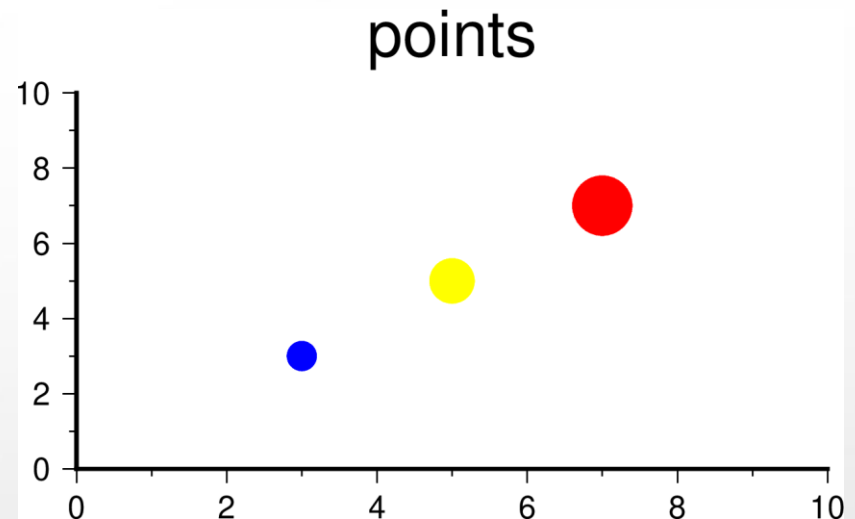
➤ Option: **-Cblue,yellow,red**

This option specifies the color range of different points, you can either use a list of colors or a cpt file which will be introduced later

here **blue** corresponds to **value 0**;

yellow corresponds to **value 1**;

red corresponds to **value 2**; and the like...



Exercise:

1. Change the **-S** option and try different symbols

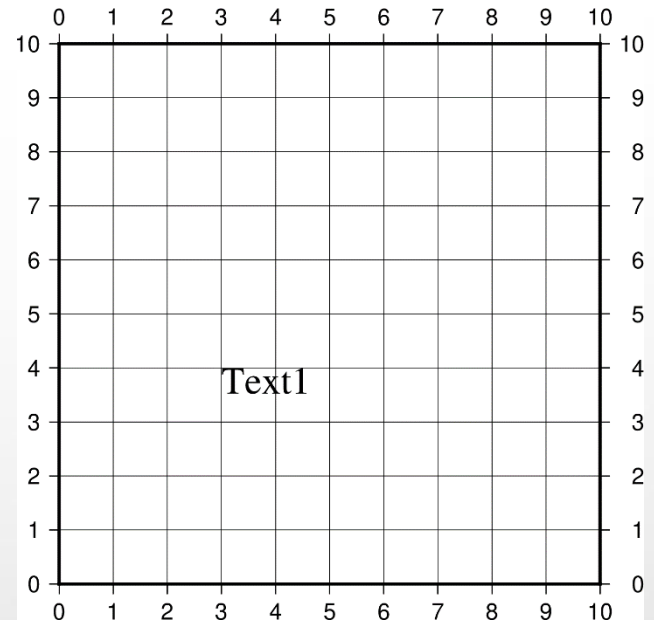
2. Use this command to plot a line

(Tips: at least two points, remove **-S**, **-C** options)

text

```
echo "3 4 Text1" | gmt text -JX10c/10c -R0/10/0/10 -Ba1g1 -F+f20p,4+jTL -  
png text
```

- Use the module named `text` to add text
- Option: `-F+f20p,4+jTL`
 - `-F` specifies the value of text attributes
 - `+f20p,4` sets the size to be 20p (the default unit is point, 1 point $\approx 0.04\text{cm}$), sets the font to be 4, which corresponds to Times-Roman, there are 35 types of font totally.
 - `+jTL` set the topleft of text relative to given x,y coordinate.



**Exercise: try `+f30p,4` / `+f20p,10` / ...
try `+jBL` / `+jMC` and observe the position of text**

coast

gmt **coast** -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5 -BWeSn+t"Map of Japan" -**Da**
-**Gyellow** -**Slightblue** -W0.5 -L128/22+c22+w200k+u -png shoreline

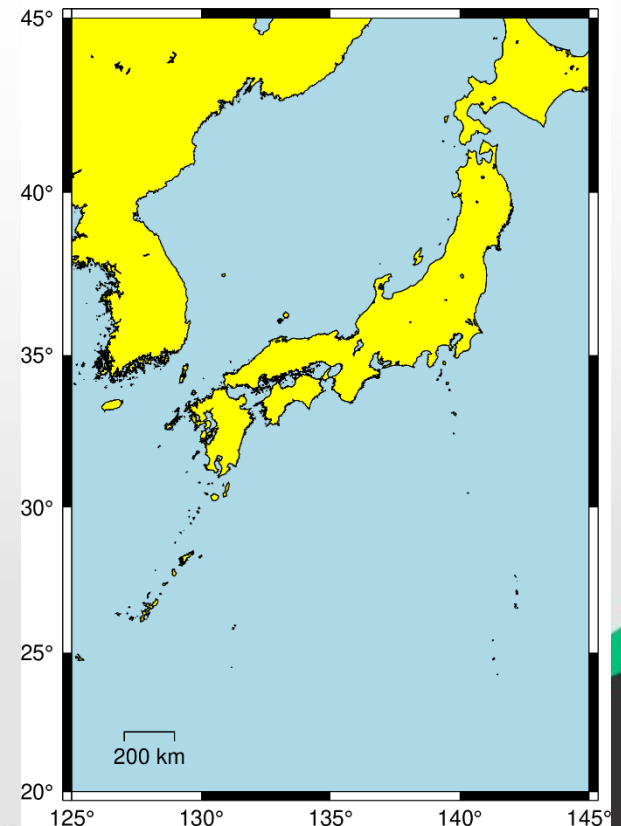
➤ Use the module named **coast** to plot coastline, river and borders with the included datasets.

➤ Option: -**Da**
Choose the resolution of shoreline from **a** (auto selection given map scale), **f** (full resolution), **h** (high resolution), **i** (intermediate resolution), **l** (low resolution) and **c** (crude resolution).

➤ Option: -**Gyellow**
Paint the dry area with yellow

➤ Option: -**Slightblue**
Paint the wet area with lightblue

Map of Japan



coast

gmt coast -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5 -BWeSn+t"Map of Japan" -Da
-Gyellow -Slightblue -W0.5p -L128/22+c22+w200k -png shoreline

➤ Option: -W0.5

-W controls the width, color and style of the shorelines

0.5p sets the pen width to be 0.5 point

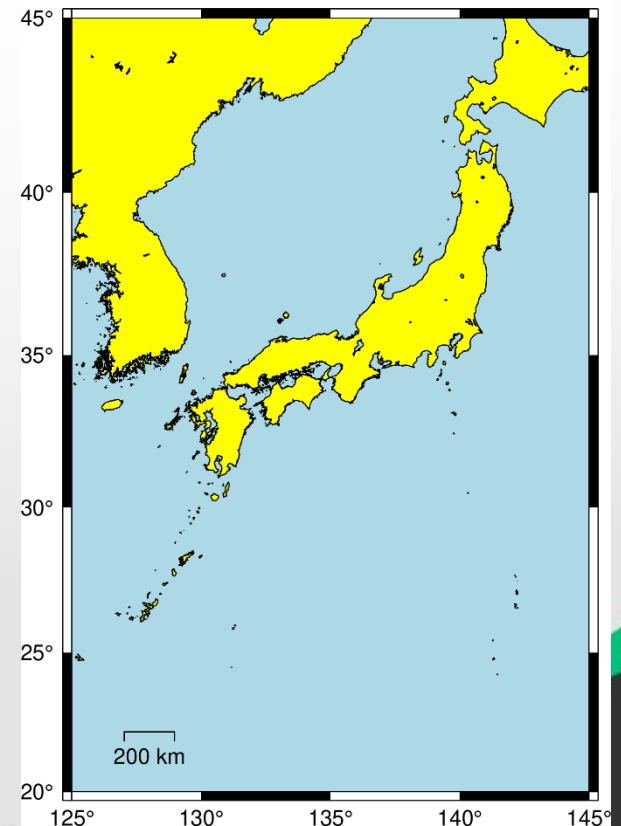
➤ Option: -L128/22+c22+w200k

-L indicates the addition of a map scale
128/22 is the x/y coordinate of a reference point, if not specified, it's the center of the map scale

+c22 means the the scale will be calculated along the latitude line of N22°

+w200k gives the realistic length of the map scale which is 200 km

Map of Japan





Exercise:

- Try different colors for dry and wet areas
- Try different resolutions of shoreline
- Add a new map scale with different center positions and lengths

Run a script to over the section 1

```
#!/bin/sh
gmt begin MountFuji png
gmt basemap -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5
-BWeSn+t"Location of Mount Fuji"
gmt coast -Da -Gyellow -Slightblue -W0.5p
-L128/22+c22+w200k
echo 138.729050 35.360638 | gmt plot -
St0.2c -Gred
echo 138.729050 35.360638 Fuji | gmt text -
F+f10p,4+jMR -D-0.1/0
gmt end show
```

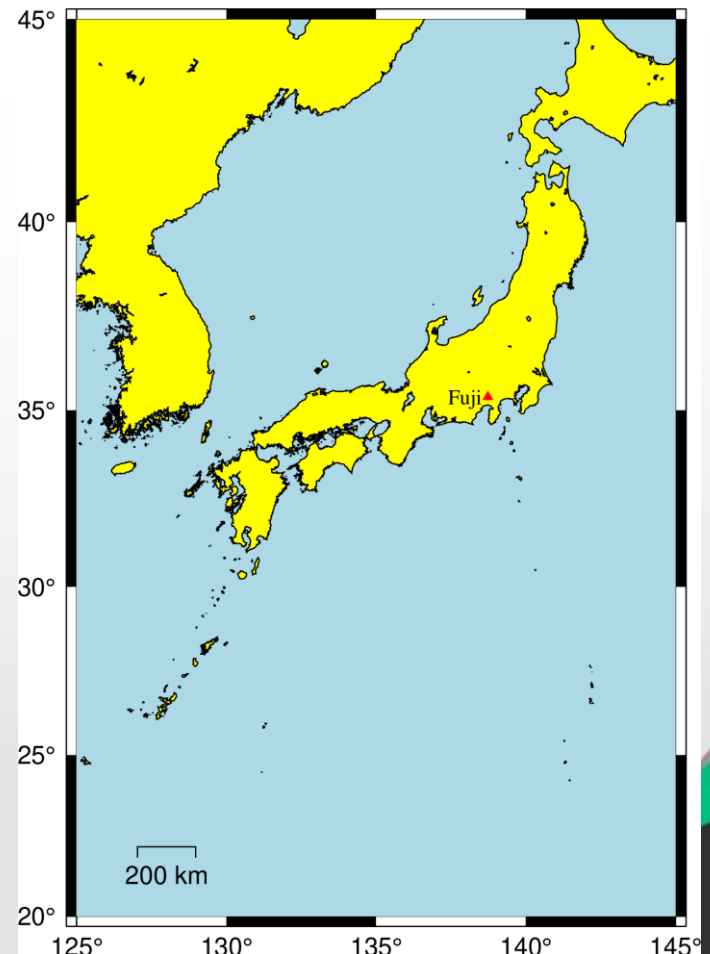
Exercise:

Try another type of projection: -JC10c

Add another place of interest

But the color of this map looks bad...
Now let's move to the second section and
see how to solve this.

Location of Mount Fuji



Topography map

- topography data consists of coordinates in three columns:

longitude latitude elevation(m)

.....

- GMT can use the topography datasets and plot them with different color palettes
- These topography datasets are in a NetCDF format and generally with an extension of .grd
- Color palette file is used to link grid values such as elevation with colors and have an extension of .cpt

grdimage

```
gmt grdimage Japan.grd -Cgeo -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5 -BWeSn -  
png topo01
```

- Use the module named **grdimage** to plot a color image with grids or NetCDF file

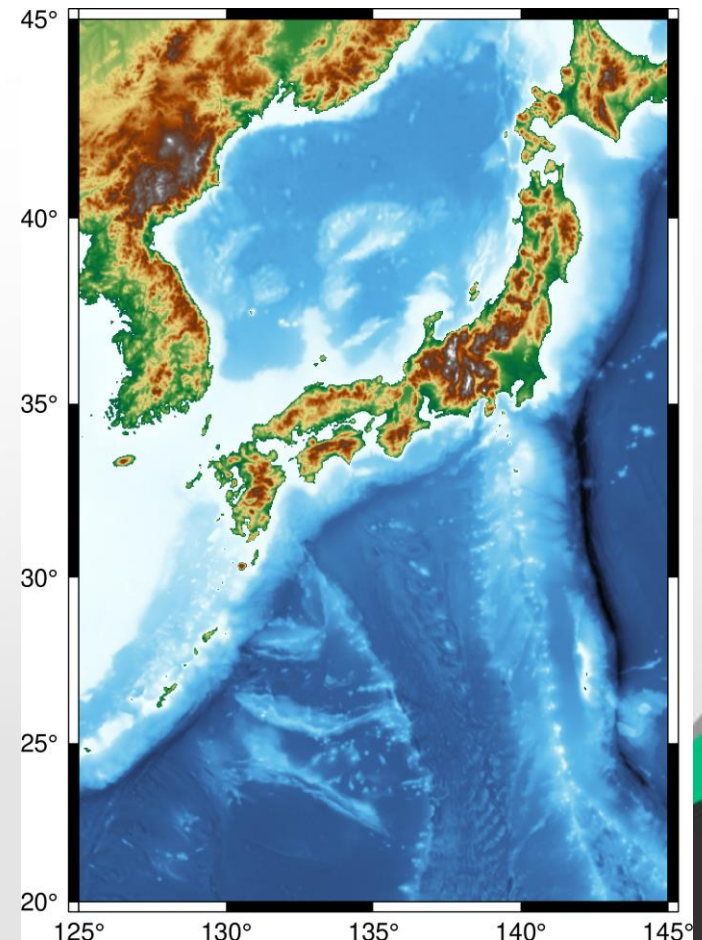
- **Japan.grd**

It's a NetCDF file in binary format and includes the elevation information over the region of "-R125/145/20/45".

See the last several slides about how to download and convert topography datasets for a specific region.

- Option: -Cgeo

-Cgeo indicates GMT will use the built-in color palette named "geo" and assign continuous colors over the elevation data range



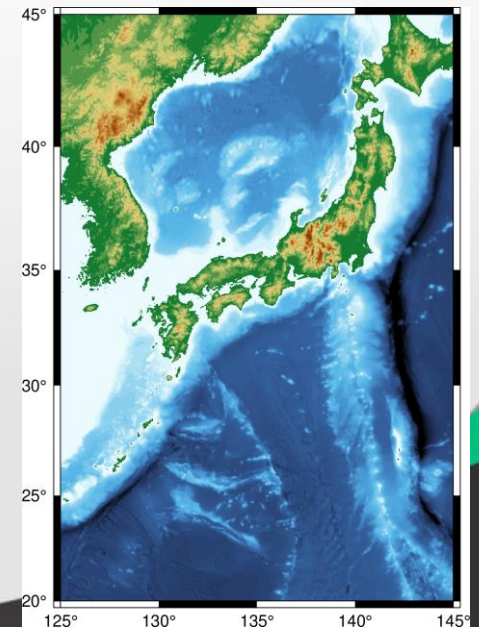
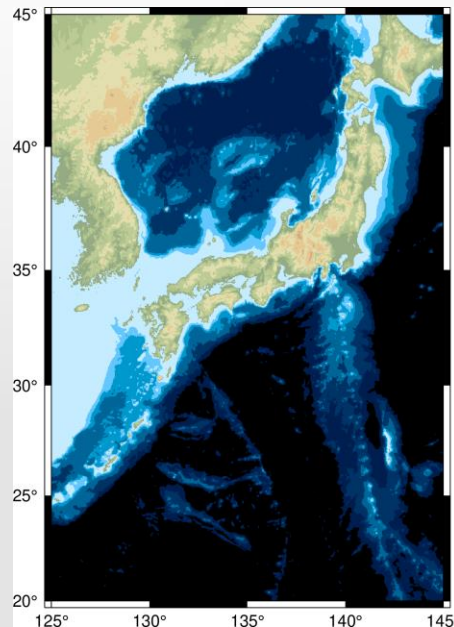
makecpt

If you don't want to directly use the built-in cpt files, try two other methods to produce better or more specialised topography map's look.

1. use makecpt command to creat a cpt file, -T-8000/8000/200 is -Tz_min/z_max/z_inc
gmt makecpt -Cgeo -T-8000/8000/200 > geo_1.cpt
gmt grdimage Japan.grd -Cgeo_1.cpt -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5 -BWeSn -png topo01

2. use a custom cpt file.

```
# colombia.cpt
# GMT colour palette by Shadowxfox
# http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Colombia_Mapa_Relieve.svg
# licence: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.fr
# COLOR_MODEL = RGB
-4000 0 30 80 -3000 0 30 80
-3000 0 51 102 -2000 0 51 102
-2000 0 102 153 -1000 0 102 153
-1000 0 153 205 -500 0 153 205
-500 100 200 255 -200 100 200 255
-200 198 236 255 0 198 236 255
0 148 171 132 100 148 171 132
100 172 191 139 200 172 191 139
200 189 204 150 500 189 204 150
500 228 223 175 1000 228 223 175
1000 230 202 148 2000 230 202 148
2000 205 171 131 3000 205 171 131
3000 181 152 128 4000 181 152 128
4000 155 123 98 5000 155 123 98
```



Exercise:

- Try one or more built-in cpt. e.g. -Ctopo/-Crainbow
- Try to make one or more custom cpt file according to "colombia.cpt"
- Download the elevation data and plot a new topography map for the region of your interest.

colorbar

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
gmt begin topo02 png
```

```
gmt basemap -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Baf -BWSen
```

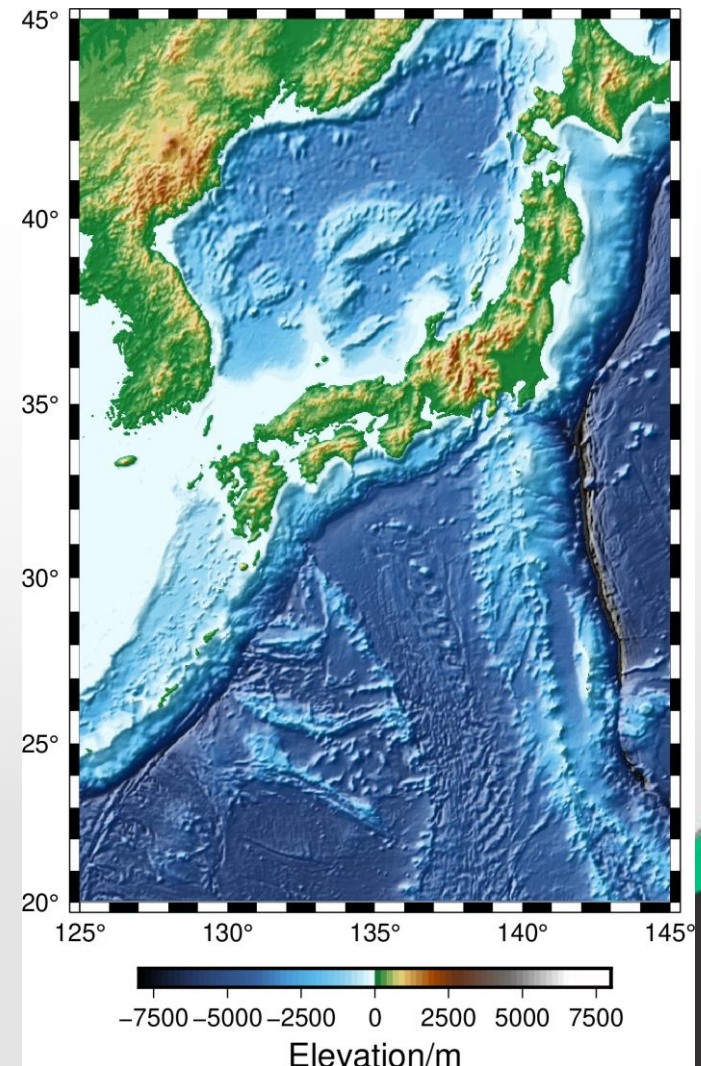
```
gmt makecpt -Cgeo -T-8000/8000/200
```

```
gmt grdimage Japan.grd -I+d
```

```
gmt colorbar -Bxa2500+I"Elevation/m"
```

```
gmt end show
```

- Use **-I+d** to apply the default directional illumination and make the topography map look like 3D, it's not required.
- Use the module named **colorbar** to add a color scale bar
- Option: **-Bxa2500+I"Elevation/m"**
-Bxa2500 is an annotation setting option
Use **+I"Elevation/m"** to add a label which describes the z value and its unit



meca

```
gmt meca source.txt -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5 -Sm0.2c -png beachball_mag
```

➤ Use the module named **meca** to plot focal mechanism

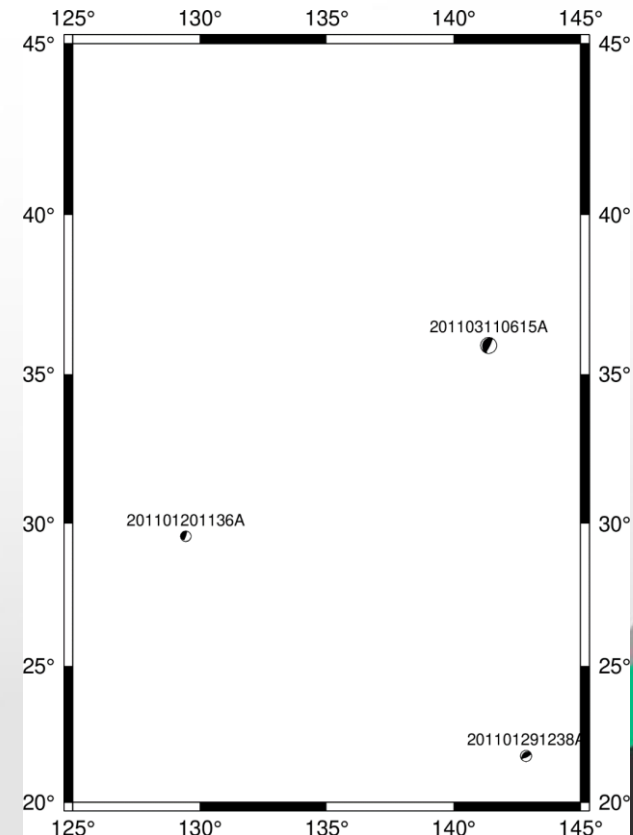
➤ **-Sm0.2c**

-Sm corresponds to the format of seismic moment tensor data in the "source.txt" file. (There are different types of format to describe the focal mechanism of an earthquake, discuss it in the section 3)

0.2c determines the beachball diameter of a magnitude 5 earthquake, and the size of other beachballs will be calculated using the equation:

$$size = M / 5 * 0.2c$$

*You can add the option **-M** to fix the scale for all beachballs*



meca

```
gmt makecpt -Cseis -T0/600/50 > dep.cpt
gmt begin beachball_dep png
gmt meca source.txt -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5 -Sm0.3c -M -Zdep.cpt
gmt colorbar -Cdepth.cpt -Bx+l"Depth" -By+l"km" -DjTL+w5c/0.5c+ml+o0.8c/1c
gmt end show
```

If we want use the color to represent the depth, then the first step would be creat a custorm cpt file. (recall the makecpt command)

- When plotting the focal mechanisms, make sure to add the `-Z<cptfile>` option.

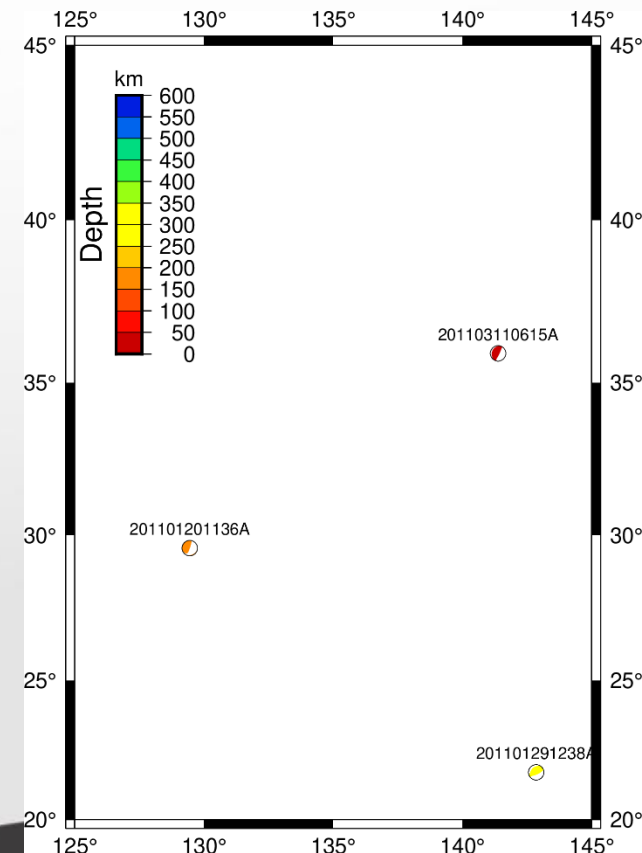
And then plot a color bar and adjust its scale and position using the option `-D`:

- `-DjTL+w5c/0.5c+ml+o0.8c/1c`

`jTL` means the position is at the topleft, use `+o0.8c/1c` to move it along the x and y axes.

`+w5c/0.5c` sets the length and width of color bar

use `+ml` to put the annotation at the left side, try `+mr`



Exercise:

- Download other types of focal mechanism and choose the related -S option
- Make a higher resolution CPT file and plot it again.
e.g. -T0/600/20
- Adjust the position, length, width and annotation of colorbar.

inset

```
#!/bin/sh
```

```
gmt begin inset png
```

```
gmt basemap -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Baf -BWSen
```

```
gmt inset begin -DjTL+w3c -F+gwhite+p1p
```

```
gmt coast -JG135/35/? -Rg -Bg -Glightbrown -Sazure1 -  
A10000
```

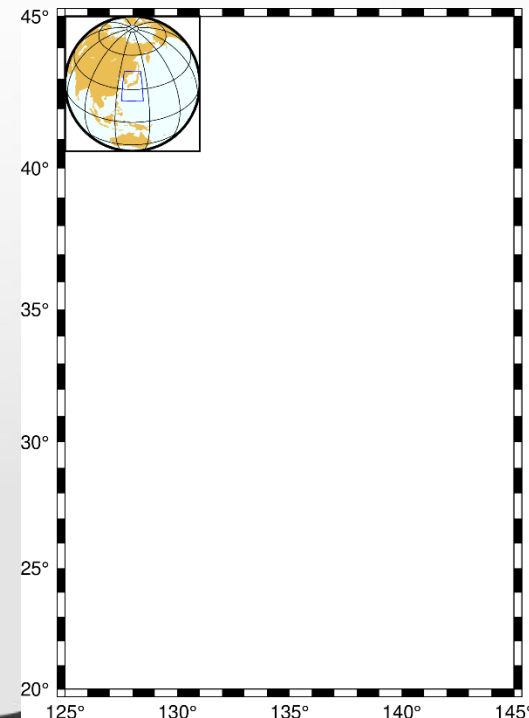
```
echo -e "125 20\n145 20\n145 45\n125 45\n125 20" |
```

```
gmt plot -W0.3p,blue
```

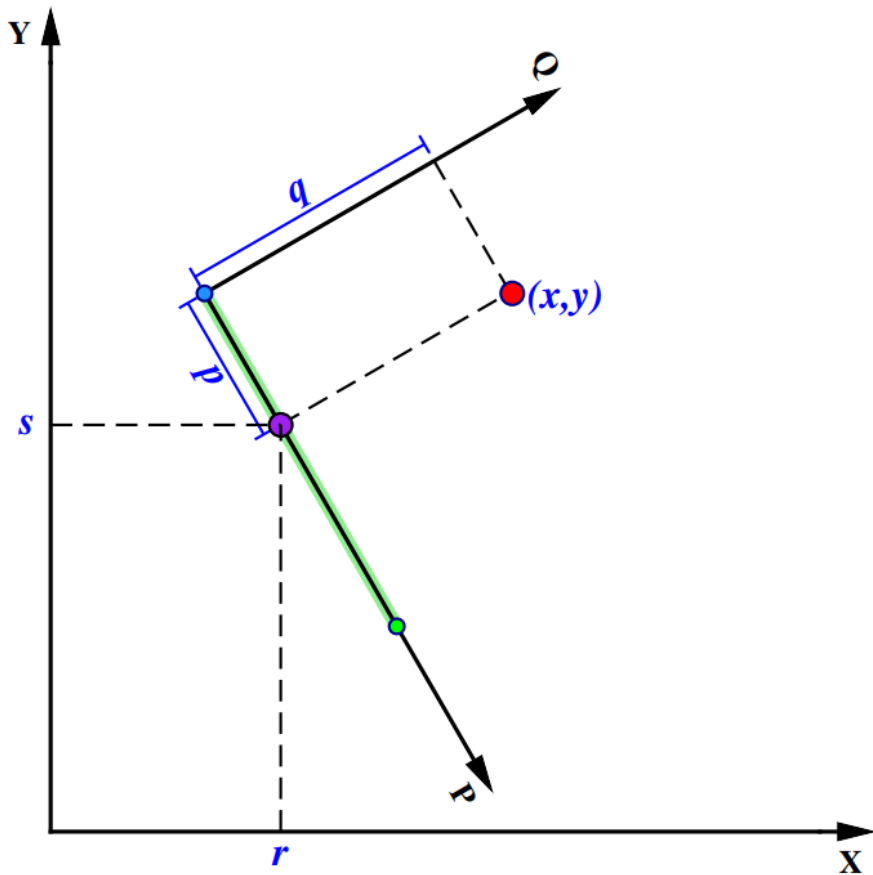
```
gmt inset end
```

```
gmt end show
```

- -DjTL+w3c defines the justification and width/height of the inset box
- -F+gwhite+p1p uses white to fill the inset box and sets the frame width to be 1 point
- -A10000 means the borders of lake or island that smaller than 10000 km² won't be shown



project



If we know the position of a line and a point, then we can use the command **project** to derive:

1. the position of this point in P-Q coordinate system, which is (p, q)
2. the position of the project point in X-Y coordinate system, which is (r, s)

A simple example:

```
echo 0 1 99 | gmt project -C0/0 -E1/1 -Fxyzpqrs
```

The starting point of line:

(0,0)

The end point of line:

(1,1)

The point being projected:

(0,1)

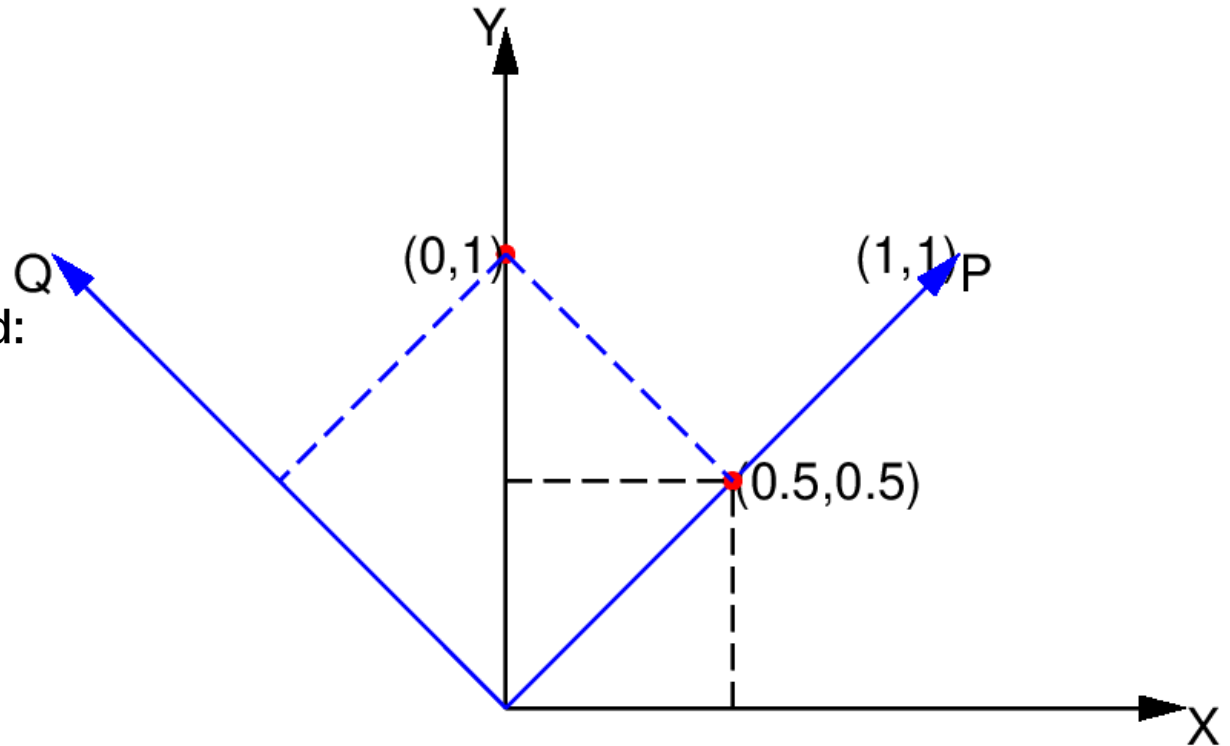
z=99

p=?

q=?

r=?

s=?

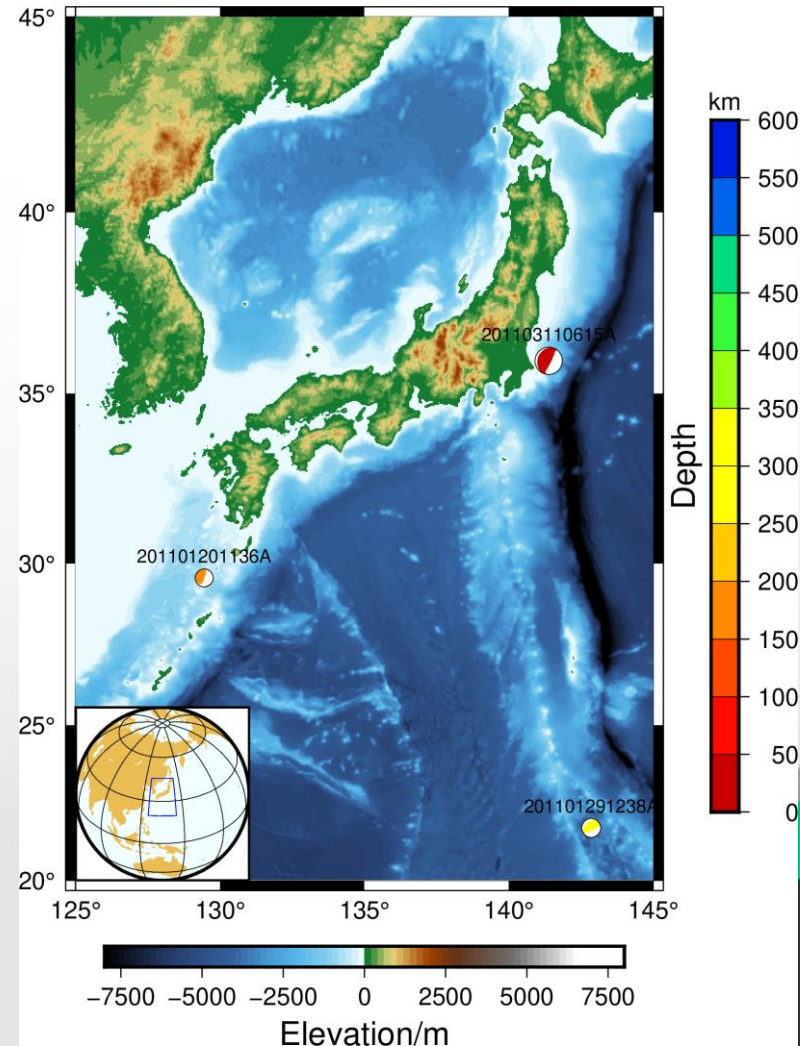


The output is specified by -F:

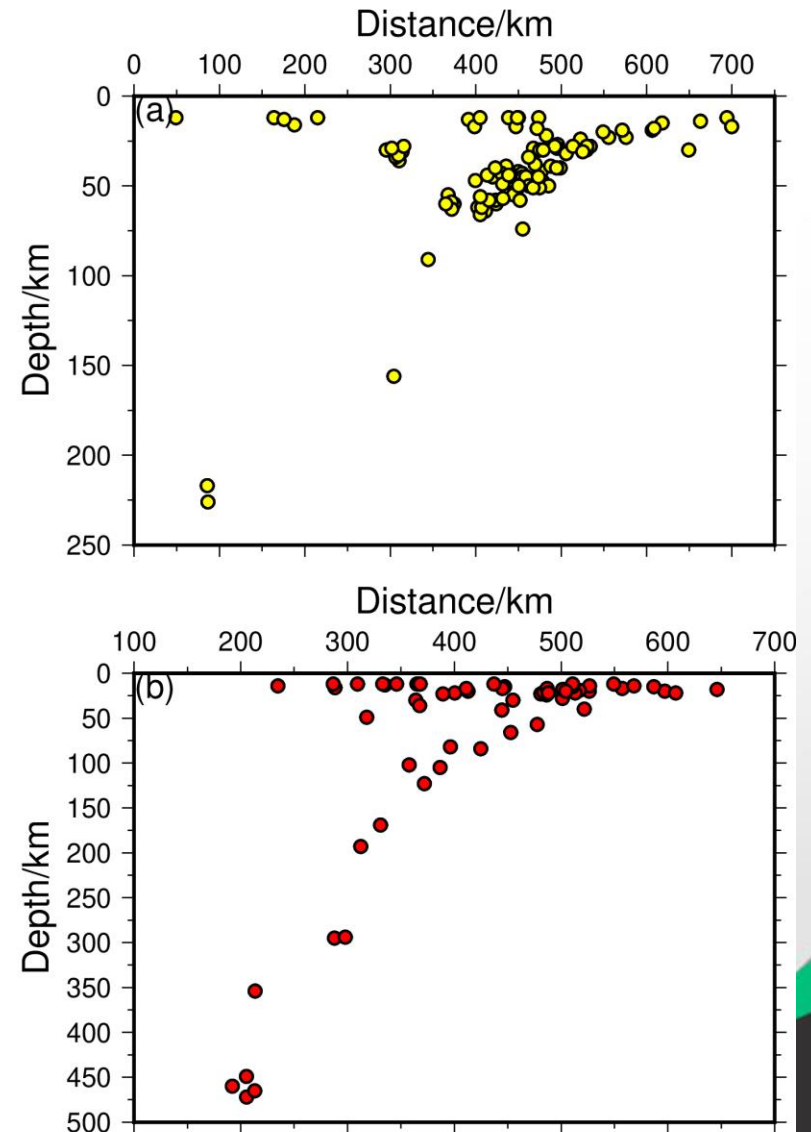
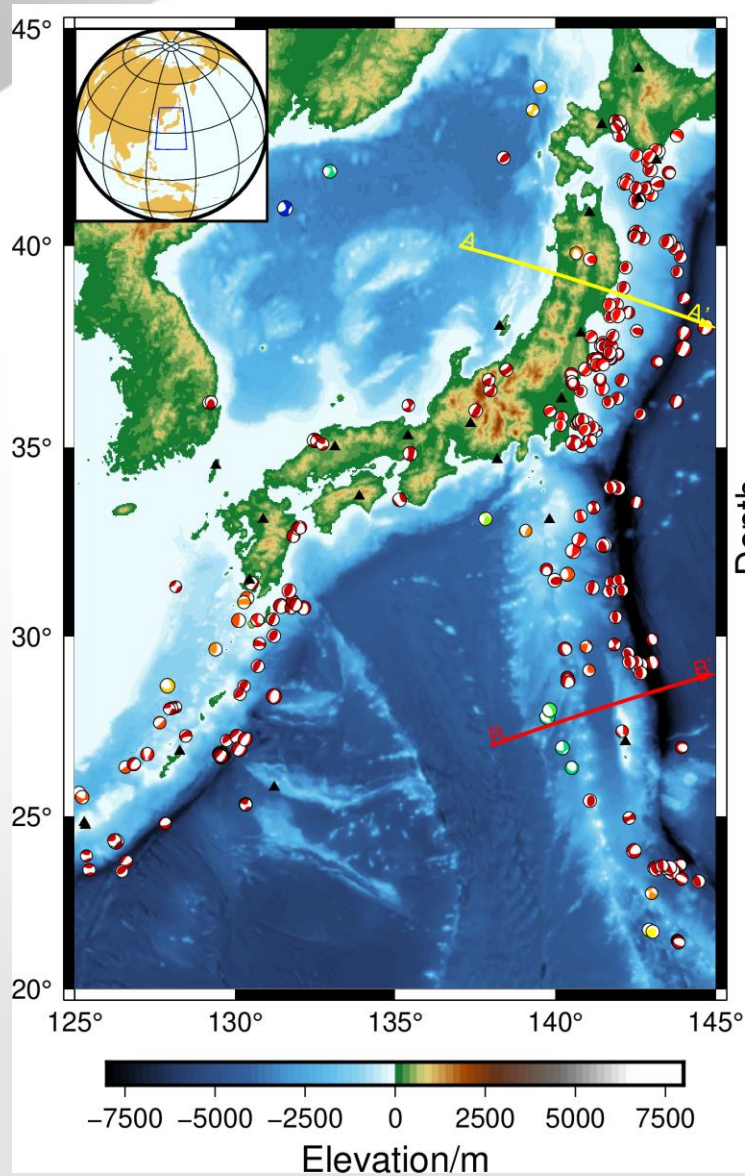
```
huawei@DESKTOP-4REL4QP MINGW64 /d/Courses@CUHK/Term02/ESSC4140/gmt_working-folde
r
$ echo 0 1 99 | gmt project -C0/0 -E1/1 -Fxyzpqrs
0      1      99      0.707196528995  0.707034975064  0.500038074276  0.500095195479
```

A better map

```
#!/bin/sh
gmt makecpt -Cseis -T0/600/50 > dep.cpt
gmt begin final png
gmt basemap -JM10c -R125/145/20/45 -Ba5 -BWeSn
gmt makecpt -Cgeo -T-8000/8000/200
gmt grdimage Japan.grd
gmt colorbar -Bxa2500+I"Elevation/m" -DjBC+w9c+o0c/-
1.5c+m
gmt meca source.txt -Sm0.3c -C+s0.5p -Zdep.cpt
gmt colorbar -Cdep.cpt -DJMR+w12c+o1c/-0.3c+ml -
Bx+I"Depth" -By+I"km"
    gmt inset begin -DjBL+w3c -F+gwhite+p1p
        gmt coast -JG135/35/? -Rg -Bg -Glightbrown -
Sazure1 -A10000
        echo -e "125 20\n145 20\n145 45\n125 45\n125
20" | gmt plot -W0.3p,blue
    gmt inset end
gmt end show
```



Another figure



Data download and conversion

- Download the topography data:

<http://opentopo.sdsc.edu/raster?opentopoID=OTGMRT.112016.4326.1>

1. Coordinates

Horizontal Coordinates: WGS 1984 [EPSG: 4326]
Vertical Coordinates: WGS84

Data Selection Coordinates: ☒ Manually enter selection coordinates (in the horizontal coordinate system listed above)

X_{min} = Y_{min} = X_{max} = Y_{max} =

[Validate coordinates and estimate area](#)

2. Data Output Formats

Select Data Output Format:

Select Data Output Resolution:

Fill null areas with GEBCO:

Or go to <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/srtmdata/> <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>

- Convert the data from GeoTiff format to NetCDF format online:

<https://mygeodata.cloud/converter/tiff-to-grd>

1. Input Data

Input Layers to Convert

Selected datasets count: 1
Dataset(s) volume: 1.9 MB

2. Output Data

Output Format

Output parameters

Coordinate system: (the same as input)

Choose Binary Grid format and click convert now button

Data download and conversion

❑ Download the earthquake catalog:

<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/>

or http://ds.iris.edu/wilber3/find_event

❑ Download the focal mechanism data:

<https://www.globalcmt.org/CMTsearch.html>

Output type:

- ☐ Standard
- ☐ List of event names
- ☐ GMT psvelomeca input
- ☒ GMT psmeca input
- ☐ CMTSOLUTION format
- ☐ Full format

Done

Reset

The option -S of gmt meca command supports these format. If you download the other formats, don't forget to change "-Sm" to "-S?"

Output in [GMT](#) psmeca (GMT v>3.3) format

Columns: lon lat depth mrr mtt mpp mrt mrp mtp iexp name

```
75.16 39.44 12 2.88 -3.26 0.38 0.15 -0.34 0.02 23 X Y 201101010156A
-63.21 -27.02 586 -2.47 -0.12 2.59 -1.76 2.98 -0.77 26 X Y 201101010956A
121.67 -49.08 13 0.02 -1.91 1.90 -1.25 0.01 -4.03 23 X Y 201101011837A
167.73 -19.26 18 -3.52 -1.22 4.74 0.21 0.57 -1.33 23 X Y 201101012335A
68.89 36.35 29 1.98 0.14 -2.11 -0.33 0.43 0.05 23 X Y 201101020336A
```


Exercise and Q&A

Try to complete the last question in homework No. 1

If you have questions about this tutorial,
ask me or google it.

Email address: sjh2019@link.cuhk.edu.hk

This tutorial was completed mainly based on:

<https://docs.gmt-china.org/latest/>

And some ideas are from Zhu Gaohua and Matthew Herman's great works