
PROJ.4 Documentation

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PROJ.4 is a standard UNIX filter function which converts geographic longitude and latitude coordinates into cartesian coordinates (and vice versa), and it is a C API for software developers to include coordinate transformation in their own software. PROJ.4 is maintained on [GitHub](#).

Platform	Test Status and Coverage
Travis	
AppVeyor	
Coverage	

Full documentation is available as a single PDF at <https://raw.githubusercontent.com/OSGeo/proj.4/gh-pages/proj4.pdf>

DOCUMENTATION

Using PROJ.4

The main purpose of PROJ.4 is to transform coordinates from one coordinate reference system to another. This can be achieved either with the included command line applications or the C API that is a part of the software package.

Quick start

Coordinate transformations are defined by, what in PROJ.4 terminology is known as, “proj-strings”. A proj-string describes any transformation regardless of how simple or complicated it might be. The simplest case is projection of geodetic coordinates. This section focuses on the simpler cases and introduces the basic anatomy of the proj-string. The complex cases are discussed in [Geodetic transformation](#).

A proj-strings holds the parameters of a given coordinate transformation, e.g.

```
+proj=merc +lat_ts=56.5 +ellps=GRS80
```

I.e. a proj-string consists of a projection specifier, `+proj`, a number of parameters that applies to the projection and, if needed, a description of a datum shift. In the example above geodetic coordinates are transformed to projected space with the Mercator projection with the latitude of true scale at 56.5 degrees north on the GRS80 ellipsoid. Every projection in PROJ.4 is identified by a shorthand such as `merc` in the above example.

By using the above projection definition as parameters for the command line utility `proj` we can convert the geodetic coordinates to projected space:

```
$ proj +proj=merc +lat_ts=56.5 +ellps=GRS80
```

If called as above `proj` will be in interactive mode, letting you type the input data manually and getting a response presented on screen. `proj` works as any UNIX filter though, which means that you can also pipe data to the utility, for instance by using the `echo` command:

```
$ echo 55.2 12.2 | proj +proj=merc +lat_ts=56.5 +ellps=GRS80
3399483.80      752085.60
```

PROJ.4 also comes bundled with the `cs2cs` utility which is used to transform from one coordinate reference system to another. Say we want to convert the above Mercator coordinates to UTM, we can do that with `cs2cs`:

```
$ echo 3399483.80 752085.60 | cs2cs +proj=merc +lat_ts=56.5 +ellps=GRS80 +to_
→+proj=utm +zone=32
6103992.36      1924052.47 0.00
```

Notice the `+to` parameter that separates the source and destination projection definitions.

If you happen to know the EPSG identifiers for the two coordinates reference systems you are transforming between you can use those with `cs2cs`:

```
$ echo 56 12 | cs2cs +init=epsg:4326 +to +init=epsg:25832  
231950.54      1920310.71 0.00
```

In the above example we transform geodetic coordinates in the WGS84 reference frame to UTM zone 32N coordinates in the ETRS89 reference frame. UTM coordinates

Applications

Bundled with PROJ.4 comes a set of small command line utilities. The `proj` program is limited to converting between geographic and projection coordinates within one datum. The `cs2cs` program operates similarly, but allows translation between any pair of definable coordinate systems, including support for basic datum translation. The `geod` program provides the ability to do geodesic (great circle) computations.

`proj`

`proj` and `invproj` perform respective forward and inverse transformation of cartographic data to or from cartesian data with a wide range of selectable projection functions.

Synopsis

```
proj [ -bccEfiIlmorsStTvVwW [ args ] ] [ +args ] file[s]  
invproj [ -bcCeEfiIlmorsStTwW [ args ] ] [ +args ] file[s]
```

Description

The following control parameters can appear in any order

```
-b      Special option for binary coordinate data input and output through standard  
↳input  
      and standard output. Data is assumed to be in system type double floating point  
      words. This option is to be used when proj is a son process and allows  
↳bypassing  
      formatting operations.  
  
-i      Selects binary input only (see -b option).  
  
-C      Check. Invoke all built in self tests and report. Get more verbose report by  
      preceding with the -V option).  
  
-I      alternate method to specify inverse projection. Redundant when used with  
↳invproj.  
  
-o      Selects binary output only (see -b option).  
  
-ta     A specifies a character employed as the first character to denote a control  
↳line  
      to be passed through without processing. This option applicable to ascii  
↳input  
      only. (# is the default value).  
      
```

```

-e string
    String is an arbitrary string to be output if an error is detected during data
    transformations. The default value is: *\t*. Note that if the -b, -i or -o
    options are employed, an error is returned as HUGE_VAL value for both return
    values.

-E      causes the input coordinates to be copied to the output line prior to printing
        the
        converted values.

-l[p|P|=|e|u|d]id
    List projection identifiers with -l, -lp or -lP (expanded) that can be selected
    with +proj. -l=id gives expanded description of projection id. List
    ellipsoid identifiers with -le, that can be selected with +ellps, -lu list of
    cartesian to meter conversion factors that can be selected with +units or -ld
    list of datums that can be selected with +datum.

-r      This options reverses the order of the expected input from longitude-latitude
        or
        x-y to latitude-longitude or y-x.

-s      This options reverses the order of the output from x-y or longitude-latitude to
        y-x or latitude-longitude.

-S      Causes estimation of meridinal and parallel scale factors, area scale factor
        and
        angular distortion, and maximum and minimum scale factors to be listed between
        <>
        for each input point. For conformal projections meridinal and parallel scales
        factors will be equal and angular distortion zero. Equal area projections will
        have an area factor of 1.

-m mult
    The cartesian data may be scaled by the mult parameter. When processing data in
    a forward projection mode the cartesian output values are multiplied by mult
    otherwise the input cartesian values are divided by mult before inverse
    projection.
    If the first two characters of mult are 1/ or 1: then the reciprocal value of
    mult
    is employed.

-f format
    Format is a printf format string to control the form of the output values. For
    inverse projections, the output will be in degrees when this option is
    employed.
    The default format is "%.2f" for forward projection and DMS for inverse.

-[w|W]n
    N is the number of significant fractional digits to employ for seconds output
    when
        the option is not specified, -w3 is assumed). When -W is employed the
    fields
        will be constant width and with leading zeroes.

-v      causes a listing of cartographic control parameters tested for and used by the
        program to be printed prior to input data. Should not be used with the -T

```

```
option.

-V      This option causes an expanded annotated listing of the characteristics of the
        projected point. -v is implied with this option.

-T ulow,uh,i,vlow,vhi,res[,umax,vmax]
        This option creates a set of bivariate Chebyshev polynomial coefficients that
        approximate the selected cartographic projection on stdout. The values low and
        hi denote the range of the input where the u or v prefixes apply to respective
        longitude-x or latitude-y depending upon whether a forward or inverse
        projection
        is selected. Res is an integer number specifying the power of 10 precision of
        the approximation. For example, a res of -3 specifies an approximation with an
        accuracy better than .001. Umax, and vmax specify maximum degree of the
        polynomials
        (default: 15).
```

The +args run-line arguments are associated with cartographic parameters. Usage varies with projection and for a complete description consult the projection pages

Additional projection control parameters may be contained in two auxiliary control files: the first is optionally referenced with the +init=file:id and the second is always processed after the name of the projection has been established from either the run-line or the contents of +init file. The environment parameter PROJ_LIB establishes the default directory for a file reference without an absolute path. This is also used for supporting files like datum shift files.

One or more files (processed in left to right order) specify the source of data to be transformed. A - will specify the location of processing standard input. If no files are specified, the input is assumed to be from stdin. For ASCII input data the two data values must be in the first two white space separated fields and when both input and output are ASCII all trailing portions of the input line are appended to the output line.

Input geographic data (longitude and latitude) must be in DMS format and input cartesian data must be in units consistent with the ellipsoid major axis or sphere radius units. Output geographic coordinates will be in DMS (if the -w switch is not employed) and precise to 0.001" with trailing, zero-valued minute-second fields deleted.

Example

The following script

```
proj +proj=utm +lon_0=112w +ellps=clrk66
-r <<EOF
45d15'33.1"   111.5w
45d15.55166667N   -111d30
+45.2591944444   111d30'000w
EOF
```

will perform UTM forward projection with a standard UTM central meridian nearest longitude 112W. The geographic values of this example are equivalent and meant as examples of various forms of DMS input. The x-y output data will appear as three lines of:

```
460769.27      5011648.45
```

cs2cs

cs2cs performs transformation between the source and destination cartographic coordinate system on a set of input

points. The coordinate system transformation can include translation between projected and geographic coordinates as well as the application of datum shifts.

Synopsis

```
cs2cs [ -eEfIlrstvwW [ args ] ] [ +opts[=arg] ] [ +to [+opts[=arg]] ] file[s]
```

Description

The following control parameters can appear in any order:

```
-I      method to specify inverse translation, convert from +to coordinate system to_
       ↵the
       primary coordinate system defined.

-ta     A specifies a character employed as the first character to denote a control _
       ↵line
       to be passed through without processing. This option applicable to ascii _
       ↵input
       only. (# is the default value).

-e string
       String is an arbitrary string to be output if an error is detected during _
       ↵data
       transformations. The default value is: *\t*. Note that if the -b, -i or -o
       options are employed, an error is returned as HUGE_VAL value for both
       return values.

-E      causes the input coordinates to be copied to the output line prior to printing_
       ↵ the
       converted values.

-l[p|P|=|e|u|d]id
       List projection identifiers with -l, -lp or -lP (expanded) that can be selected
       with +proj. -l=id gives expanded description of projection id. List
       ellipsoid identifiers with -le, that can be selected with +ellps,-lu list of
       cartesian to meter conversion factors that can be selected with +units or -ld
       list of datums that can be selected with +datum.

-r      This options reverses the order of the expected input from longitude-latitude_
       ↵or
       x-y to latitude-longitude or y-x.

-s      This options reverses the order of the output from x-y or longitude-latitude to
       y-x or latitude-longitude.

-f format
       Format is a printf format string to control the form of the output values. For
       inverse projections, the output will be in degrees when this option is_
       ↵employed.
       If a format is specified for inverse projection the output data will be in_
       ↵decim-
       mal degrees. The default format is "%.2f" for forward projection and DMS for
       inverse.
```

```
-[w|W]n  
    N is the number of significant fractional digits to employ for seconds output.  
→(when  
    the option is not specified, -w3 is assumed). When -W is employed the fields  
    will be constant width and with leading zeroes.  
-v      causes a listing of cartographic control parameters tested for and used by the  
    program to be printed prior to input data.
```

The +args run-line arguments are associated with cartographic parameters. Usage varies with projection and for a complete description consult the projection pages

The cs2cs program requires two coordinate system definitions. The first (or primary) is defined based on all projection parameters not appearing after the +to argument. All projection parameters appearing after the +to argument are considered the definition of the second coordinate system. If there is no second coordinate system defined, a geographic coordinate system based on the datum and ellipsoid of the source coordinate system is assumed. Note that the source and destination coordinate system can both be projections, both be geographic, or one of each and may have the same or different datums.

Additional projection control parameters may be contained in two auxiliary control files: the first is optionally referenced with the +init=file:id and the second is always processed after the name of the projection has been established from either the run-line or the contents of +init file. The environment parameter PROJ_LIB establishes the default directory for a file reference without an absolute path. This is also used for supporting files like datum shift files.

One or more files (processed in left to right order) specify the source of data to be transformed. A - will specify the location of processing standard input. If no files are specified, the input is assumed to be from stdin. For input data the two data values must be in the first two white space separated fields and when both input and output are ASCII all trailing portions of the input line are appended to the output line.

Input geographic data (longitude and latitude) must be in DMS or decimal degrees format and input cartesian data must be in units consistent with the ellipsoid major axis or sphere radius units. Output geographic coordinates will normally be in DMS format (use -f %.12f for decimal degrees with 12 decimal places), while projected (cartesian) coordinates will be in linear (meter, feet) units.

Example

The following script

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +datum=NAD83  
      +to +proj=utm +zone=10 +datum=NAD27  
-r <<EOF  
45d15'33.1" 111.5W  
45d15.55166667N -111d30  
+45.25919444444 111d30'000W  
EOF
```

will transform the input NAD83 geographic coordinates into NAD27 coordinates in the UTM projection with zone 10 selected. The geographic values of this example are equivalent and meant as examples of various forms of DMS input. The x-y output data will appear as three lines of:

```
1402285.99      5076292.42 0.000
```

geod

`geod` (direct) and `invgeod` (inverse) perform geodesic (“Great Circle”) computations for determining latitude, longitude and back azimuth of a terminus point given a initial point latitude, longitude, azimuth and distance (direct) or the forward and back azimuths and distance between an initial and terminus point latitudes and longitudes (inverse). The results are accurate to round off for $|f| < 1/50$, where f is flattening.

`invgeod` may not be available on all platforms; in this case call `geod` with the `-I` option.

Synopsis

```
geod +ellps=<ellipse> [ -afFI1ptwW [ args ] ] [ +args ] file[s]
invgeod +ellps=<ellipse> [ -afFI1ptwW [ args ] ] [ +args ] file[s]
```

Description

The following command-line options can appear in any order:

- I Specifies that the inverse geodesic computation **is** to be performed. May be used **with** execution of `geod` **as** an alternative to `invgeod` execution.
- a Latitude **and** longitudes of the initial **and** terminal points, forward **and** back azimuths **and** distance are output.
- ta A specifies a character employed **as** the first character to denote a control line to be passed through without processing.
- le Gives a listing of **all** the ellipsoids that may be selected **with** the `+ellps=` option.
- lu Gives a listing of **all** the units that may be selected **with** the `+units=` option.
- [f|F] **format**
 - Format **is** a printf **format** string to control the output form of the geographic coordinate values (f) **or** distance value (F). The default mode **is** DMS **for** geographic coordinates **and** "%.**3f**" **for** distance.
- [w|W]n
 - N **is** the number of significant fractional digits to employ **for** seconds output (when the option **is not** specified, -w3 **is** assumed). When -W **is** employed the fields will be constant width **with** leading zeroes.
- p This option causes the azimuthal values to be output **as** unsigned DMS numbers between 0 **and** 360 degrees. Also note -f.

The `+args` command-line options are associated with geodetic parameters for specifying the ellipsoidal or sphere to use. See `proj` documentation for full list of these parameters and controls. The options are processed in left to right

order from the command line. Reentry of an option is ignored with the first occurrence assumed to be the desired value.

One or more files (processed in left to right order) specify the source of data to be transformed. A - will specify the location of processing standard input. If no files are specified, the input is assumed to be from stdin.

For direct determinations input data must be in latitude, longitude, azimuth and distance order and output will be latitude, longitude and back azimuth of the terminus point. Latitude, longitude of the initial and terminus point are input for the inverse mode and respective forward and back azimuth from the initial and terminus points are output along with the distance between the points.

Input geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) and azimuthal data must be in decimal degrees or DMS format and input distance data must be in units consistent with the ellipsoid major axis or sphere radius units. The latitude must lie in the range [-90d,90d]. Output geographic coordinates will be in DMS (if the -f switch is not employed) to 0.001" with trailing, zero-valued minute-second fields deleted. Output distance data will be in the same units as the ellipsoid or sphere radius.

The Earth's ellipsoidal figure may be selected in the same manner as program `proj` by using `+ellps=`, `+a=`, `+es=`, etc.

`geod` may also be used to determine intermediate points along either a geodesic line between two points or along an arc of specified distance from a geographic point. In both cases an initial point must be specified with `+lat_1=lat` and `+lon_1=lon` parameters and either a terminus point `+lat_2=lat` and `+lon_2=lon` or a distance and azimuth from the initial point with `+S=distance` and `+A=azimuth` must be specified.

If points along a geodesic are to be determined then either `+n_S=integer` specifying the number of intermediate points and/or `+del_S=distance` specifying the incremental distance between points must be specified.

To determine points along an arc equidistant from the initial point both `+del_A=angle` and `+n_A=integer` must be specified which determine the respective angular increments and number of points to be determined.

Examples

The following script determines the geodesic azimuths and distance in U.S. statute miles from Boston, MA, to Portland, OR:

```
geod +ellps=clrk66 <<EOF -I +units=us-mi  
42d15'N 71d07'W 45d31'N 123d41'W  
EOF
```

which gives the results:

```
-66d31'50.141" 75d39'13.083" 2587.504
```

where the first two values are the azimuth from Boston to Portland, the back azimuth from Portland to Boston followed by the distance.

An example of forward geodesic use is to use the Boston location and determine Portland's location by azimuth and distance:

```
geod +ellps=clrk66 <<EOF +units=us-mi  
42d15'N 71d07'W -66d31'50.141" 2587.504  
EOF
```

which gives:

```
45d31'0.003"N 123d40'59.985"W 75d39'13.094"
```

Note: Lack of precision in the distance value compromises the precision of the Portland location.

Further reading

1. [GeographicLib](#)
2. [C. F. F. Karney, Algorithms for Geodesics, J. Geodesy 87, 43-55 \(2013\). Addendum](#)
3. [The online geodesic bibliography](#)

Cartographic projection

The foundation of PROJ.4 is the large number of projections available in the library. This section is devoted to the generic parameters that can be used on any projection in the PROJ.4 library.

Below is a list of PROJ.4 parameters which can be applied to most coordinate system definitions. This table does not attempt to describe the parameters particular to particular projection types. These can be found on the pages documenting the individual projections.

Parameter	Description
+a	Semimajor radius of the ellipsoid axis
+axis	Axis orientation
+b	Seminor radius of the ellipsoid axis
+ellps	Ellipsoid name (see <code>proj -le</code>)
+k	Scaling factor (deprecated)
+k_0	Scaling factor
+lat_0	Latitude of origin
+lon_0	Central meridian
+lon_wrap	Center longitude to use for wrapping (see below)
+no_defs	Don't use the /usr/share/proj/proj_def.dat defaults file
+over	Allow longitude output outside -180 to 180 range, disables wrapping (see below)
+pm	Alternate prime meridian (typically a city name, see below)
+proj	Projection name (see <code>proj -l</code>)
+units	meters, US survey feet, etc.
+vunits	vertical units.
+x_0	False easting
+y_0	False northing

In the sections below most of the parameters are explained in details.

Units

Horizontal units can be specified using the `+units` keyword with a symbolic name for a unit (ie. `us-ft`). Alternatively the translation to meters can be specified with the `+to_meter` keyword (ie. `0.304800609601219` for US feet). The `-lu` argument to `cs2cs` or `proj` can be used to list symbolic unit names. The default unit for projected coordinates is the meter. A few special projections deviate from this behaviour, most notably the latlong pseudo-projection that returns degrees.

Vertical (Z) units can be specified using the `+vunits` keyword with a symbolic name for a unit (ie. `us-ft`). Alternatively the translation to meters can be specified with the `+vto_meter` keyword (ie. `0.304800609601219` for US feet). The `-lu` argument to `cs2cs` or `proj` can be used to list symbolic unit names. If no vertical units are specified, the vertical units will default to be the same as the horizontal coordinates.

Note: `proj` do not handle vertical units at all and hence the `+vto_meter` argument will be ignored.

Scaling of output units can be done by applying the `+k_0` argument. The returned coordinates are scaled by the value assigned with the `+k_0` parameter.

False Easting/Northing

Virtually all coordinate systems allow for the presence of a false easting (`+x_0`) and northing (`+y_0`). Note that these values are always expressed in meters even if the coordinate system is some other units. Some coordinate systems (such as UTM) have implicit false easting and northing values.

Longitude Wrapping

By default PROJ.4 wraps output longitudes in the range -180 to 180. The `+over` switch can be used to disable the default wrapping which is done at a low level in `pj_inv()`. This is particularly useful with projections like the equidistant cylindrical where it would be desirable for X values past -20000000 (roughly) to continue past -180 instead of wrapping to +180.

The `+lon_wrap` option can be used to provide an alternative means of doing longitude wrapping within `pj_transform()`. The argument to this option is a center longitude. So `+lon_wrap=180` means wrap longitudes in the range 0 to 360. Note that `+over` does **not** disable `+lon_wrap`.

Prime Meridian

A prime meridian may be declared indicating the offset between the prime meridian of the declared coordinate system and that of greenwich. A prime meridian is clared using the “pm” parameter, and may be assigned a symbolic name, or the longitude of the alternative prime meridian relative to greenwich.

Currently prime meridian declarations are only utilized by the `pj_transform()` API call, not the `pj_inv()` and `pj_fwd()` calls. Consequently the user utility `cs2cs` does honour prime meridians but the `proj` user utility ignores them.

The following predeclared prime meridian names are supported. These can be listed using with `cs2cs -lm`.

Meridian	Longitude
greenwich	0dE
lisbon	9d07'54.862"W
paris	2d20'14.025"E
bogota	74d04'51.3"E
madrid	3d41'16.48"W
rome	12d27'8.4"E
bern	7d26'22.5"E
jakarta	106d48'27.79"E
ferro	17d40'W
brussels	4d22'4.71"E
stockholm	18d3'29.8"E
athens	23d42'58.815"E
oslo	10d43'22.5"E

Example of use. The location `long=0, lat=0` in the greenwich based lat/long coordinates is translated to lat/long coordinates with Madrid as the prime meridian.

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +datum=WGS84 +to +proj=latlong +datum=WGS84 +pm=madrid
0 0 <i>(input)</i>
3d41'16.48"E 0dN 0.000 <i>(output)</i>
```

Axis orientation

Starting in PROJ 4.8.0, the `+axis` argument can be used to control the axis orientation of the coordinate system. The default orientation is “easting, northing, up” but directions can be flipped, or axes flipped using combinations of the axes in the `+axis` switch. The values are:

- “e” - Easting
- “w” - Westing
- “n” - Northing
- “s” - Southing
- “u” - Up
- “d” - Down

They can be combined in `+axis` in forms like:

- `+axis=enu` - the default easting, northing, elevation.
- `+axis=neu` - northing, easting, up - useful for “lat/long” geographic coordinates, or south orientated transverse mercator.
- `+axis=wnu` - westing, northing, up - some planetary coordinate systems have “west positive” coordinate systems

Note: The `+axis` argument does not work with the `proj` command line utility.

Geodetic transformation

PROJ.4 can do everything from the most simple projection to very complex transformations across many reference frames. While originally developed as a tool for cartographic projections, PROJ.4 has over time evolved into a powerful generic coordinate transformation engine that makes it possible to do both large scale cartographic projections as well as coordinate transformation at a geodetic high precision level. This chapter delves into the details of how geodetic transformations of varying complexity can be performed.

In PROJ.4, two frameworks for geodetic transformations exists, the `cs2cs` framework and the *transformation pipelines* framework. The first is the original, and limited, framework for doing geodetic transforms in PROJ.4. The latter is a newer addition that aims to be a more complete transformation framework. Both are described in the sections below. Large portions of the text are based on [\[EversKnudsen2017\]](#).

Before describing the details of the two frameworks, let us first remark that most cases of geodetic transformations can be expressed as a series of elementary operations, the output of one operation being the input of the next. E.g. when going from UTM zone 32, datum ED50, to UTM zone 32, datum ETRS89, one must, in the simplest case, go through 5 steps:

1. Back-project the UTM coordinates to geographic coordinates
2. Convert the geographic coordinates to 3D cartesian geocentric coordinates
3. Apply a Helmert transformation from ED50 to ETRS89

4. Convert back from cartesian to geographic coordinates
5. Finally project the geographic coordinates to UTM zone 32 planar coordinates.

Transformation pipelines

The homology between the above steps and a Unix shell style pipeline is evident. It is there the main architectural inspiration behind the transformation pipeline framework. The pipeline framework is realized by utilizing a special “projection”, that takes as its user supplied arguments, a series of elementary operations, which it strings together in order to implement the full transformation needed. Additionally, a number of elementary geodetic operations, including Helmert transformations, general high order polynomial shifts and the Molodensky transformation are available as part of the pipeline framework. In anticipation of upcoming support for full time-varying transformations, we also introduce a 4D spatiotemporal data type, and a programming interface (API) for handling this.

The Molodensky transformation converts directly from geodetic coordinates in one datum, to geodetic coordinates in another datum, while the (typically more accurate) Helmert transformation converts from 3D cartesian to 3D cartesian coordinates. So when using the Helmert transformation one typically needs to do an initial conversion from geodetic to cartesian coordinates, and a final conversion the other way round, to arrive at the desired result. Fortunately, this three-step compound transformation has the attractive characteristic that each step depends only on the output of the immediately preceding step. Hence, we can build a geodetic-to-geodetic Helmert transformation by tying together the outputs and inputs of 3 steps (geodetic-to-cartesian → Helmert → cartesian-to-geodetic), pipeline style. The pipeline driver, makes this kind of chained transformations possible. The implementation is compact, consisting of just one pseudo-projection, called `pipeline`, which takes as its arguments strings of elementary projections (note: “projection” is the, slightly misleading, PROJ.4 term used for any kind of transformation). The pipeline pseudo projection is supplemented by a number of elementary transformations, all in all providing a framework for building high accuracy solutions for a wide spectrum of geodetic tasks.

As a first example, let us take a look at the iconic *geodetic* → *Cartesian* → *Helmert* → *geodetic* case (steps 2 to 4 in the example in the introduction). In PROJ.4 it can be implemented as

```
proj=pipeline
step proj=cart ellps=intl
step proj=helmert
    x=-81.0703  y=-89.3603  z=-115.7526
    rx=-0.48488 ry=-0.02436 rz=-0.41321  s=-0.540645
step proj=cart inv ellps=GRS80
```

The pipeline can be expanded at both ends to accommodate whatever coordinate type is needed for input and output: In the example below, we transform from the deprecated Danish System 45, a 2D system with some tension in the original defining network, to UTM zone 33, ETRS89. The tension is reduced using a polynomial transformation (the `init=./s45b...` step, `s45b.pol` is a file containing the polynomial coefficients), taking the S45 coordinates to a technical coordinate system (TC32), defined to represent “UTM zone 32 coordinates, as they would look if the Helmert transformation between ED50 and ETRS89 was perfect”. The TC32 coordinates are then converted back to geodetic(ED50) coordinates, using an inverse UTM projection, further to cartesian(ED50), then to cartesian(ETRS89), using the relevant Helmert transformation, and back to geodetic(ETRS89), before finally being projected onto the UTM zone 33, ETRS89 system. All in all a 6 step pipeline, implementing a transformation with centimeter level accuracy from a deprecated system with decimeter level tensions.

```
proj=pipeline
step init=./s45b.pol:s45b_tc32
step proj=utm inv ellps=intl zone=32
step proj=cart ellps=intl
step proj=helmert
    x=-81.0703  y=-89.3603  z=-115.7526
    rx=-0.48488 ry=-0.02436 rz=-0.41321  s=-0.540645
```

```
step proj=cart inv ellps=GRS80
step proj=utm ellps=GRS80 zone=33
```

With the pipeline framework spatiotemporal transformation is possible. This is possible by leveraging the time dimension in PROJ.4 that enables 4D coordinates (three spatial components and one temporal component) to be passed through a transformation pipeline. In the example below a transformation from ITRF93 to ITRF2000 is defined. The temporal component is given as GPS weeks in the input data, but the 14-parameter Helmert transform expects temporal units in decimalyears. Hence the first step in the pipeline is the unitconvert pseudo-projection that makes sure the correct units are passed along to the Helmert transform. Most parameters of the Helmert transform are taken from [\[AltamimiEtAl2002\]](#), except the epoch which is the epoch of the transformation. The default setting is to use “coordinate frame” convention of the Helmert transform, but “position vector” convention can also be used. The last step in the pipeline is converting the coordinate timestamps back to GPS weeks.

```
proj=pipeline
step proj=unitconvert t_in=gps_week t_out=decimalyear
step proj=helmert
    x=0.0127 y=0.0065 z=-0.0209 s=0.00195
    rx=0.00039 ry=-0.00080 rz=0.00114
    dx=-0.0029 dy=-0.0002 dz=-0.0006 ds=0.00001
    drx=0.00011 dry=0.00019 drz=-0.00007
    epoch=1988.0
step proj=unitconvert t_in=decimalyear t_out=gps_week
```

cs2cs paradigm

Parameter	Description
+datum	Datum name (see <code>proj -ld</code>)
+geoidgrids	Filename of GTX grid file to use for vertical datum transforms
+nadgrids	Filename of NTv2 grid file to use for datum transforms
+towgs84	3 or 7 term datum transform parameters
+to_meter	Multiplier to convert map units to 1.0m
+vto_meter	Vertical conversion to meters

The `cs2cs` framework delivers a subset of the geodetic transformations available with the `pipeline` framework. Coordinate transformations done in this framework are transformed in a two-step process with WGS84 as a pivot datum. That is, the input coordinates are transformed to WGS84 geodetic coordinates and then transformed from WGS84 coordinates to the specified output coordinate reference system, by utilizing either the Helmert transform, datum shift grids or a combination of both. Datum shifts can be described in a proj-string with the parameters `+towgs84`, `+nadgrids` and `+geoidgrids`. An inverse transform exists for all three and is applied if specified in the input proj-string. The most common is `+towgs84`, which is used to define a 3- or 7-parameter Helmert shift from the input reference frame to WGS84. Exactly which realization of WGS84 is not specified, hence a fair amount of uncertainty is introduced in this step of the transformation. With the `+nadgrids` parameter a non-linear planar correction derived from interpolation in a correction grid can be applied. Originally this was implemented as a means to transform coordinates between the american datums NAD27 and NAD83, but corrections can be applied for any datum for which a correction grid exists. The inverse transform for the horizontal grid shift is “dumb”, in the sense that the correction grid is applied verbatim without taking into account that the inverse operation is non-linear. Similar to the horizontal grid correction, `+geoidgrids` can be used to perform grid corrections in the vertical component. Both grid correction methods allow inclusion of more than one grid in the same transformation.

In contrast to the `transformation pipeline` framework, transformations with the `cs2cs` framework are expressed as two separate proj-strings. One proj-string *to* WGS84 and one *from* WGS84. Together they form the mapping from the source coordinate reference system to the destination coordinate reference system. When used with the `cs2cs` the source and destination CRS's are separated by the special `+to` parameter.

The following example demonstrates converting from the Greek GGRS87 datum to WGS84 with the `+towgs84` parameter.

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=GRS80 +towgs84=-199.87,74.79,246.62
      +to +proj=latlong +datum=WGS84
20 35
20d0'5.467"E    35d0'9.575"N 8.570
```

The EPSG database provides this example for transforming from WGS72 to WGS84 using an approximated 7 parameter transformation.

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=WGS72 +towgs84=0,0,4.5,0,0,0.554,0.219 \
      +to +proj=latlong +datum=WGS84
4 55
4d0'0.554"E    55d0'0.09"N 3.223
```

Grid Based Datum Adjustments

In many places (notably North America and Australia) national geodetic organizations provide grid shift files for converting between different datums, such as NAD27 to NAD83. These grid shift files include a shift to be applied at each grid location. Actually grid shifts are normally computed based on an interpolation between the containing four grid points.

PROJ.4 supports use of grid files for shifting between various reference frames. The grid shift table formats are ct able (the binary format produced by the PROJ.4 `nad2bin` program), NTv1 (the old Canadian format), and NTv2 (`.gsb` - the new Canadian and Australian format).

The text in this section is based on the `cs2cs` framework. Gridshifting is off course also possible with the *pipeline* framework. The major difference between the two is that the `cs2cs` framework is limited to grid mappings to WGS84, whereas with *transformation pipelines* it is possible to perform grid shifts between any two reference frames, as long as a grid exists.

Use of grid shifts with `cs2cs` is specified using the `+nadgrids` keyword in a coordinate system definition. For example:

```
% cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=clrk66 +nadgrids=ntv1_can.dat \
      +to +proj=latlong +ellps=GRS80 +datum=NAD83 << EOF
-111 50
EOF
111d0'2.952"W   50d0'0.111"N 0.000
```

In this case the `/usr/local/share/proj/ntv1_can.dat` grid shift file was loaded, and used to get a grid shift value for the selected point.

It is possible to list multiple grid shift files, in which case each will be tried in turn till one is found that contains the point being transformed.

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=clrk66 \
      +nadgrids=conus,alaska,hawaii,stgeorge,stlrnc,stpaul \
      +to +proj=latlong +ellps=GRS80 +datum=NAD83 << EOF
-111 44
EOF
111d0'2.788"W   43d59'59.725"N 0.000
```

Skipping Missing Grids

The special prefix @ may be prefixed to a grid to make it optional. If it not found, the search will continue to the next grid. Normally any grid not found will cause an error. For instance, the following would use the `ntv2_0.gsb` file if available (see [Non-Free Grids](#)), otherwise it would fallback to using the `ntv1_can.dat` file.

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=clrk66 +nadgrids=@ntv2_0.gsb,ntv1_can.dat \
      +to +proj=latlong +ellps=GRS80 +datum=NAD83 << EOF
-111 50
EOF
111d0'3.006"W 50d0'0.103"N 0.000
```

The null Grid

A special `null` grid shift file is shift with releases after 4.4.6 (not inclusive). This file provides a zero shift for the whole world. It may be listed at the end of a nadgrids file list if you want a zero shift to be applied to points outside the valid region of all the other grids. Normally if no grid is found that contains the point to be transformed an error will occur.

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=clrk66 +nadgrids=conus,null \
      +to +proj=latlong +ellps=GRS80 +datum=NAD83 << EOF
-111 45
EOF
111d0'3.006"W 50d0'0.103"N 0.000

cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=clrk66 +nadgrids=conus,null \
      +to +proj=latlong +ellps=GRS80 +datum=NAD83 << EOF
-111 44
-111 55
EOF
111d0'2.788"W 43d59'59.725"N 0.000
111dW 55dN 0.000
```

For more information see the chapter on [Grids](#).

Caveats

- Where grids overlap (such as conus and `ntv1_can.dat` for instance) the first found for a point will be used regardless of whether it is appropriate or not. So, for instance, `+nadgrids=ntv1_can.dat,conus` would result in the Canadian data being used for some areas in the northern United States even though the conus data is the approved data to use for the area. Careful selection of files and file order is necessary. In some cases border spanning datasets may need to be pre-segmented into Canadian and American points so they can be properly grid shifted
- There are additional grids for shifting between NAD83 and various HPGN versions of the NAD83 datum. Use of these haven't been tried recently so you may encounter problems. The FL.lla, WO.llla, MD.llla, TN.llla and WI.llla are examples of high precision grid shifts. Take care!
- Additional detail on the grid shift being applied can be found by setting the `PROJ_DEBUG` environment variable to a value. This will result in output to stderr on what grid is used to shift points, the bounds of the various grids loaded and so forth
- The `cs2cs` framework always assumes that grids contain a shift to NAD83 (essentially WGS84). Other types of grids can be used with the *pipeline* framework.

Resource files

A number of files containing preconfigured transformations and default parameters for certain projections are bundled with the PROJ.4 distribution. Init files contains preconfigured proj-strings for various coordinate reference systems and the defaults file contains default values for parameters of select projections.

Init files

Init files are used for preconfiguring proj-strings for often used transformations, such as those found in the EPSG database. Most init files contain transformations from a given coordinate reference system to WGS84. This makes it easy to transformations between any two coordinate reference systems with `cs2cs`. Init files can however contain any proj-string and don't necesarily have to follow the `cs2cs` paradigm where WGS84 is used as a pivot datum. The ITRF init file is a good example of that.

A number of init files come pre-bundled with PROJ.4 but it is also possible to add your own custom init files. PROJ.4 looks for the init files in the directoty listed in the `PROJ_LIB` environment variable.

The format of init files made up of a identifier in angled brackets and a proj-string:

```
<3819> +proj=latlong +ellps=bessel  
+towgs84=595.48,121.69,515.35,4.115,-2.9383,0.853,-3.408 +no_defs <>
```

The above example is the first entry from the `epsg` init file. So, this is the coordinate reference system with ID 3819 in the EPSG database. Comments can be inserted by prefixing them with a “#”. With version 4.10.0 a new special metadata entry is now accepted in init files. It can be parsed with a function from the public API. The metadata entry in the `epsg` init file looks like this at the time of writing:

```
<metadata> +version=9.0.0 +origin=EPSG +lastupdate=2017-01-10
```

Pre-configured proj-strings from init files are used in the following way:

```
$ cs2cs -v +proj=latlong +to +init=epsg:3819  
# ---- From Coordinate System ----  
#Lat/long (Geodetic alias)  
#  
# +proj=latlong +ellps=WGS84  
# ---- To Coordinate System ----  
#Lat/long (Geodetic alias)  
#  
# +init=epsg:3819 +proj=latlong +ellps=bessel  
# +towgs84=595.48,121.69,515.35,4.115,-2.9383,0.853,-3.408 +no_defs
```

It is possible to override parameters when using `+init`. Just add the parameter to the proj-string alongside the `+init` parameter. For instance by overriding the ellipsoid as in the following example

```
+init=epsg:25832 +ellps=intl
```

where the Hayford ellipsoid is used instead of the predefined GRS80 ellipsoid. It is also possible to add additional parameters not specified in the init file, for instance by adding an obervation epoch when transforming from ITRF2000 to ITRF2005:

```
+init=ITRF2000:ITRF2005 +tobs=2010.5
```

which then expands to

```
+proj=helmert +x=-0.0001 +y=0.0008 +z=0.0058 +s=-0.0004
+dx=0.0002 +dy=-0.0001 +dz=0.0018 +ds=-0.000008
+epoch=2000.0 +transpose
+tobs=2010.5
```

Below is a list of the init files that are packaged with PROJ.4.

Name	Description
esri	Auto-generated mapping from Esri projection index. Not maintained any more
epsg	EPSG database
GL27	Great Lakes Grids
IGNF	French coordinate systems supplied by the IGNF
ITRF2000	Full set of transformation parameters between ITRF2000 and other ITRF's
ITRF2008	Full set of transformation parameters between ITRF2008 and other ITRF's
ITRF2014	Full set of transformation parameters between ITRF2014 and other ITRF's
nad27	State plane coordinate systems, North American Datum 1927
nad83	State plane coordinate systems, North American Datum 1983

Defaults file

The `proj_def.dat` file supplies default parameters for PROJ.4. It uses the same syntax as the init files described above. The identifiers in the defaults file describe to what the parameters should apply. If the `<general>` identifier is used, then all parameters in that section applies for all proj-strings. Otherwise the identifier is connected to a specific projection. With the defaults file supplied with PROJ.4 the default ellipsoid is set to WGS84 (for all proj-strings). Apart from that only the Albers Equal Area, Lambert Conic Conformal and the Lagrange projections have default parameters. Defaults can be ignored by adding the `+no_def` parameter to a proj-string.

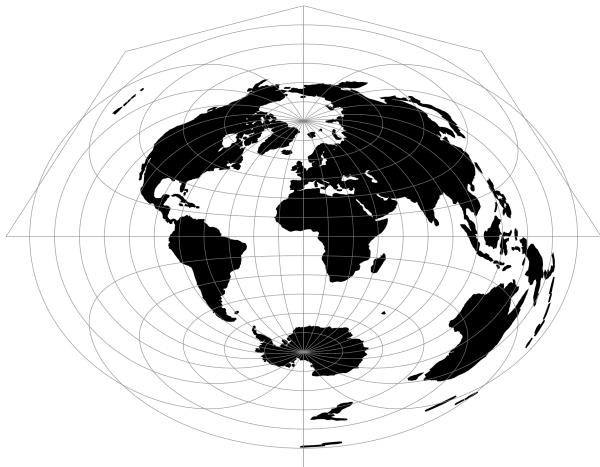
Coordinate operations

Coordinate operations in PROJ.4 are divided into two groups: Projections and transformations. Projections are purely cartographic mappings of the sphere onto the plane whereas transformations are mostly geodetic operations concerned with changes in reference frames.

Projections

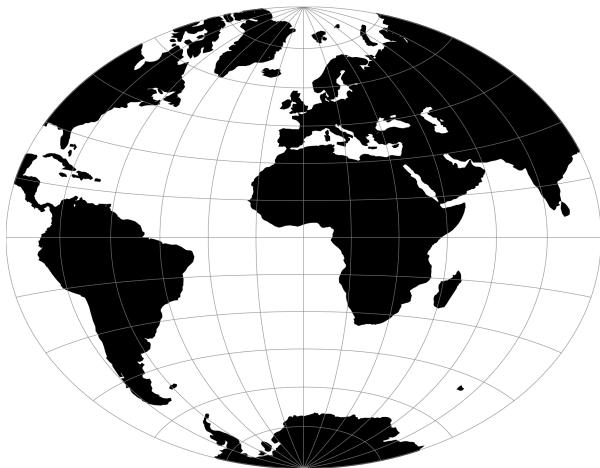
Azimuthal Equidistant

`+proj=aeqd`



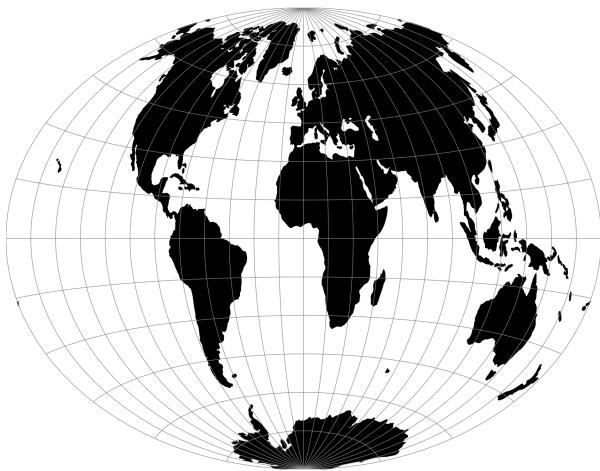
Airy

`+proj=airy`



Aitoff

`+proj=aitoff`



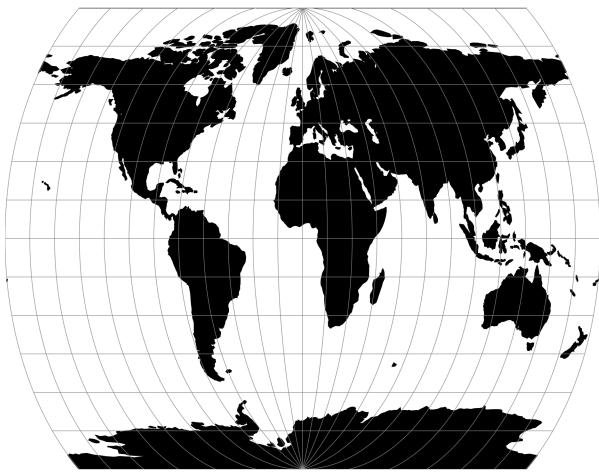
Mod. Stereographics of Alaska

`+proj=alsk`



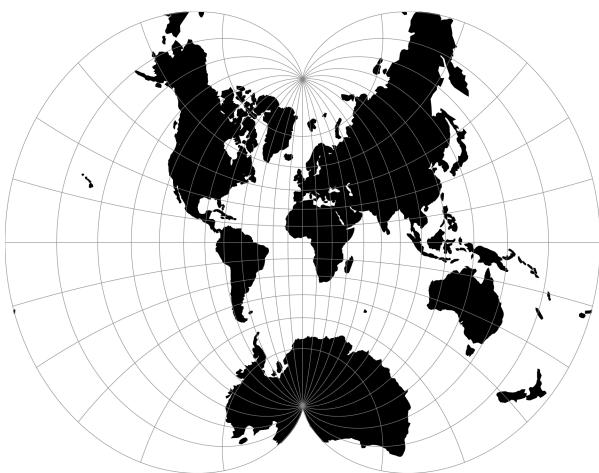
Apian Globular I

+proj=apian



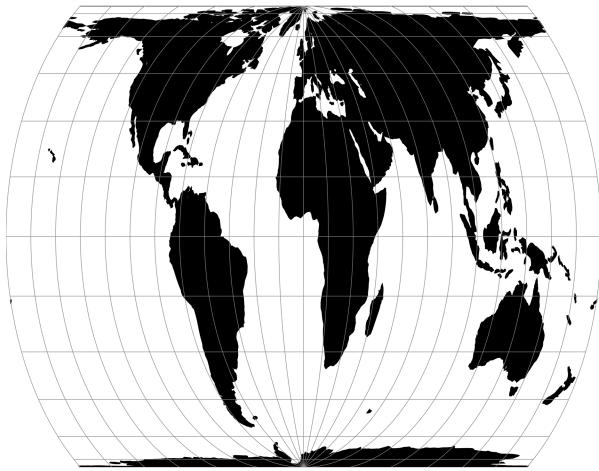
August Epicycloidal

+proj=august



Bacon Globular

`+proj=bacon`



Bipolar conic of western hemisphere

`+proj=bipc +ns`



Boggs Eumorphic

`+proj=boggs`



Bonne (Werner lat_1=90)

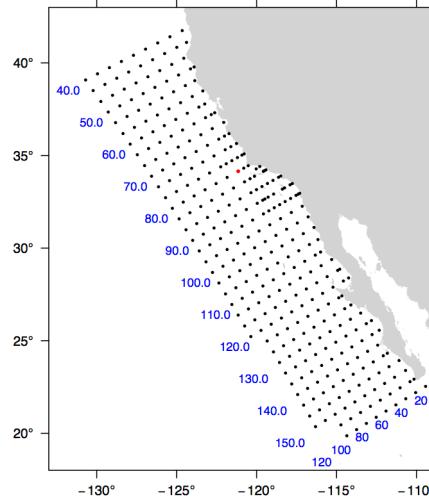
`+proj=bonne +lat_1=10`



Cal Coop Ocean Fish Invest Lines/Stations

The CalCOFI pseudo-projection is the line and station coordinate system of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations program, known as CalCOFI, for sampling offshore of the west coast of the U.S. and Mexico.

Classification	Conformal cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical and elliptical projection
Defined area	Only valid for the west coast of USA and Mexico
Implemented by	Frank Warmerdam
Options	<i>No special options for this projection</i>



The coordinate system is based on the Mercator projection with units rotated -30 degrees from the meridian so that they are oriented with the coastline of the Southern California Bight and Baja California. Lines increase from Northwest to Southeast. A unit of line is 12 nautical miles. Stations increase from inshore to offshore. A unit of station is equal to 4 nautical miles. The rotation point is located at line 80, station 60, or 34.15 degrees N, -121.15 degrees W, and is depicted by the red dot in the figure. By convention, the ellipsoid of Clarke 1866 is used to calculate CalCOFI coordinates.

The CalCOFI program is a joint research effort by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, University of California Scripps Oceanographic Institute, and California Department of Fish and Game. Surveys have been conducted for the CalCOFI program since 1951, creating one of the oldest and most scientifically valuable joint oceanographic and fisheries data sets in the world. The CalCOFI line and station coordinate system is now used by several other programs including the Investigaciones Mexicanas de la Corriente de California (IMECOCAL) program offshore of Baja California. The figure depicts some commonly sampled locations from line 40 to line 156.7 and offshore to station 120. Blue numbers indicate line (bottom) or station (left) numbers along the grid. Note that lines spaced at approximate 3-1/3 intervals are commonly sampled, e.g., lines 43.3 and 46.7.

Usage

A typical forward CalCOFI projection would be from lon/lat coordinates on the Clark 1866 ellipsoid. For example:

```
proj +proj=calcofi +ellps=clrk66 -E <<EOF
-121.15 34.15
EOF
```

Output of the above command:

```
-121.15 34.15 80.00 60.00
```

The reverse projection from line/station coordinates to lon/lat would be entered as:

```
proj +proj=calcofi +ellps=clrk66 -I -E -f "%.2f" <<EOF
80.0 60.0
EOF
```

Output of the above command:

```
80.0 60.0 -121.15 34.15
```

Mathematical definition

The algorithm used to make conversions is described in [\[EberHewitt1979\]](#) with a few corrections reported in [\[WeberMoore2013\]](#).

Further reading

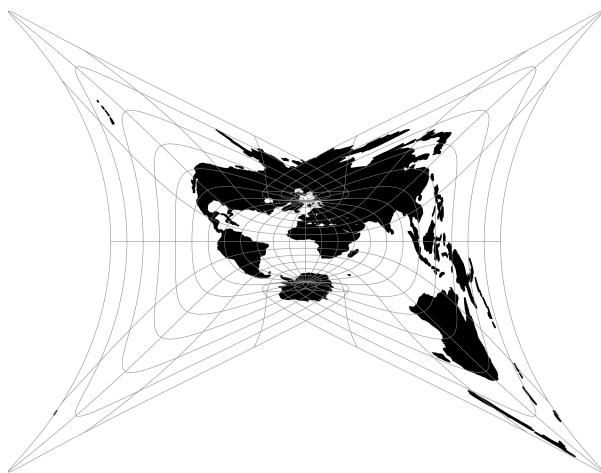
1. General information about the CalCOFI program
2. The Investigaciones Mexicanas de la Corriente de California

Cassini (Cassini-Soldner)

Although the Cassini projection has been largely replaced by the Transverse Mercator, it is still in limited use outside the United States and was one of the major topographic mapping projections until the early 20th century.

Classification	Transverse and oblique cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse, Spherical and Elliptical
Defined area	Global, but best used near the central meridian with long, narrow areas
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	
+lat_0	Latitude of origin (Default to 0)

+proj=cass



Usage

There has been little usage of the spherical version of the Cassini, but the ellipsoidal Cassini-Soldner version was adopted by the Ordnance Survey for the official survey of Great Britain during the second half of the 19th century [[Steers1970](#)]. Many of these maps were prepared at a scale of 1:2,500. The Cassini-Soldner was also used for the detailed mapping of many German states during the same period.

Example using EPSG 30200 (Trinidad 1903, units in clarke's links):

```
$ echo 0.17453293 -1.08210414 | proj +proj=cass +lat_0=10.44166666666667 +lon_0=-61.  
↪333333333333334 +x_0=86501.46392051999 +y_0=65379.0134283 +a=6378293.645208759  
↪+b=6356617.987679838 +to_meter=0.201166195164 +no_defs  
66644.94     82536.22
```

Example using EPSG 3068 (Soldner Berlin):

```
$ echo 13.5 52.4 | proj +proj=cass +lat_0=52.41864827777778 +lon_0=13.62720366666667  
↪+x_0=40000 +y_0=10000 +ellps=bessel +datum=potsdam +units=m +no_defs  
31343.05     7932.76
```

Mathematical definition

The formulas describing the Cassini projection are taken from Snyder's [[Snyder1987](#)].

ϕ_0 is the latitude of origin that match the center of the map (default to 0). It can be set with `+lat_0`.

Spherical form

Forward projection

$$x = \arcsin(\cos(\phi) \sin(\lambda))$$

$$y = \arctan 2(\tan(\phi), \cos(\lambda)) - \phi_0$$

Inverse projection

$$\phi = \arcsin(\sin(y + \phi_0) \cos(x))$$

$$\lambda = \arctan 2(\tan(x), \cos(y + \phi_0))$$

Elliptical form

Forward projection

$$N = (1 - e^2 \sin^2(\phi))^{-1/2}$$

$$T = \tan^2(\phi)$$

$$A = \lambda \cos(\phi)$$

$$C = \frac{e^2}{1-e^2} \cos^2(\phi)$$

$$x = N(A - T \frac{A^3}{6} - (8 - T + 8C)T \frac{A^5}{120})$$

$$y = M(\phi) - M(\phi_0) + N \tan(\phi) (\frac{A^2}{2} + (5 - T + 6C) \frac{A^4}{24})$$

and $M()$ is the meridional distance function.

Inverse projection

$$\phi' = M^{-1}(M(\phi_0) + y)$$

if $\phi' = \frac{\pi}{2}$ then $\phi = \phi'$ and $\lambda = 0$

otherwise evaluate T and N above using ϕ' and

$$R = (1 - e^2)(1 - e^2 \sin^2 \phi')^{-3/2}$$

$$D = x/N$$

$$\phi = \phi' - \tan \phi' \frac{N}{R} \left(\frac{D^2}{2} - (1 + 3T) \frac{D^4}{24} \right)$$

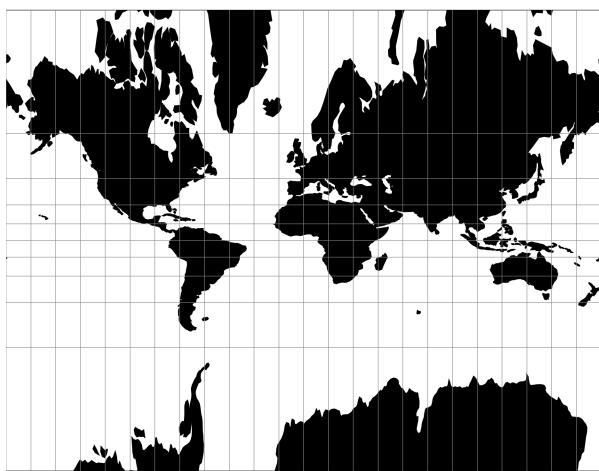
$$\lambda = \frac{(D - T \frac{D^3}{3} + (1 + 3T)T \frac{D^5}{15})}{\cos \phi'}$$

Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)
2. [\[Snyder1987\]](#)
3. EPSG, POSC literature pertaining to Coordinate Conversions and Transformations including Formulas

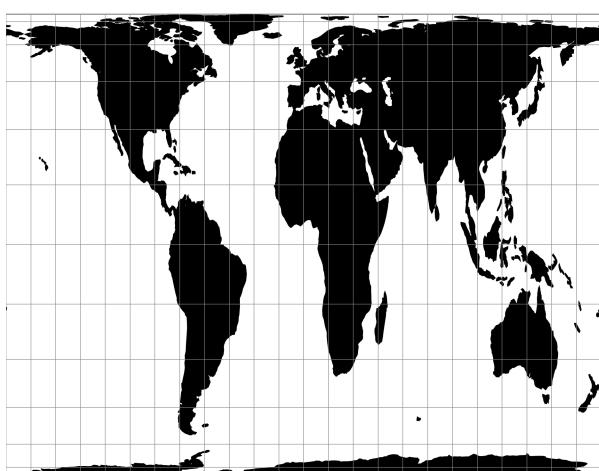
Central Cylindrical

`+proj=cc`



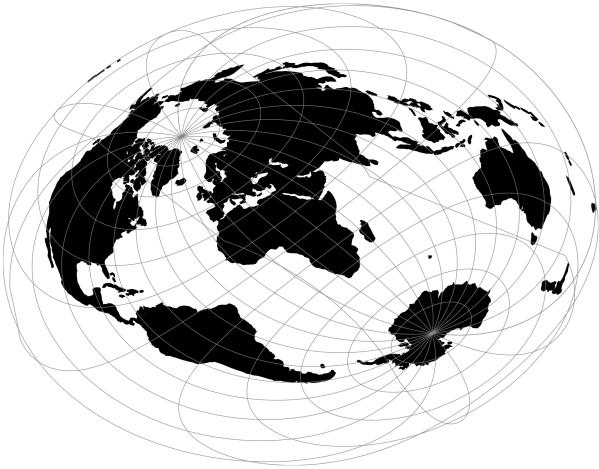
Equal Area Cylindrical

`+proj=cea`



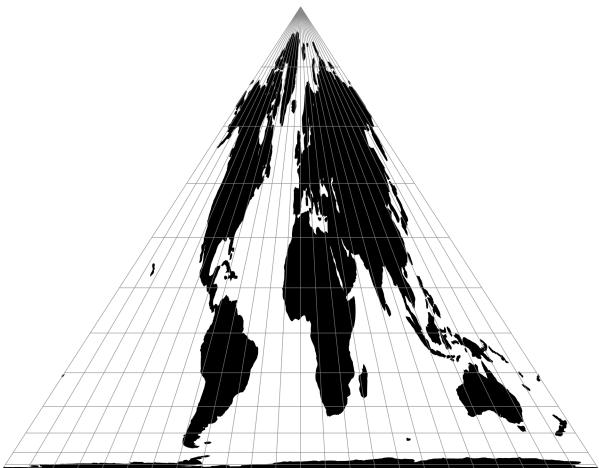
Chamberlin Trimetric

+proj=chamb +lat_1=10 +lon_1=30 +lon_2=40



Collignon

+proj=collg



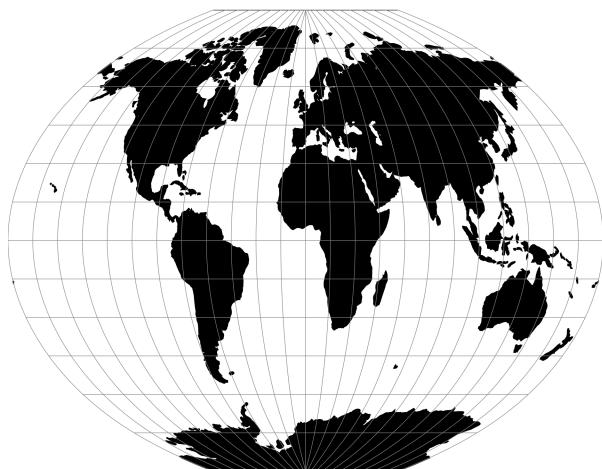
Craster Parabolic (Putnins P4)

+proj=crast



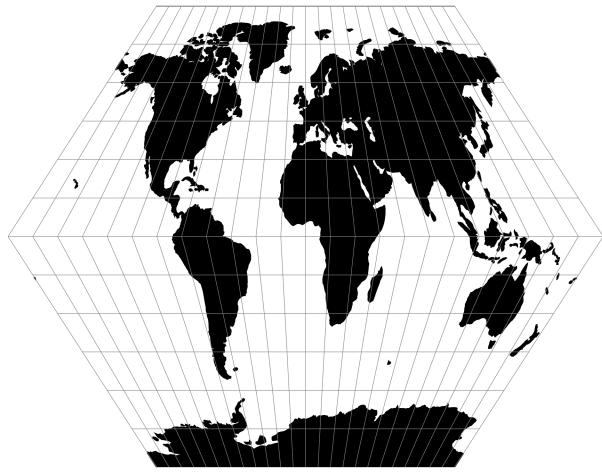
Denoyer Semi-Elliptical

+proj=denoy



Eckert I

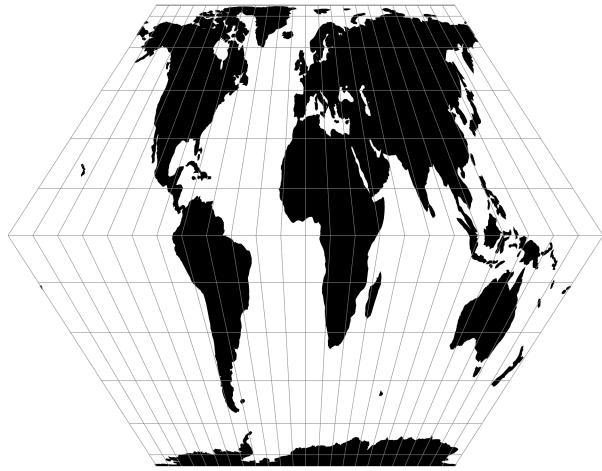
`+proj=eckI`



$$x = 2\sqrt{2/3\pi}\lambda(1 - |\phi|/\pi)$$
$$y = 2\sqrt{2/3\pi}\phi$$

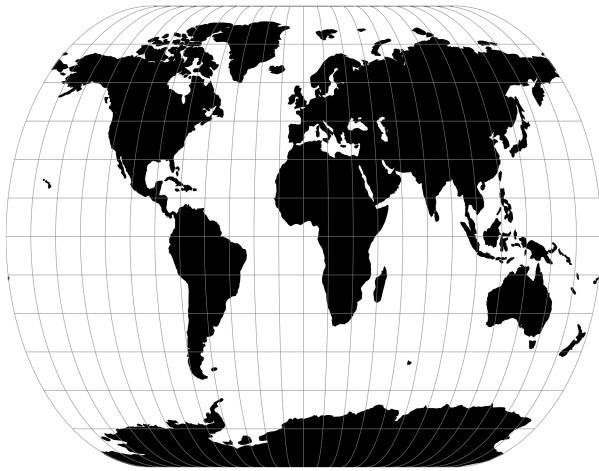
Eckert II

`+proj=eck2`



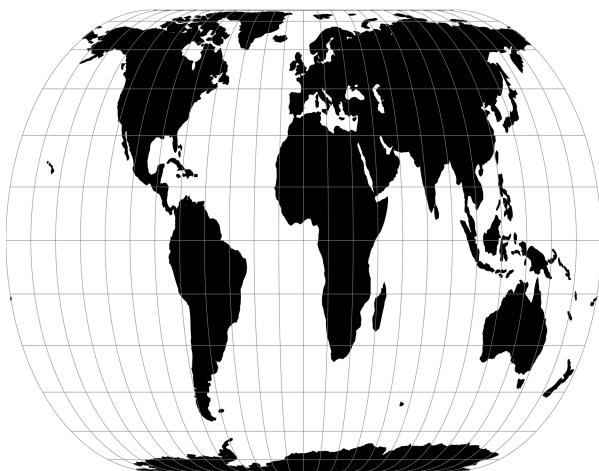
Eckert III

`+proj=eck3`



Eckert IV

`+proj=eck4`

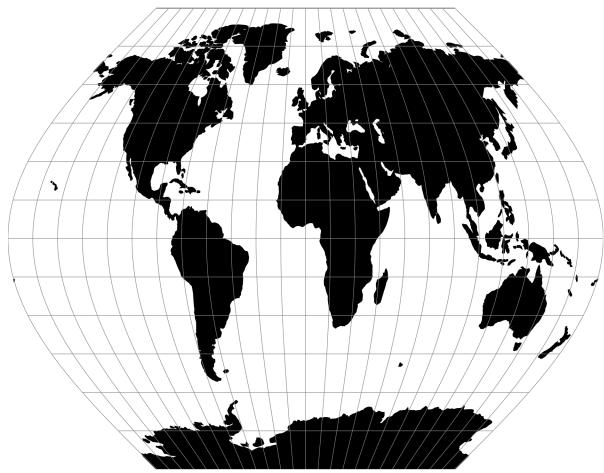


$$x = \lambda(1 + \cos\phi)/\sqrt{2 + \pi}$$

$$y = 2\phi/\sqrt{2 + \pi}$$

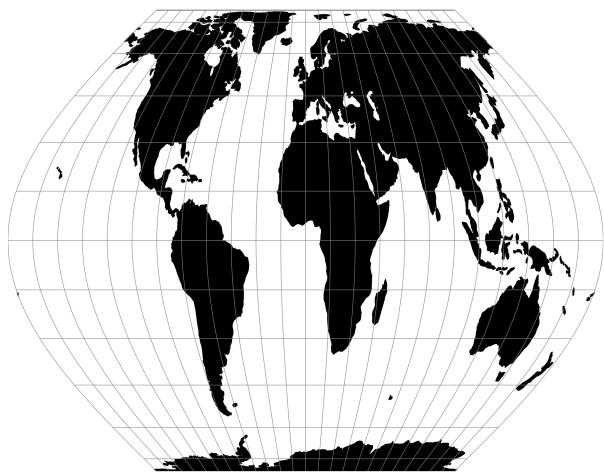
Eckert V

+proj=eck5



Eckert VI

+proj=eck6

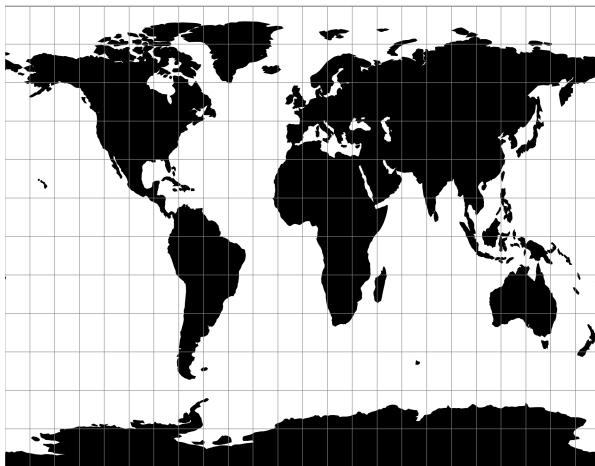


Equidistant Cylindrical (Plate Carrée)

The simplest of all projections. Standard parallels (0° when omitted) may be specified that determine latitude of true scale ($k=h=1$).

Classification	Conformal cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse
Defined area	Global, but best used near the equator
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	
+lat_ts	Latitude of true scale. Defaults to 0.0
+lat_0	Center of the map : latitude of origin

+proj=eqc



Usage

Because of the distortions introduced by this projection, it has little use in navigation or cadastral mapping and finds its main use in thematic mapping. In particular, the plate carrée has become a standard for global raster datasets, such as Celestia and NASA World Wind, because of the particularly simple relationship between the position of an image pixel on the map and its corresponding geographic location on Earth.

The following table gives special cases of the cylindrical equidistant projection.

Projection Name	(lat ts=) ϕ_0
Plain/Plane Chart	0°
Simple Cylindrical	0°
Plate Carrée	0°
Ronald Miller—minimum overall scale distortion	37°30'
E.Grafarend and A.Niermann	42°
Ronald Miller—minimum continental scale distortion	43°30'
Gall Isographic	45°
Ronald Miller Equirectangular	50°30'
E.Grafarend and A.Niermann minimum linear distortion	61°7'

Example using EPSG 32662 (WGS84 Plate Carrée):

```
$ echo 2 47 | proj +proj=eqc +lat_ts=0 +lat_0=0 +lon_0=0 +x_0=0 +y_0=0 +ellps=WGS84
↪+datum=WGS84 +units=m +no_defs
222638.98      5232016.07
```

Example using Plate Carrée projection with true scale at latitude 30° and central meridian 90°W:

```
$ echo -88 30 | proj +proj=eqc +lat_ts=30 +lat_0=90w  
-8483684.61      13358338.90
```

Mathematical definition

The formulas describing the Equidistant Cylindrical projection are all taken from Snyder's [*Snyder1987*].

ϕ_{ts} is the latitude of true scale, that mean the standard parallels where the scale of the projection is true. It can be set with `+lat_ts`.

ϕ_0 is the latitude of origin that match the center of the map. It can be set with `+lat_0`.

Forward projection

$$x = \lambda \cos \phi_{ts}$$

$$y = \phi - \phi_0$$

Inverse projection

$$\lambda = x / \cos \phi_{ts}$$

$$\phi = y + \phi_0$$

Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)
2. [Wolfram Mathworld](#)

Equidistant Conic

+proj=eqdc +lat_1=55 +lat_2=60



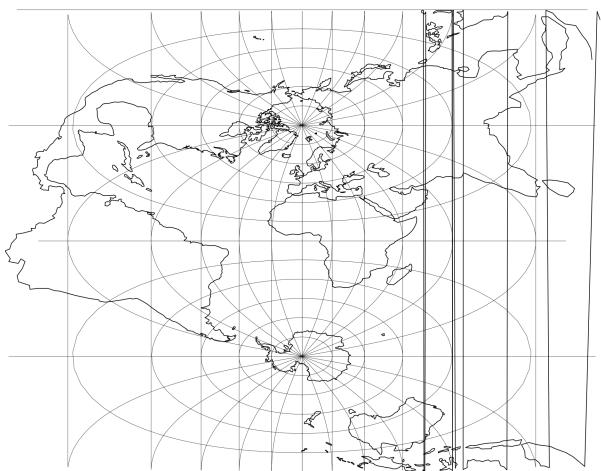
Euler

+proj=euler +lat_1=67 +lat_2=75



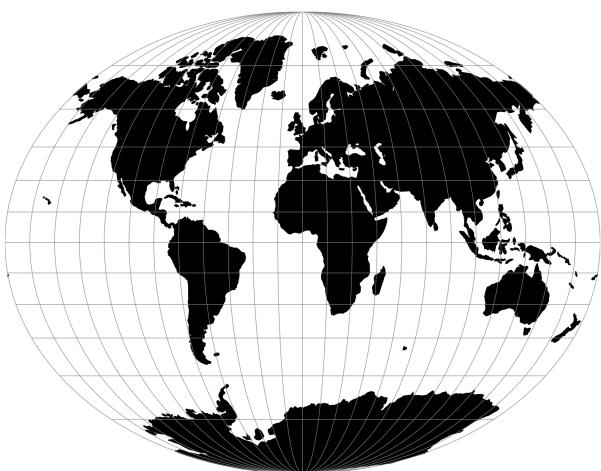
Extended Transverse Mercator

+proj=etmerc

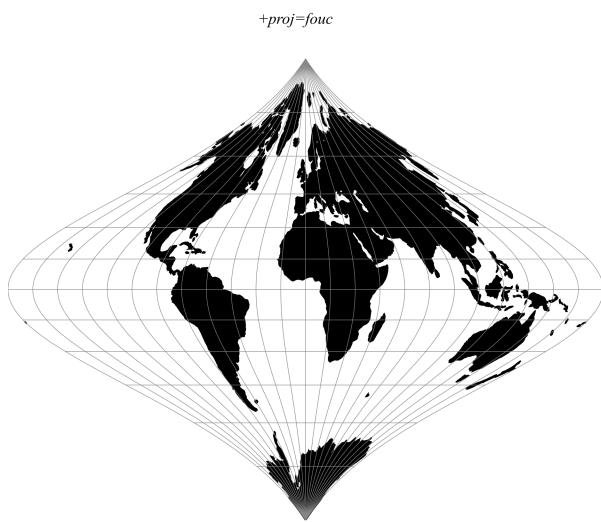


Fahay

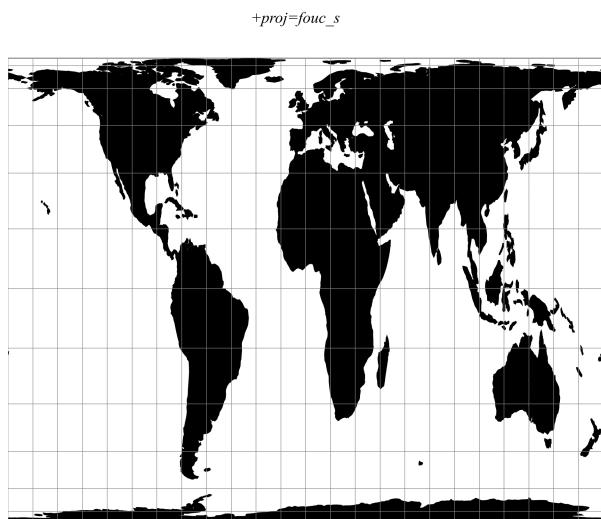
+proj=fahay



Foucaut



Foucaut Sinusoidal



The y -axis is based upon a weighted mean of the cylindrical equal-area and the sinusoidal projections. Parameter $n = n$ is the weighting factor where $0 \leq n \leq 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}x &= \lambda \cos \phi / (n + (1 - n) \cos \phi) \\y &= n\phi + (1 - n) \sin \phi\end{aligned}$$

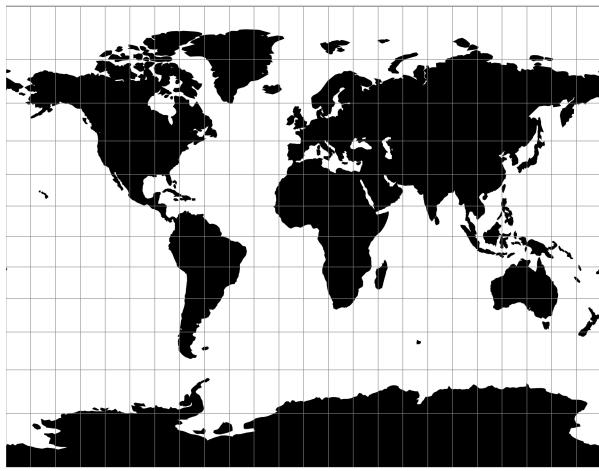
For the inverse, the Newton-Raphson method can be used to determine ϕ from the equation for y above. As $n \rightarrow 0$ and $\phi \rightarrow \pi/2$, convergence is slow but for $n = 0$, $\phi = \sin^{-1} y$

Gall (Gall Stereographic)

The Gall stereographic projection, presented by James Gall in 1855, is a cylindrical projection. It is neither equal-area nor conformal but instead tries to balance the distortion inherent in any projection.

Classification	Transverse and oblique cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse, Spherical
Defined area	Global
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	No special options for this projection

+proj=gall



Usage

The need for a world map which avoids some of the scale exaggeration of the Mercator projection has led to some commonly used cylindrical modifications, as well as to other modifications which are not cylindrical. The earliest common cylindrical example was developed by James Gall of Edinburgh about 1855 (Gall, 1885, p. 119-123). His meridians are equally spaced, but the parallels are spaced at increasing intervals away from the Equator. The parallels of latitude are actually projected onto a cylinder wrapped about the sphere, but cutting it at lats. 45° N. and S., the point of perspective being a point on the Equator opposite the meridian being projected. It is used in several British atlases, but seldom in the United States. The Gall projection is neither conformal nor equal-area, but has a blend of various features. Unlike the Mercator, the Gall shows the poles as lines running across the top and bottom of the map.

Example using Gall Stereographical

```
$ echo 9 51 | proj +proj=gall +lon_0=0 +x_0=0 +y_0=0 +ellps=WGS84 +datum=WGS84  
↪+units=m +no_defs  
708432.90 5193386.36
```

Example using Gall Stereographical (Central meridian 90°W)

```
$ echo 9 51 | proj +proj=gall +lon_0=90w +x_0=0 +y_0=0 +ellps=WGS84 +datum=WGS84  
↪+units=m +no_defs  
7792761.91 5193386.36
```

Mathematical definition

The formulas describing the Gall Stereographical are all taken from Snyder's [Snyder1993].

Spherical form

Forward projection

$$x = \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$y = \left(1 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) \tan(\phi/2)$$

Inverse projection

$$\phi = 2 \arctan\left(\frac{y}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}}\right)$$

$$\lambda = \sqrt{2}x$$

Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)
2. [Cartographic Projection Procedures for the UNIX Environment-A User's Manual](#)

Geostationary Satellite View

Classification	Azimuthal
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical and elliptical projection
Defined area	Global
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden and Martin Raspaud\$
Options	
<code>+h</code>	Satellite height above earth. Required.
<code>+sweep</code>	Sweep angle axis of the viewing instrument. Valid options are <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> . Defaults to <code>y</code> .
<code>+lon_0</code>	Subsatellite longitude point.

```
+proj=geos +h=35785831.0 +lon_0=-60 +sweep=y
```



The geos projection pictures how a geostationary satellite scans the earth at regular scanning angle intervals.

Usage

In order to project using the geos projection you can do the following:

```
proj +proj=geos +h=35785831.0
```

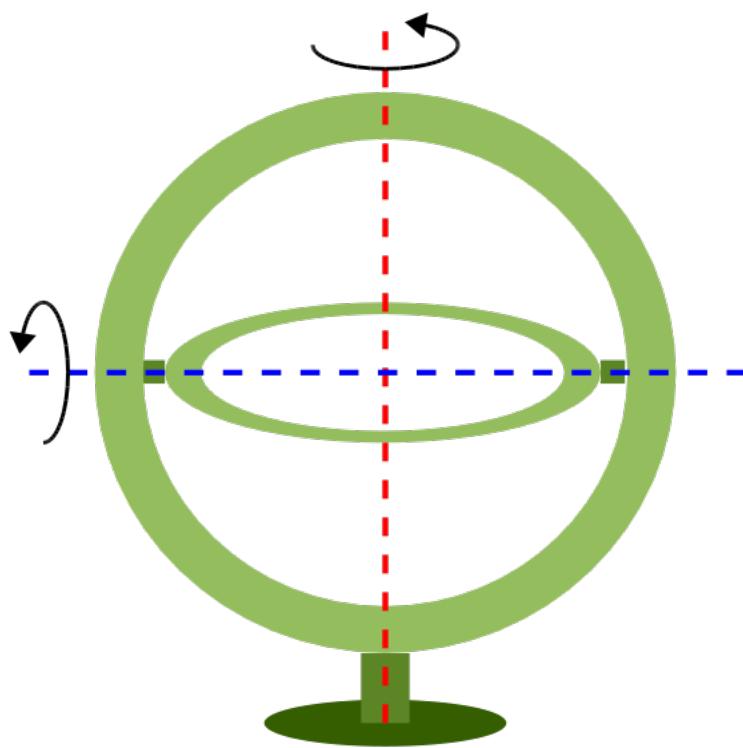
The required argument h is the viewing point (satellite position) height above the earth.

The projection coordinate relate to the scanning angle by the following simple relation:

```
scanning_angle (radians) = projection_coordinate / h
```

Note on sweep angle

The viewing instrument on-board geostationary satellites described by this projection have a two-axis gimbal viewing geometry. This means that the different scanning positions are obtained by rotating the gimbal along a N/S axis (or y) and a E/W axis (or x).



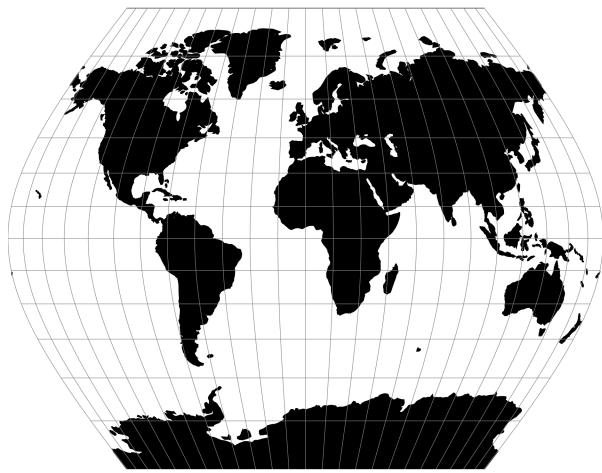
In the image above, the outer-gimbal axis, or sweep-angle axis, is the N/S axis (y) while the inner-gimbal axis, or fixed-angle axis, is the E/W axis (x).

This example represents the scanning geometry of the Meteosat series satellite. However, the GOES satellite series use the opposite scanning geometry, with the E/W axis (x) as the sweep-angle axis, and the N/S (y) as the fixed-angle axis.

The sweep argument is used to tell PROJ.4 which on which axis the outer-gimbal is rotating. The possible values are x or y , y being the default. Thus, the scanning geometry of the Meteosat series satellite should take sweep as x , and GOES should take sweep as y .

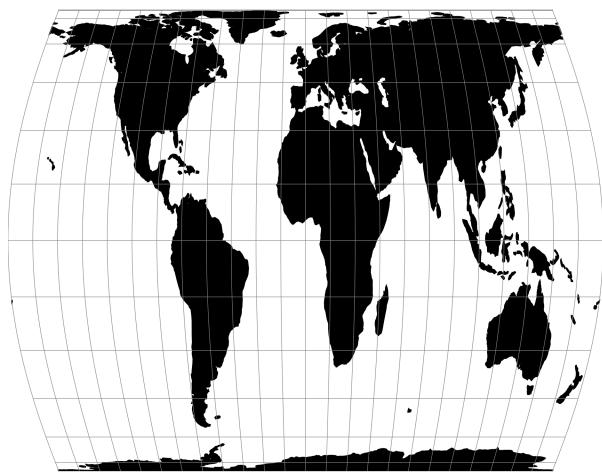
Ginsburg VIII (TsNIIGAiK)

+proj=gins8



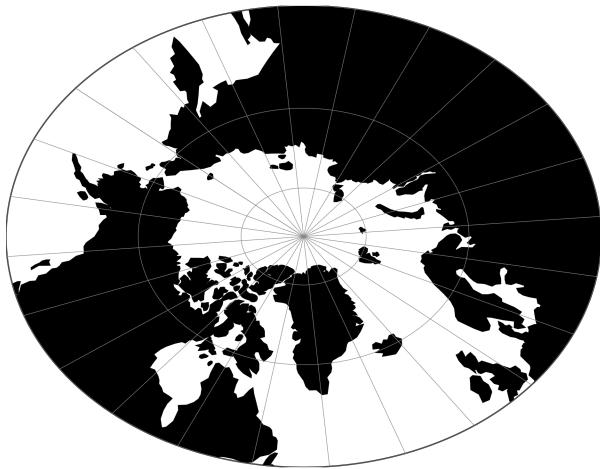
General Sinusoidal Series

+proj=gn_sinu +m=2 +n=3



Gnomonic

`+proj=gnom +lat_0=90 +lon_0=-50`



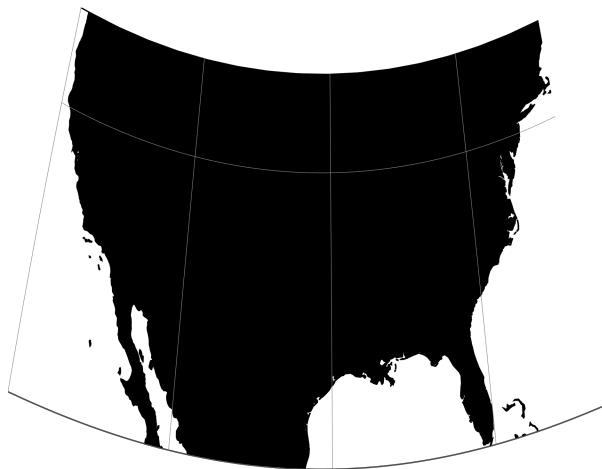
Goode Homolosine

`+proj=goode`



Mod. Stererographics of 48 U.S.

`+proj=gs48`



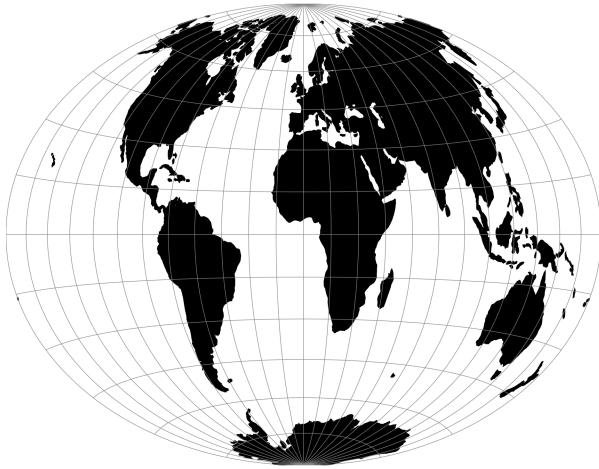
Mod. Stererographics of 50 U.S.

`+proj=gs50`



Hammer & Eckert-Greifendorff

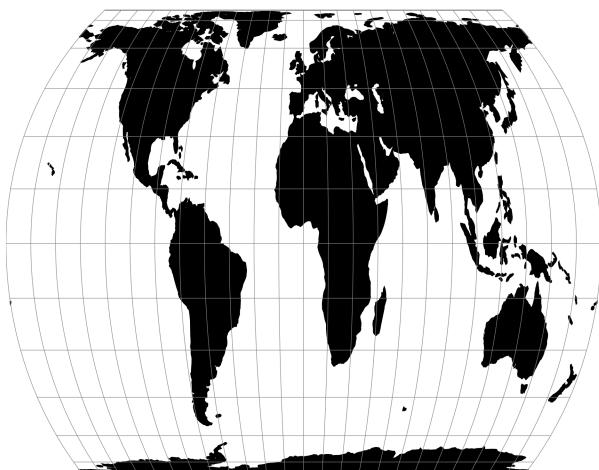
`+proj=hammer`



Hatano Asymmetrical Equal Area

Classification	<i>Pseudocylindrical Projection</i>
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical projection
Defined area	Global, but best between standard parallels
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	
<code>+lat_1</code>	Standard Parallel 1
<code>+lat_2</code>	Standard Parallel 2
<code>+sym</code>	Symmetric form used instead of asymmetric

`+proj=hatano`



Mathematical Definition

Forward

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 0.85\lambda \cos \theta \\y &= C_y \sin \theta \\P(\theta) &= 2\theta + \sin 2\theta - C_p \sin \phi \\P'(\theta) &= 2(1 + \cos 2\theta) \\ \theta_0 &= 2\phi\end{aligned}$$

Condition	C_p	C_p
if <code>+sym</code> or $\phi > 0$	1.75859	2.67595
if not <code>+sym</code> and $\phi < 0$	1.93052	2.43763

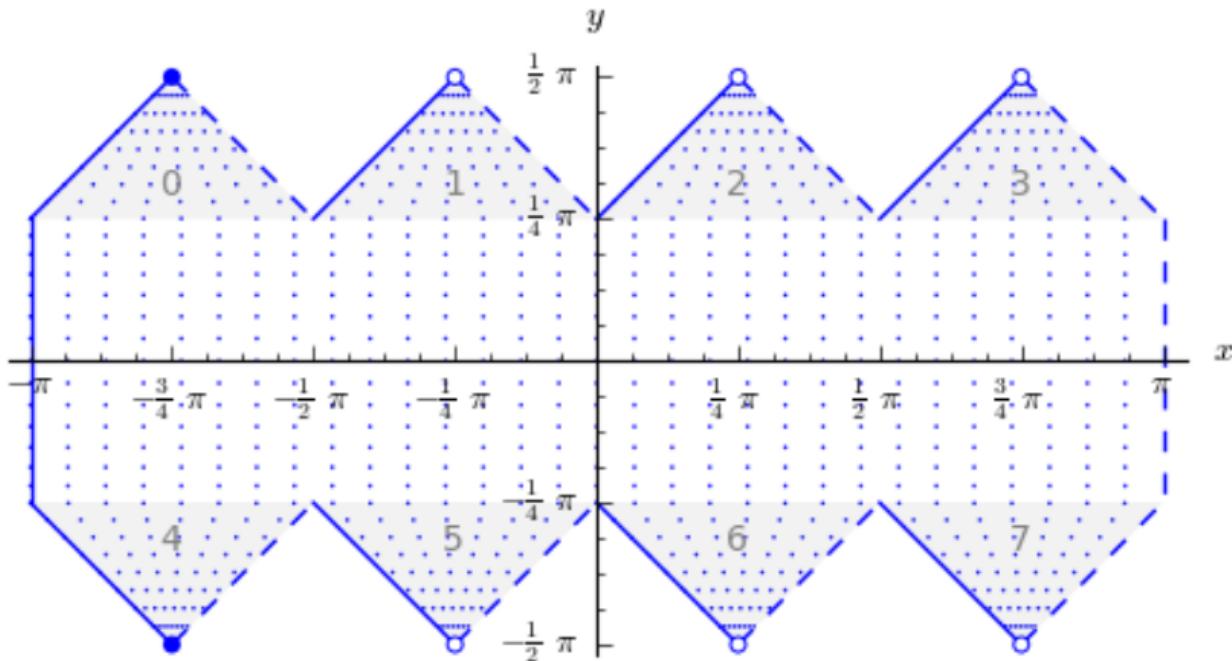
For $\phi = 0$, $y \leftarrow 0$, and $x \leftarrow 0.85\lambda$.

Further reading

1. [Compare Map Projections](#)
2. [Mathworks](#)

HEALPix

Classification	Mixed
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical and elliptical projection
Defined area	Global
Implemented by	Alex Raichev and Michael Speth
Options	<i>No special options for this projection</i>



The HEALPix projection is area preserving and can be used with a spherical and ellipsoidal model. It was initially developed for mapping cosmic background microwave radiation. The image below is the graphical representation of the mapping and consists of eight isomorphic triangular interrupted map graticules. The north and south contains four in which straight meridians converge polewards to a point and unequally spaced horizontal parallels. HEALPix provides a mapping in which points of equal latitude and equally spaced longitude are mapped to points of equal latitude and equally spaced longitude with the module of the polar interruptions.

Usage

To run a forward HEALPix projection on a unit sphere model, use the following command:

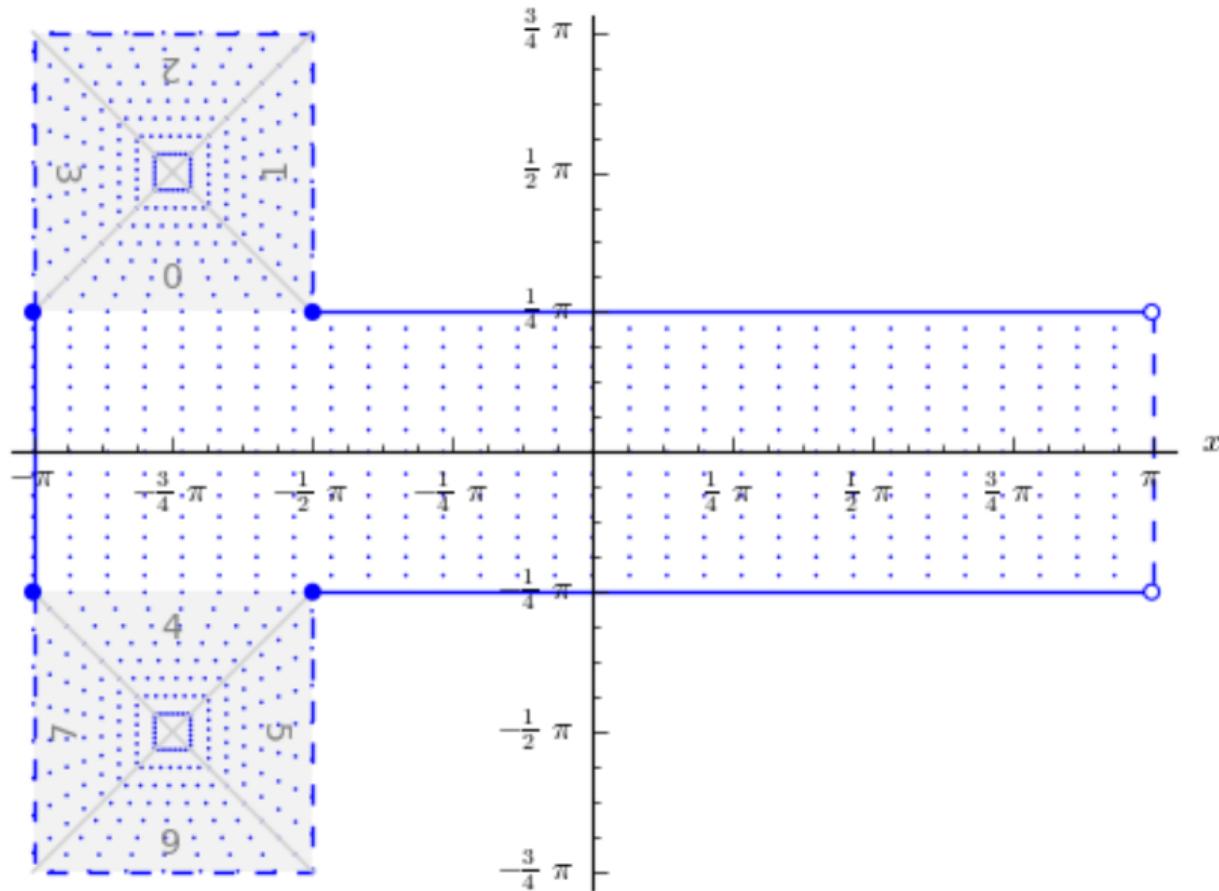
```
proj +proj=healpix +lon_0=0 +a=1 -E <<EOF
0 0
EOF
# output
0 0 0.00 0.00
```

Further reading

1. [NASA](#)
2. [Wikipedia](#)

rHEALPix

Classification	Mixed
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical and elliptical projection
Defined area	Global
Implemented by	Alex Raichev and Michael Speth
Options	
+north_square	Position of the north polar square. Valid inputs are 0–3. Defaults to 0.
+south_square	Position of the south polar square. Valid inputs are 0–3. Defaults to 0.



rHEALPix is a projection based on the HEALPix projection. The implementation of rHEALPix uses the HEALPix projection. The rHEALPix combines the peaks of the HEALPix into a square. The square's position can be translated and rotated across the x-axis which is a novel approach for the rHEALPix projection. The initial intention of using rHEALPix in the Spatial Computation Engine Science Collaboration Environment (SCENZGrid).

Usage

To run a rHEALPix projection on a WGS84 ellipsoidal model, use the following command:

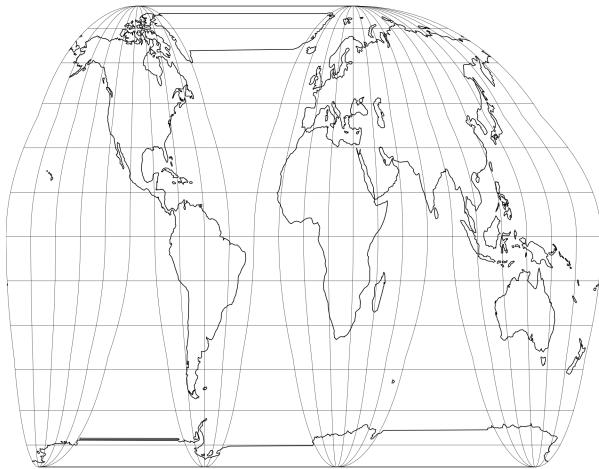
```
proj +proj=rhealpix -f '%.2f' +ellps=WGS84 +south_square=0 +north_square=2 -E << EOF
> 55 12
> EOF
55 12 6115727.86 1553840.13
```

Further reading

1. [NASA](#)
2. [Wikipedia](#)

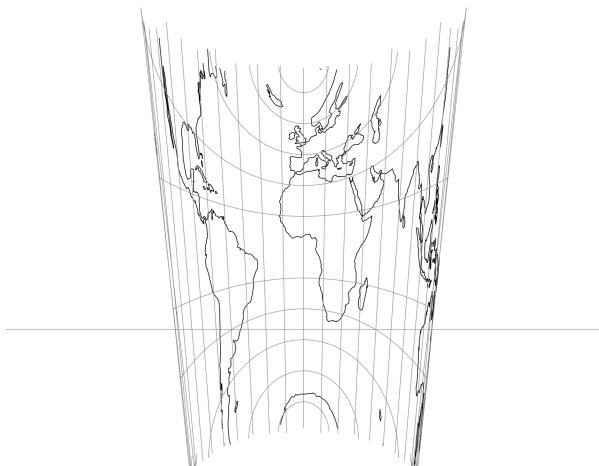
Interrupted Goode Homolosine

+proj=igh



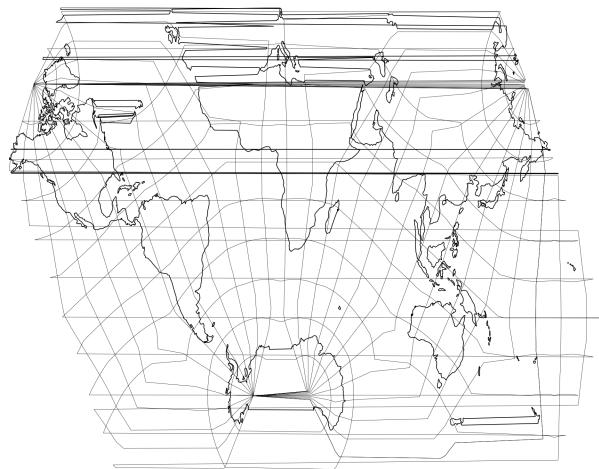
International Map of the World Polyconic

+proj=imw_p +lat_1=30 +lat_2=-40



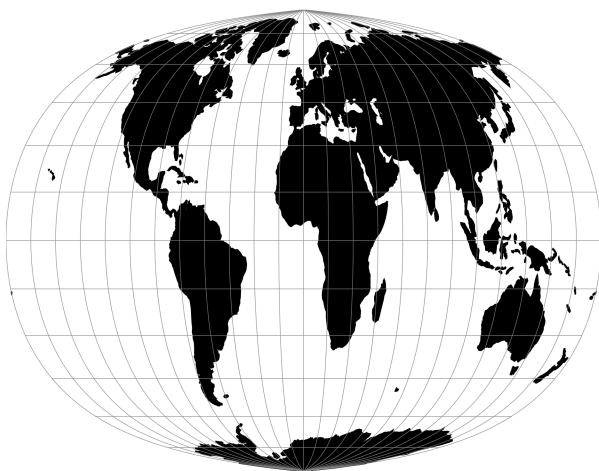
Icosahedral Snyder Equal Area

+proj=isea



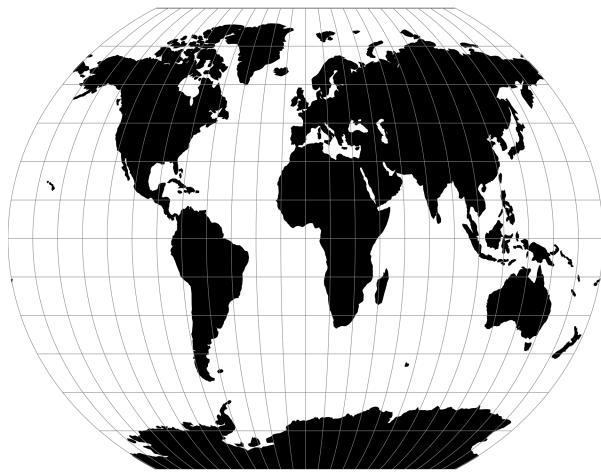
Kavraisky V

+proj=kav5



Kavraisky VII

+proj=kav7



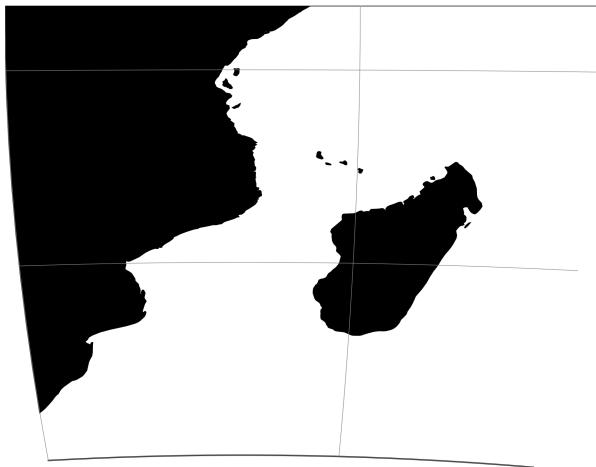
Krovak

+proj=krovak



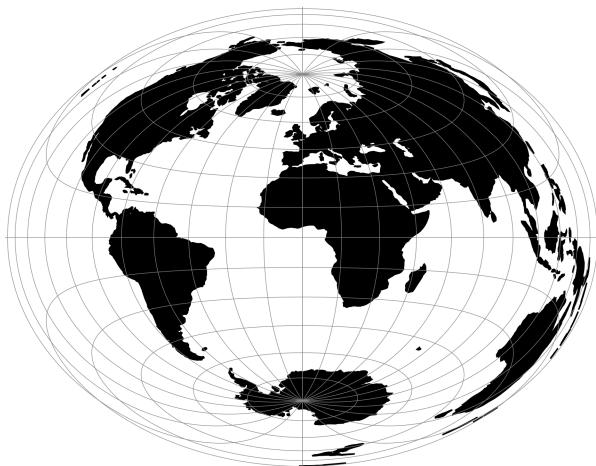
Laborde

+proj=labrd +lon_0=40 +lat_0=-10



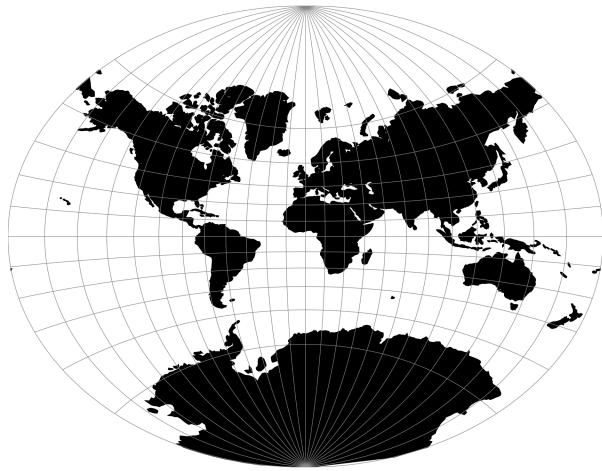
Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area

+proj=laea



Lagrange

`+proj=lagrng`



Larrivee

`+proj=larr`



Laskowski

`+proj=lask`



Lat/long (Geodetic)

Lat/long (Geodetic alias)

Lambert Conformal Conic

`+proj=lcc +lon_0=-90`



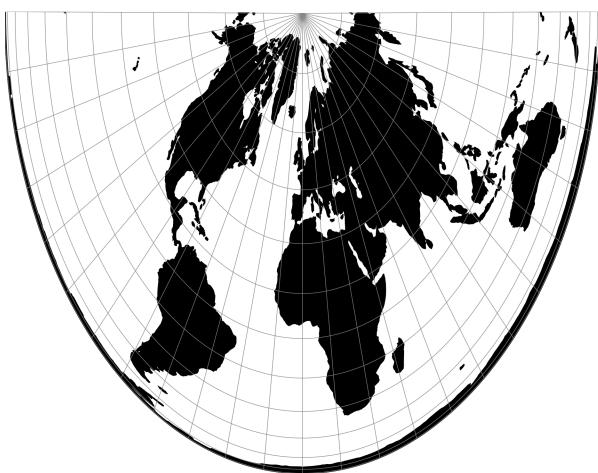
Lambert Conformal Conic Alternative

+proj=lcca +lat_0=35



Lambert Equal Area Conic

+proj=leac



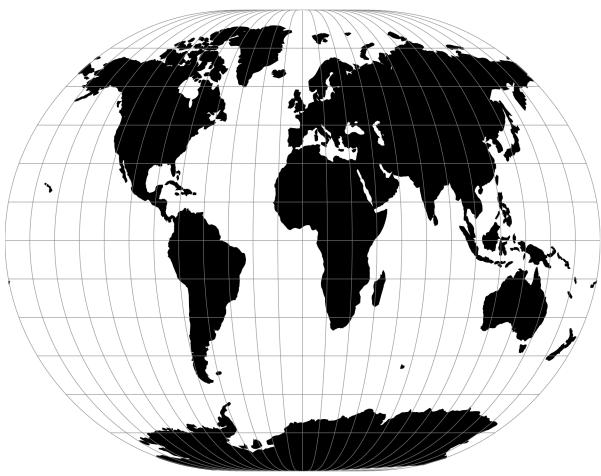
Lee Oblated Stereographic

`+proj=lee_os`



Loximuthal

`+proj=loxim`

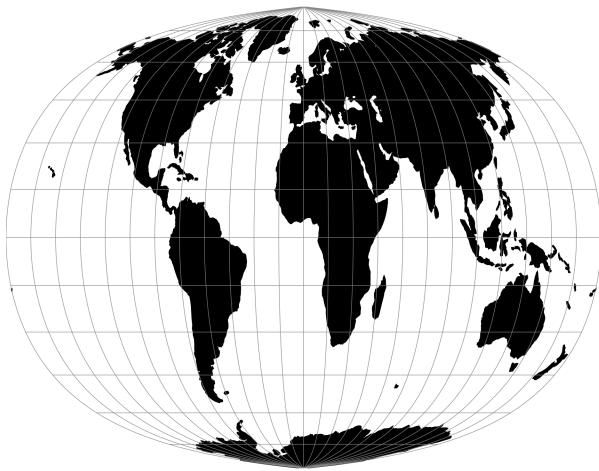


Space oblique for LANDSAT

```
+proj=lsat +path=2 +lsat=1
```

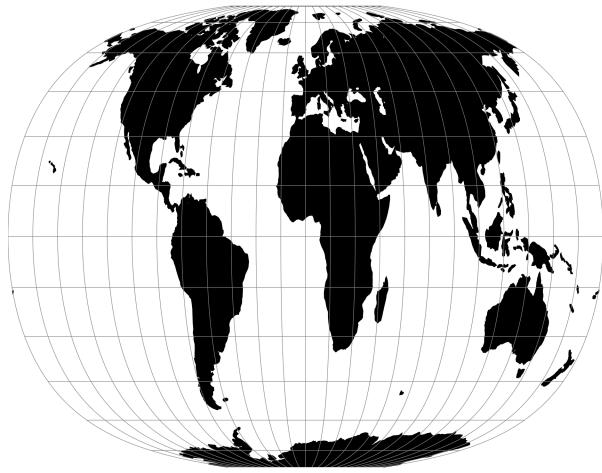
McBryde-Thomas Flat-Polar Sine (No. 1)

```
+proj=mbt_s
```



McBryde-Thomas Flat-Pole Sine (No. 2)

`+proj=mbt_fps`



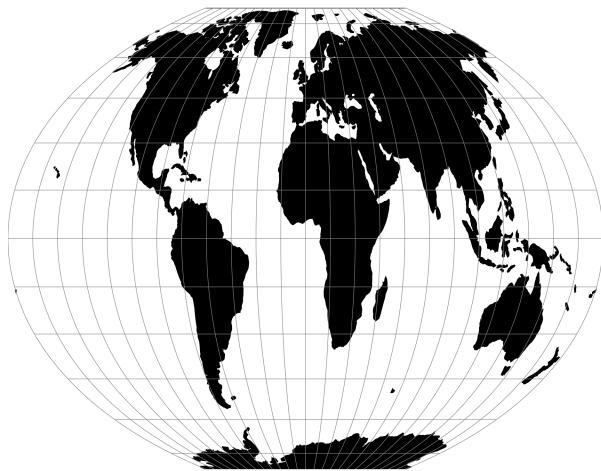
McBride-Thomas Flat-Polar Parabolic

`+proj=mbtfpp`



McBryde-Thomas Flat-Polar Quartic

+proj=mbtfpq



McBryde-Thomas Flat-Polar Sinusoidal

+proj=mbtfps

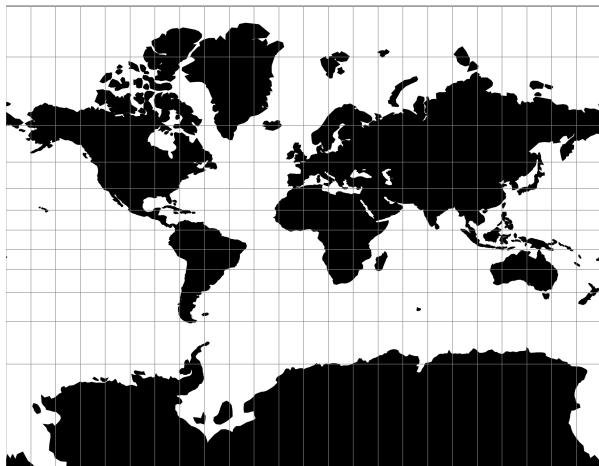


Mercator

The Mercator projection is a cylindrical map projection that originates from the 15th century. It is widely recognized as the first regularly used map projection. The projection is conformal which makes it suitable for navigational purposes.

Classification	Conformal cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical and elliptical projection
Defined area	Global, but best used near the equator
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	
+lat_ts	Latitude of true scale. Defaults to 0.0
+k_0	Scaling factor. Defaults to 1.0

+proj=merc



Usage

Applications should be limited to equatorial regions, but is frequently used for navigational charts with latitude of true scale (+lat_ts) specified within or near chart's boundaries. Often inappropriately used for world maps since the regions near the poles cannot be shown [Evenden1995].

Example using latitude of true scale:

```
$ echo 56.35 12.32 | proj +proj=merc +lat_ts=56.5
3470306.37    759599.90
```

Example using scaling factor:

```
echo 56.35 12.32 | proj +proj=merc +k_0=2
12545706.61    2746073.80
```

Note that +lat_ts and +k_0 are mutually exclusive. If used together, +lat_ts takes precedence over +k_0.

Mathematical definition

The formulas describing the Mercator projection are all taken from G. Evenden's libproj manuals [Evenden2005].

Spherical form

For the spherical form of the projection we introduce the scaling factor:

$$k_0 = \cos \phi_{ts}$$

Forward projection

$$\begin{aligned} x &= k_0 \lambda \\ y &= k_0 \ln \left[\tan \left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\phi}{2} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Inverse projection

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &= \frac{x}{k_0} \\ \phi &= \frac{\pi}{2} - 2 \arctan \left[e^{-y/k_0} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Elliptical form

For the elliptical form of the projection we introduce the scaling factor:

$$k_0 = m(\phi_{ts})$$

where $m(\phi)$ is the parallel radius at latitude ϕ .

We also use the Isometric Latitude kernel function $t()$.

Note: $m()$ and $t()$ should be described properly on a separate page about the theory of projections on the ellipsoid.

Forward projection

$$\begin{aligned} x &= k_0 \lambda \\ y &= k_0 \ln t(\phi) \end{aligned}$$

Inverse projection

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &= \frac{x}{k_0} \\ \phi &= t^{-1} \left[e^{-y/k_0} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)
2. [Wolfram Mathworld](#)

Miller Oblated Stereographic

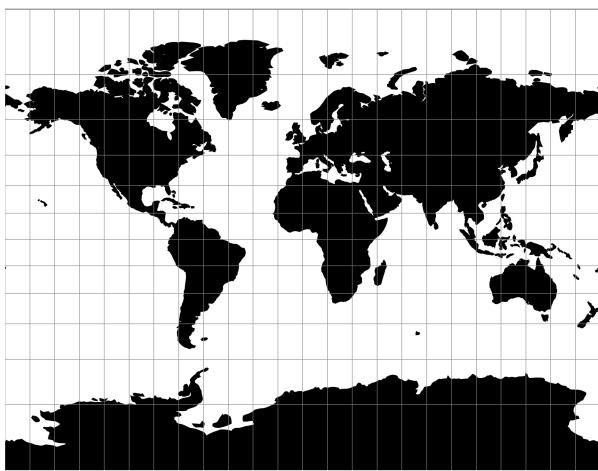


Miller Cylindrical

The Miller cylindrical projection is a modified Mercator projection, proposed by Osborn Maitland Miller in 1942. The latitude is scaled by a factor of $\frac{4}{5}$, projected according to Mercator, and then the result is multiplied by $\frac{5}{4}$ to retain scale along the equator.

Classification	Neither conformal nor equal area cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse spherical
Defined area	Global, but best used near the equator
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	
<code>+lat_0</code>	Latitude of origin (Default to 0)

`+proj=mill`



Usage

The Miller Cylindrical projection is used for world maps and in several atlases, including the National Atlas of the United States (USGS, 1970, p. 330-331) [[Snyder1987](#)].

Example using Central meridian 90°W:

```
$ echo -100 35 | proj +proj=mill +lon_0=90w
-1113194.91      4061217.24
```

Mathematical definition

The formulas describing the Miller projection are all taken from Snyder's manuals [[Snyder1987](#)].

Forward projection

$$x = \lambda$$

$$y = 1.25 * \ln \left[\tan \left(\frac{\pi}{4} + 0.4 * \phi \right) \right]$$

Inverse projection

$$\lambda = x$$

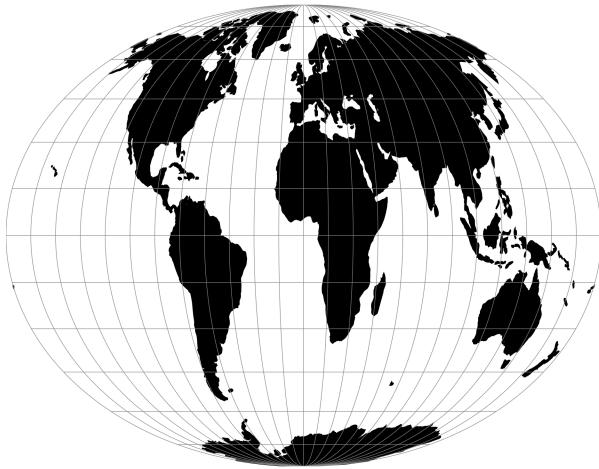
$$\phi = 2.5 * (\arctan [e^{0.8*y}] - \frac{\pi}{4})$$

Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)

Mollweide

`+proj=moll`



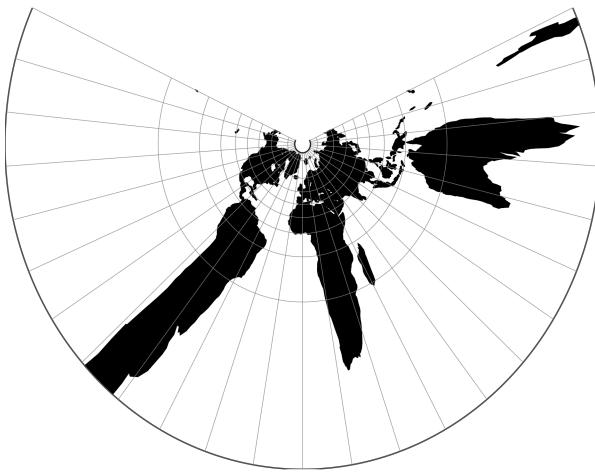
Murdoch I

`+proj=murdI +lat_1=30 +lat_2=50`



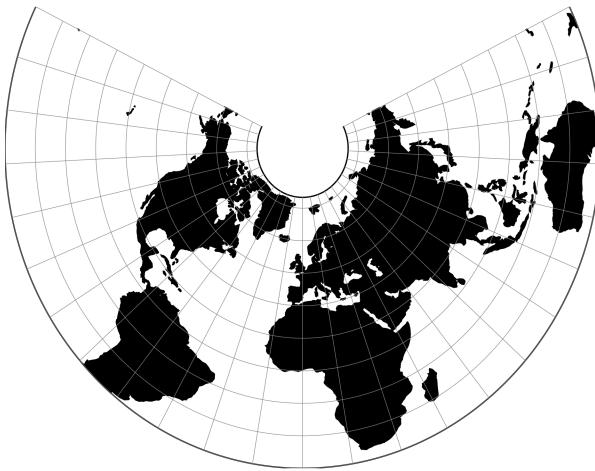
Murdoch II

+proj=murd2 +lat_1=30 +lat_2=50



Murdoch III

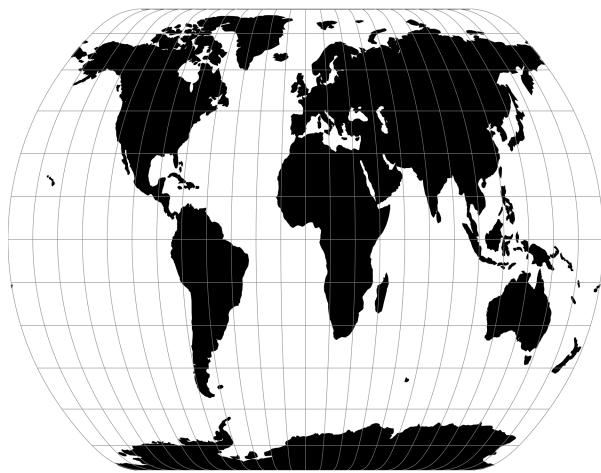
+proj=murd3 +lat_1=30 +lat_2=50



Natural Earth

Classification	Pseudo cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical projection
Defined area	Global
Implemented by	Bernhard Jenny
Options	<i>No special options for this projection</i>

+proj=natearth



The Natural Earth projection is intended for making world maps. A distinguishing trait is its slightly rounded corners fashioned to emulate the spherical shape of Earth. The meridians (except for the central meridian) bend acutely inward as they approach the pole lines, giving the projection a hint of three-dimensionality. This bending also suggests that the meridians converge at the poles instead of truncating at the top and bottom edges. The distortion characteristics of the Natural Earth projection compare favorably to other world map projections.

Usage

The Natural Earth projection has no special options so usage is simple. Here is an example of an inverse projection on a sphere with a radius of 7500 m:

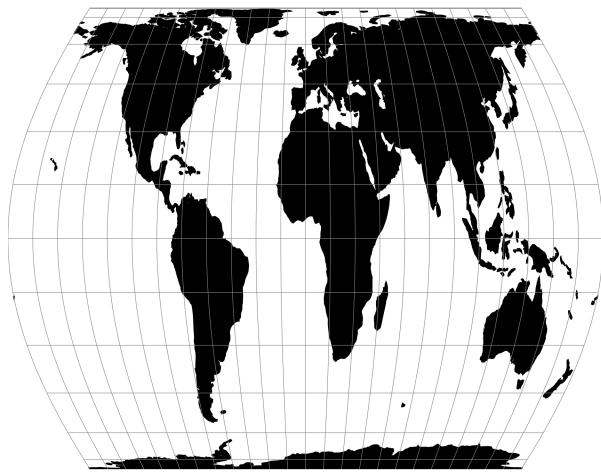
```
$ echo 3500 -8000 | proj -I +proj=natearth +a=7500  
37d54'6.091"E 61d23'4.582"S
```

Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)

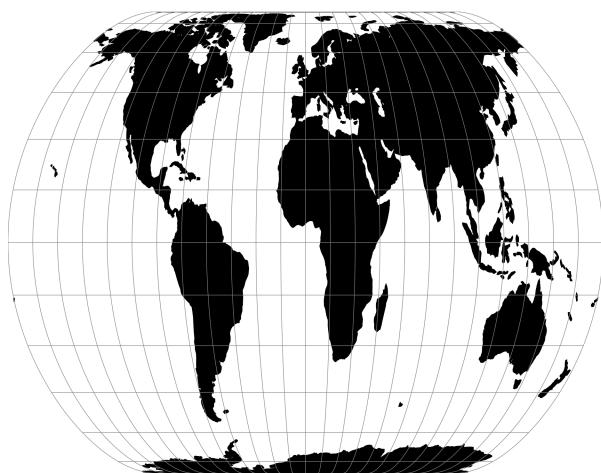
Nell

+proj=nell



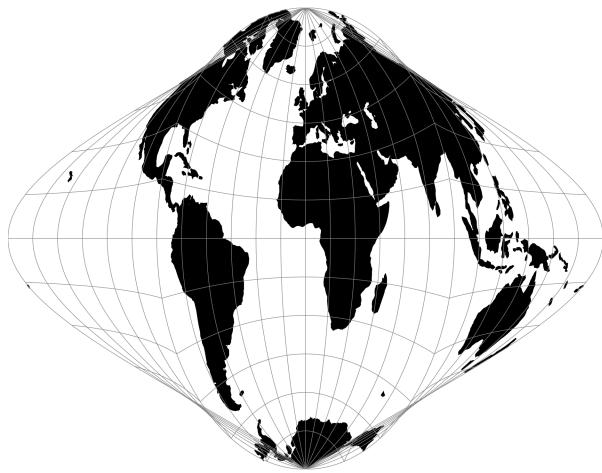
Nell-Hammer

+proj=nell_h



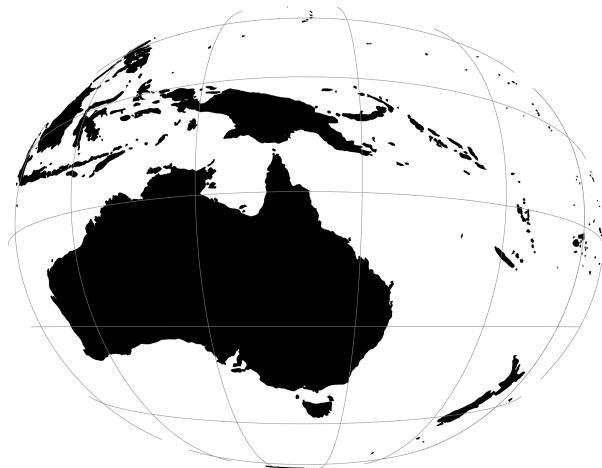
Nicolosi Globular

`+proj=nicol`



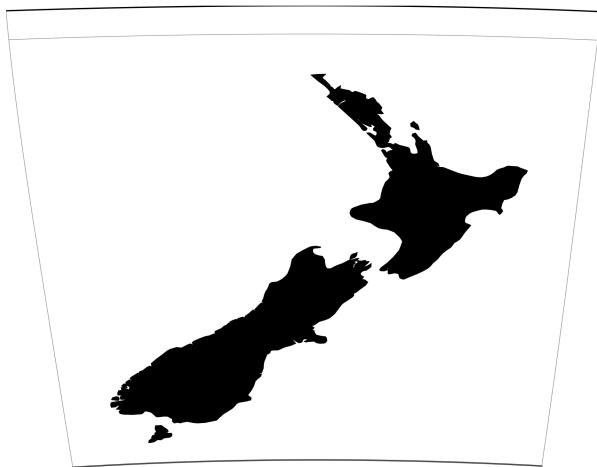
Near-sided perspective

`+proj=nspers +h=3000000 +lat_0=-20 +lon_0=145`



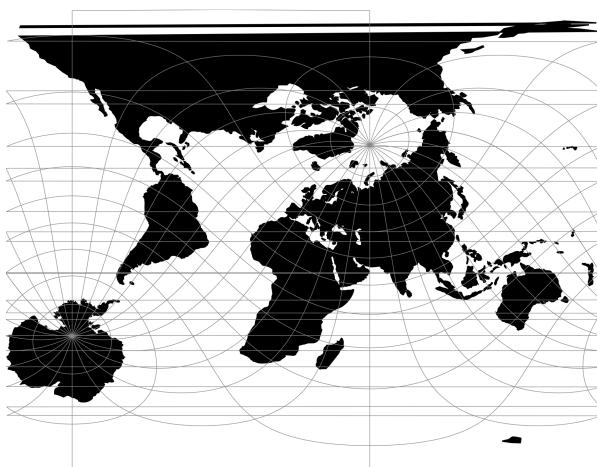
New Zealand Map Grid

`+proj=nzmg`



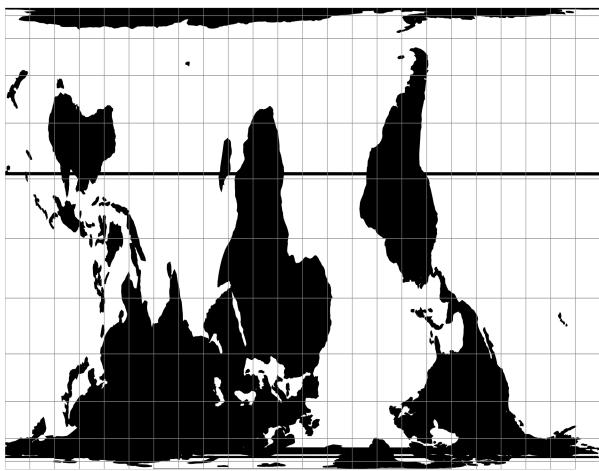
General Oblique Transformation

`+proj=ob_tran +o_proj=mill +o_lon_p=40 +o_lat_p=50 +lon_0=60`



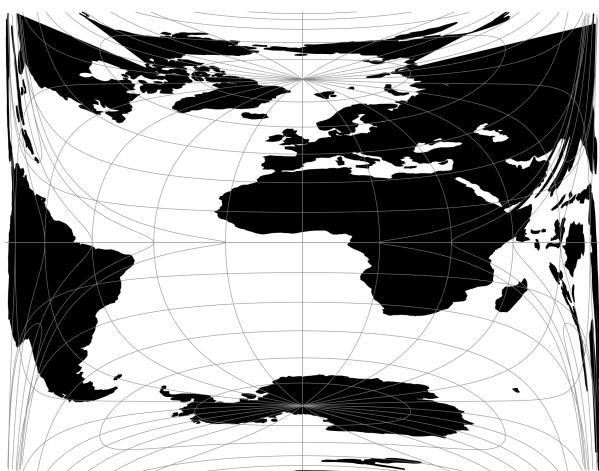
Oblique Cylindrical Equal Area

+proj=ocea



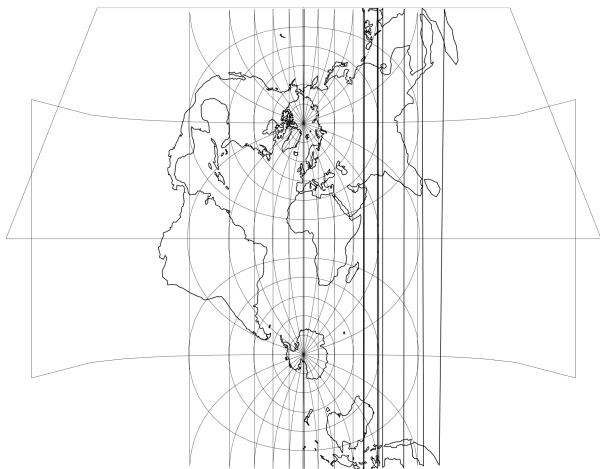
Oblated Equal Area

+proj=ocea +m=1 +n=2



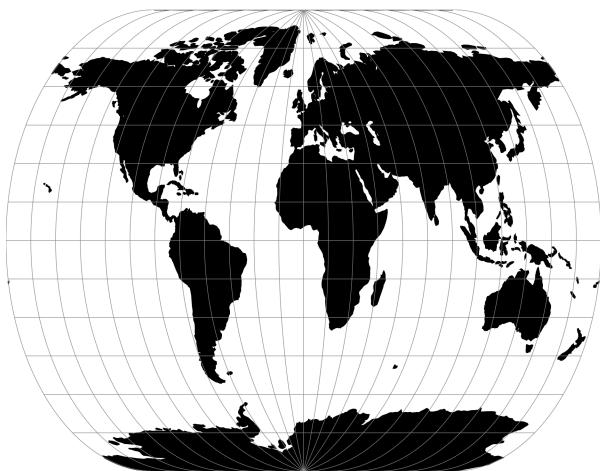
Oblique Mercator

+proj=omerc +lat_1=45 +lat_2=55



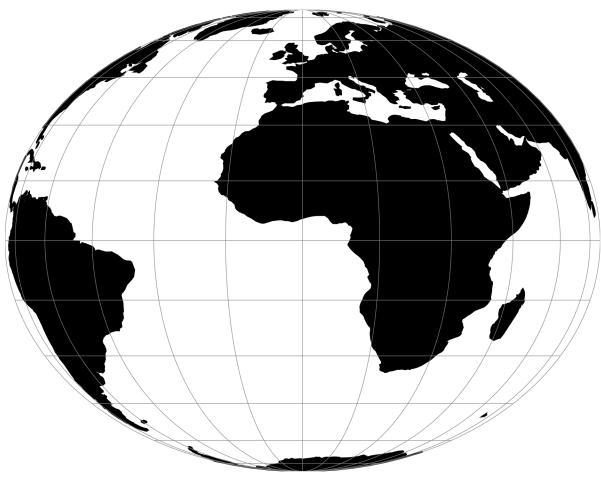
Ortelius Oval

+proj=ortel



Orthographic

+proj=ortho



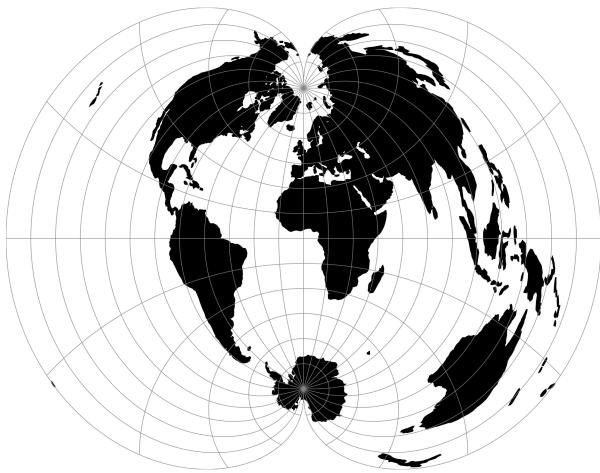
Perspective Conic

+proj=pconic +lat_1=25 +lat_2=75



Polyconic (American)

`+proj=poly`



Putnins P1

`+proj=putp1`



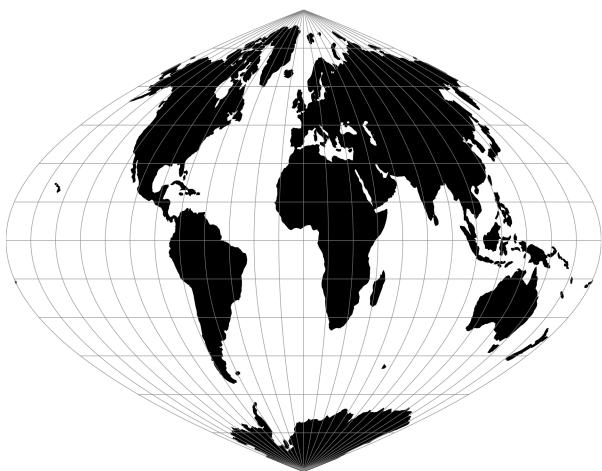
Putnins P2

+proj=putp2



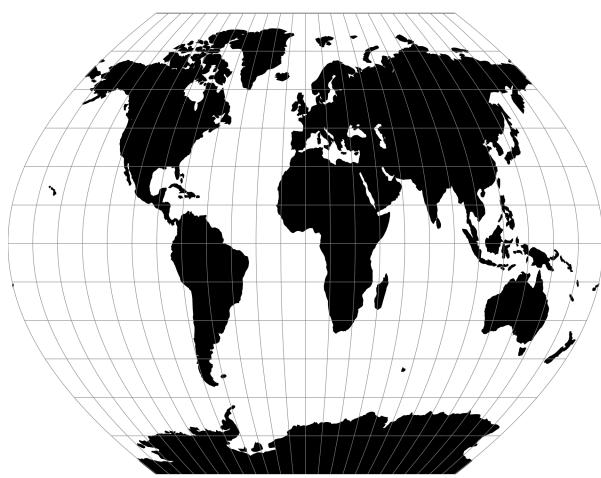
Putnins P3

+proj=putp3



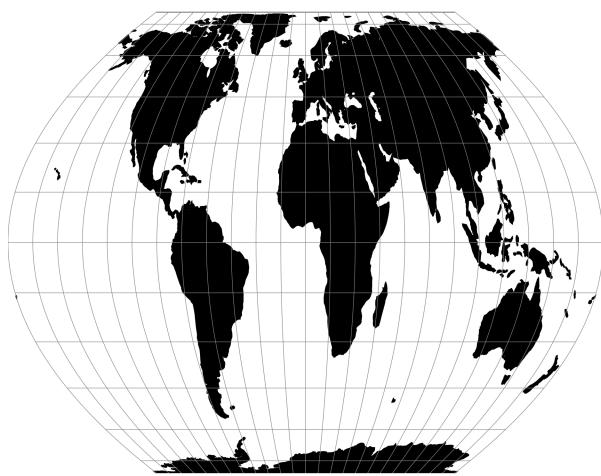
Putnins P3'

+proj=putp3p



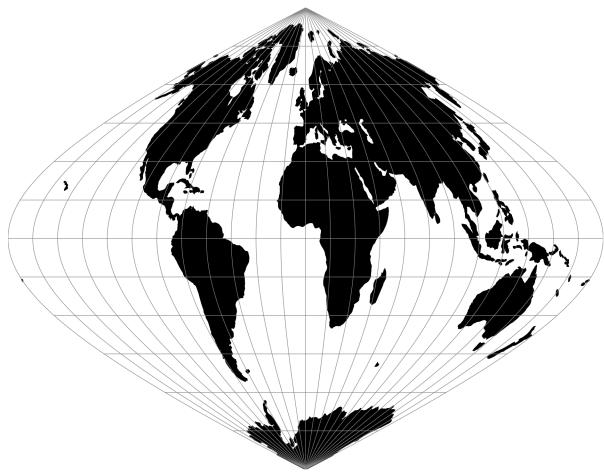
Putnins P4'

+proj=putp4p



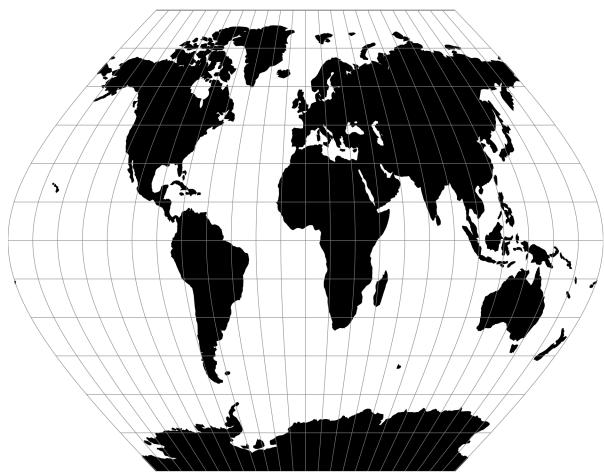
Putnins P5

+proj=putp5



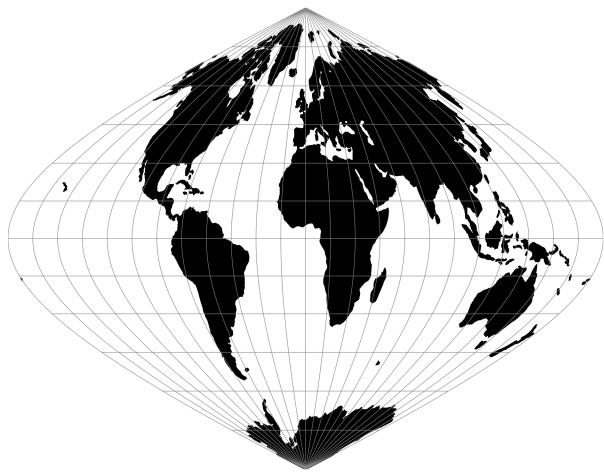
Putnins P5'

+proj=putp5p



Putnins P6

+proj=putp6



Putnins P6'

+proj=putp6p



Quartic Authalic

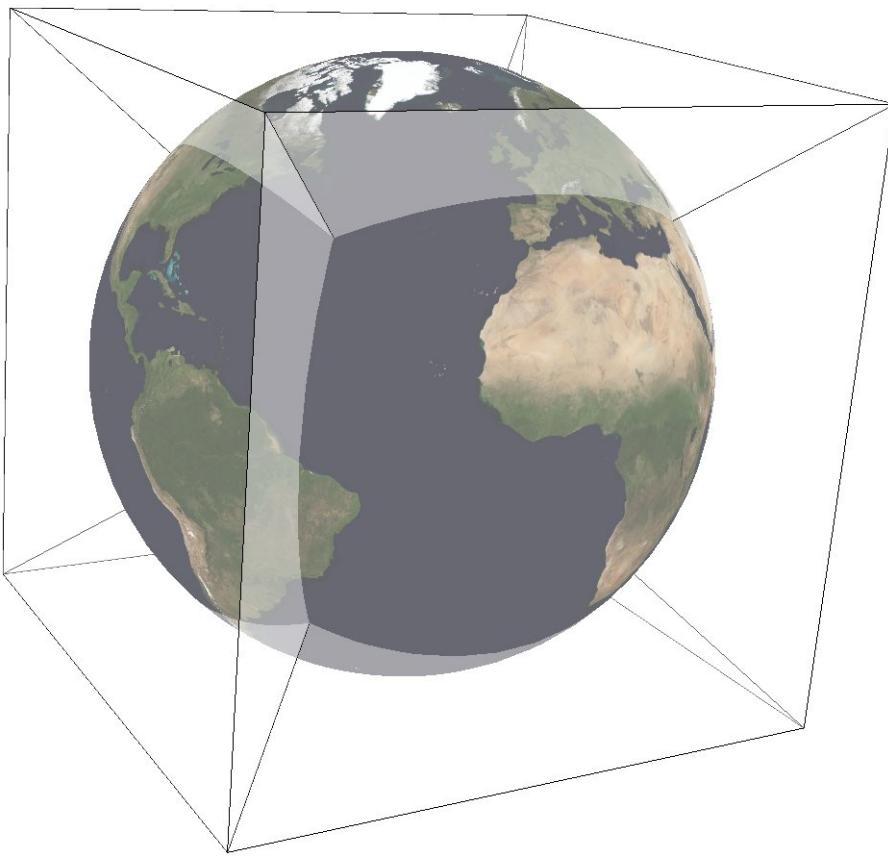
`+proj=qua_aut`



Quadrilaterized Spherical Cube

Classification	Azimuthal
Available forms	Forward and inverse, elliptical projection
Defined area	Global
Implemented by	Martin Lambers
Options	
<code>+lat_0</code>	Latitude (in degrees) of the view position.
<code>+lon_0</code>	Longitude (in degrees) of the view position.

The purpose of the Quadrilaterized Spherical Cube (QSC) projection is to project a sphere surface onto the six sides of a cube:



For this purpose, other alternatives can be used, notably [Gnomonic](#) or [HEALPix](#). However, QSC projection has the following favorable properties:

It is an equal-area projection, and at the same time introduces only limited angular distortions. It treats all cube sides equally, i.e. it does not use different projections for polar areas and equatorial areas. These properties make QSC projection a good choice for planetary-scale terrain rendering. Map data can be organized in quadtree structures for each cube side. See [\[LambersKolb2012\]](#) for an example.

The QSC projection was introduced by [\[ONeilLaubscher1976\]](#), building on previous work by [\[ChanONeil1975\]](#). For clarity: The earlier QSC variant described in [\[ChanONeil1975\]](#) became known as the COBE QSC since it was used by the NASA Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) project; it is an approximately equal-area projection and is not the same as the QSC projection.

See also [\[CalabrettaGreisen2002\]](#) Sec. 5.6.2 and 5.6.3 for a description of both and some analysis.

In this implementation, the QSC projection projects onto one side of a circumscribed cube. The cube side is selected by choosing one of the following six projection centers:

+lat_0=0 +lon_0=0	front cube side
+lat_0=0 +lon_0=90	right cube side
+lat_0=0 +lon_0=180	back cube side
+lat_0=0 +lon_0=-90	left cube side
+lat_0=90	top cube side
+lat_0=-90	bottom cube side

Furthermore, this implementation allows the projection to be applied to ellipsoids. A preceding shift to a sphere is performed automatically; see [\[LambersKolb2012\]](#) for details.

Usage

The following example uses QSC projection via GDAL to create the six cube side maps from a world map for the WGS84 ellipsoid:

```
gdalwarp -t_srs "+wktext +proj=qsc +units=m +ellps=WGS84 +lat_0=0 +lon_0=0" \
    -wo SOURCE_EXTRA=100 -wo SAMPLE_GRID=YES -te -6378137 -6378137 6378137 6378137 \
    worldmap.tif frontside.tif

gdalwarp -t_srs "+wktext +proj=qsc +units=m +ellps=WGS84 +lat_0=0 +lon_0=90" \
    -wo SOURCE_EXTRA=100 -wo SAMPLE_GRID=YES -te -6378137 -6378137 6378137 6378137 \
    worldmap.tif rightside.tif

gdalwarp -t_srs "+wktext +proj=qsc +units=m +ellps=WGS84 +lat_0=0 +lon_0=180" \
    -wo SOURCE_EXTRA=100 -wo SAMPLE_GRID=YES -te -6378137 -6378137 6378137 6378137 \
    worldmap.tif backside.tif

gdalwarp -t_srs "+wktext +proj=qsc +units=m +ellps=WGS84 +lat_0=0 +lon_0=-90" \
    -wo SOURCE_EXTRA=100 -wo SAMPLE_GRID=YES -te -6378137 -6378137 6378137 6378137 \
    worldmap.tif leftside.tif

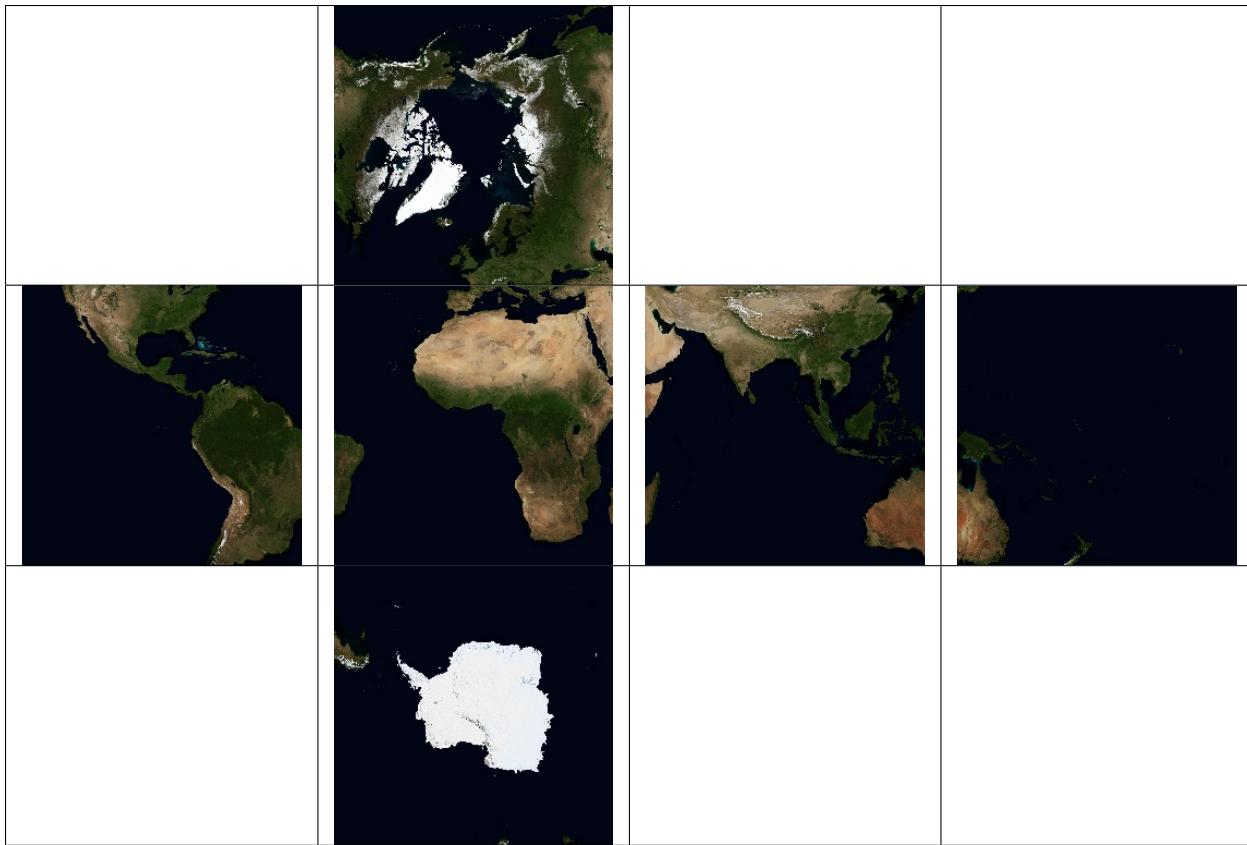
gdalwarp -t_srs "+wktext +proj=qsc +units=m +ellps=WGS84 +lat_0=90 +lon_0=0" \
    -wo SOURCE_EXTRA=100 -wo SAMPLE_GRID=YES -te -6378137 -6378137 6378137 6378137 \
    worldmap.tif topside.tif

gdalwarp -t_srs "+wktext +proj=qsc +units=m +ellps=WGS84 +lat_0=-90 +lon_0=0" \
    -wo SOURCE_EXTRA=100 -wo SAMPLE_GRID=YES -te -6378137 -6378137 6378137 6378137 \
    worldmap.tif bottomside.tif
```

Explanation:

- QSC projection is selected with `+wktext +proj=qsc`.
- The WGS84 ellipsoid is specified with `+ellps=WGS84`.
- The cube side is selected with `+lat_0=... +lon_0=....`
- The `-wo` options are necessary for GDAL to avoid holes in the output maps.
- The `-te` option limits the extends of the output map to the major axis diameter (from `-radius` to `+radius` in both x and y direction). These are the dimensions of one side of the circumscribing cube.

The resulting images can be laid out in a grid like below.

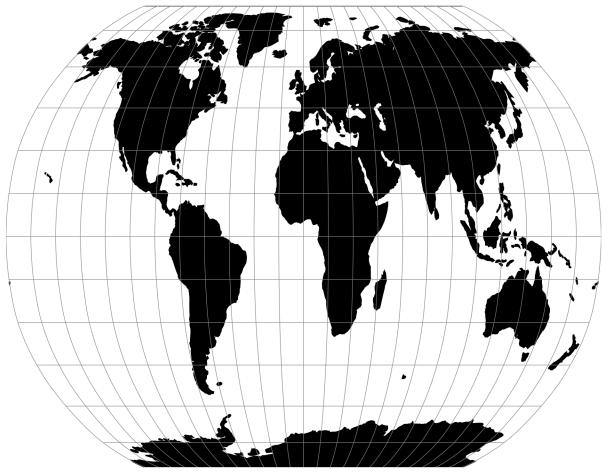


Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)
2. [NASA](#)

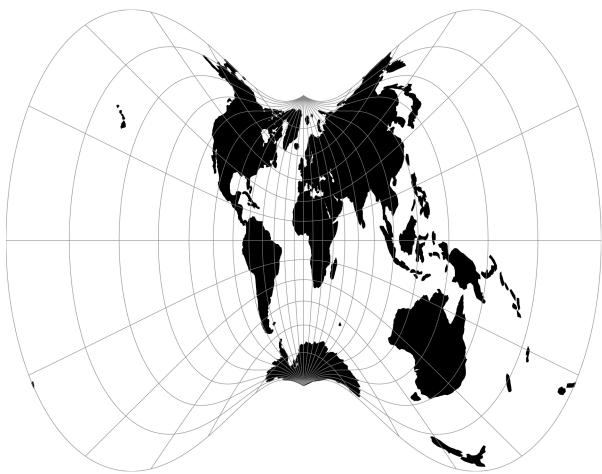
Robinson

`+proj=robin`



Roussilhe Stereographic

`+proj=rouss`



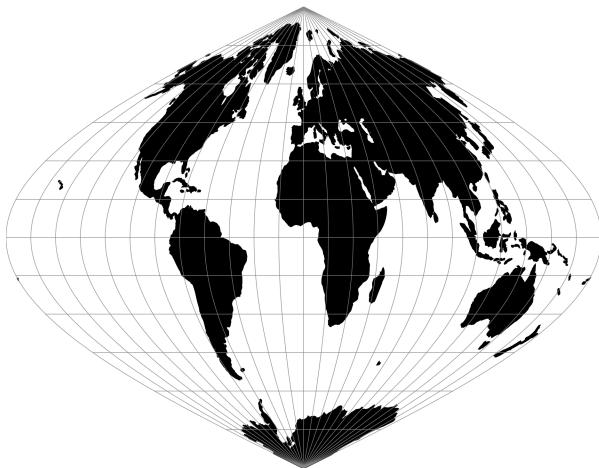
Rectangular Polyconic

+proj=rpoly



Sinusoidal (Sanson-Flamsteed)

+proj=sinu



MacBryde and Thomas developed generalized formulas for several of the pseudocylindricals with sinusoidal meridians:

$$x = C\lambda(m + \cos\theta)/(m + 1)$$

$$y = C\theta$$

$$C = \sqrt{(m + 1)/n}$$

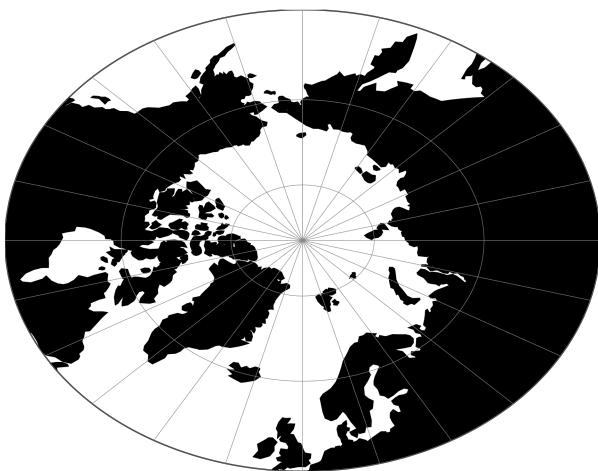
Swiss. Obl. Mercator

+proj=somerc

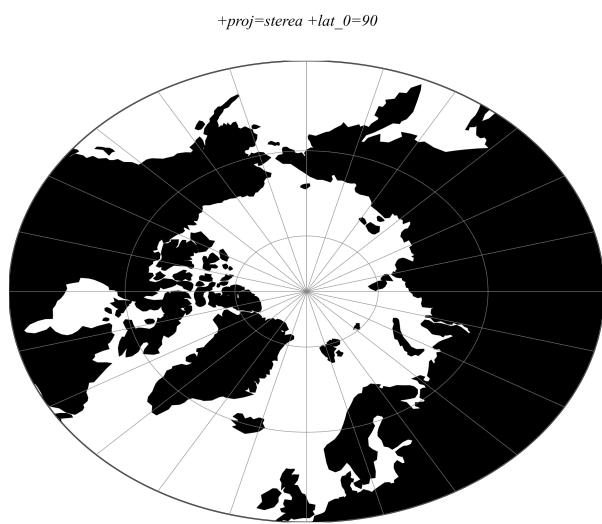


Stereographic

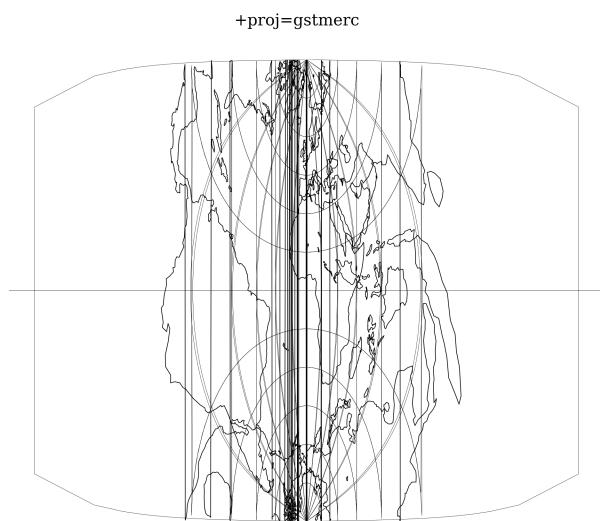
+proj=stere +lat_0=90 +lat_ts=75



Oblique Stereographic Alternative



Gauss-Schreiber Transverse Mercator (aka Gauss-Laborde Reunion)



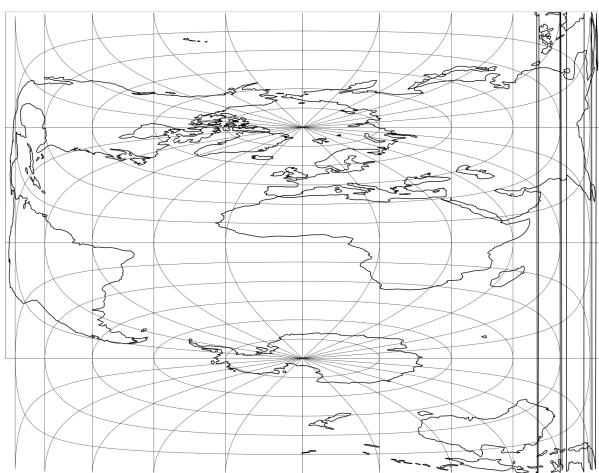
Transverse Central Cylindrical

+proj=tcc



Transverse Cylindrical Equal Area

+proj=tcea



Tissot

`+proj=tissot +lat_1=60 +lat_2=65`



Transverse Mercator

The transverse Mercator projection in its various forms is the most widely used projected coordinate system for world topographical and offshore mapping.

Classification	Transverse and oblique cylindrical
Available forms	Forward and inverse, Spherical and Elliptical
Defined area	Global, but reasonably accurate only within 15 degrees of the central meridian
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	
<code>+lat_0</code>	Latitude of origin (Default to 0)
<code>+k0</code>	Scale factor at natural origin (Default to 1)

`+proj=tmerc`



Usage

Prior to the development of the Universal Transverse Mercator coordinate system, several European nations demonstrated the utility of grid-based conformal maps by mapping their territory during the interwar period. Calculating the distance between two points on these maps could be performed more easily in the field (using the Pythagorean theorem) than was possible using the trigonometric formulas required under the graticule-based system of latitude and longitude. In the post-war years, these concepts were extended into the Universal Transverse Mercator/Universal Polar Stereographic (UTM/UPS) coordinate system, which is a global (or universal) system of grid-based maps.

The following table gives special cases of the Transverse Mercator projection.

Projection Name	Areas	Central meridian	Zone width	Scale Factor
Transverse Mercator	World wide	Various	less than 6°	Vari-ous
Transverse Mercator south oriented	Southern Africa	2° intervals E of 11°E	2°	1.000
UTM North hemisphere	World wide equator to 84°N	6° intervals E & W of 3° E & W	Always 6°	0.9996
UTM South hemisphere	World wide north of 80°S to equator	6° intervals E & W of 3° E & W	Always 6°	0.9996
Gauss-Kruger	Former USSR, Yugoslavia, Germany, S. America, China	Various, according to area	Usually less than 6°, often less than 4°	1.0000
Gauss Boaga	Italy	Various, according to area	6°	0.9996

Example using Gauss-Kruger on Germany area (aka EPSG:31467)

```
$ echo 9 51 | proj +proj=tmerc +lat_0=0 +lon_0=9 +k=1 +x_0=3500000 +y_0=0
↪+ellps=bessel +datum=potsdam +units=m +no_defs
3500000.00 5651505.56
```

Example using Gauss Boaga on Italy area (EPSG:3004)

```
$ echo 15 42 | proj +proj=tmerc +lat_0=0 +lon_0=15 +k=0.9996 +x_0=2520000 +y_0=0
↪+ellps=intl +units=m +no_defs
2520000.00 4649858.60
```

Mathematical definition

The formulas describing the Transverse Mercator are all taken from Evenden's [[Evenden2005](#)].

ϕ_0 is the latitude of origin that match the center of the map. It can be set with `+lat_0`.

k_0 is the scale factor at the natural origin (on the central meridian). It can be set with `+k_0`.

$M(\phi)$ is the meridional distance.

Spherical form

Forward projection

$$B = \cos \phi \sin \lambda$$

$$x = \frac{k_0}{2} \ln\left(\frac{1+B}{1-B}\right)$$

$$y = k_0 \left(\arctan\left(\frac{\tan(\phi)}{\cos \lambda}\right) - \phi_0 \right)$$

Inverse projection

$$D = \frac{y}{k_0} + \phi_0$$

$$x' = \frac{x}{k_0}$$

$$\phi = \arcsin\left(\frac{\sin D}{\cosh x'}\right)$$

$$\lambda = \arctan\left(\frac{\sinh x'}{\cos D}\right)$$

Elliptical form**Forward projection**

$$N = \frac{k_0}{(1 - e^2 \sin^2 \phi)^{1/2}}$$

$$R = \frac{k_0(1 - e^2)}{(1 - e^2 \sin^2 \phi)^{3/2}}$$

$$t = \tan(\phi)$$

$$\eta = \frac{e^2}{1 - e^2} \cos^2 \phi$$

$$x = k_0 \lambda \cos \phi$$

$$+ \frac{k_0 \lambda^3 \cos^3 \phi}{3!} (1 - t^2 + \eta^2)$$

$$+ \frac{k_0 \lambda^5 \cos^5 \phi}{5!} (5 - 18t^2 + t^4 + 14\eta^2 - 58t^2\eta^2)$$

$$+ \frac{k_0 \lambda^7 \cos^7 \phi}{7!} (61 - 479t^2 + 179t^4 - t^6)$$

$$y = M(\phi)$$

$$+ \frac{k_0 \lambda^2 \sin(\phi) \cos \phi}{2!}$$

$$+ \frac{k_0 \lambda^4 \sin(\phi) \cos^3 \phi}{4!} (5 - t^2 + 9\eta^2 + 4\eta^4)$$

$$+ \frac{k_0 \lambda^6 \sin(\phi) \cos^5 \phi}{6!} (61 - 58t^2 + t^4 + 270\eta^2 - 330t^2\eta^2)$$

$$+ \frac{k_0 \lambda^8 \sin(\phi) \cos^7 \phi}{8!} (1385 - 3111t^2 + 543t^4 - t^6)$$

Inverse projection

$$\phi_1 = M^{-1}(y)$$

$$N_1 = \frac{k_0}{1 - e^2 \sin^2 \phi_1)^{1/2}}$$

$$R_1 = \frac{k_0(1 - e^2)}{(1 - e^2 \sin^2 \phi_1)^{3/2}}$$

$$t_1 = \tan(\phi_1)$$

$$\eta_1 = \frac{e^2}{1 - e^2} \cos^2 \phi_1$$

$$\phi = \phi_1$$

$$- \frac{t_1 x^2}{2! R_1 N_1}$$

$$+ \frac{t_1 x^4}{4! R_1 N_1^3} (5 + 3t_1^2 + \eta_1^2 - 4\eta_1^4 - 9\eta_1^2 t_1^2)$$

$$- \frac{t_1 x^6}{6! R_1 N_1^5} (61 + 90t_1^2 + 46\eta_1^2 + 45t_1^4 - 252t_1^2 \eta_1^2)$$

$$+ \frac{t_1 x^8}{8! R_1 N_1^7} (1385 + 3633t_1^2 + 4095t_1^4 + 1575t_1^6)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{x}{\cos \phi N_1}$$

$$- \frac{x^3}{3! \cos \phi N_1^3} (1 + 2t_1^2 + \eta_1^2)$$

$$+ \frac{x^5}{5! \cos \phi N_1^5} (5 + 6\eta_1^2 + 28t_1^2 - 3\eta_1^2 + 8t_1^2 \eta_1^2)$$

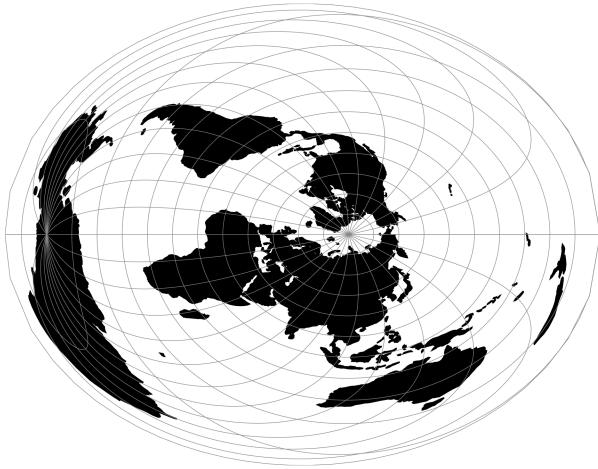
$$- \frac{x^7}{7! \cos \phi N_1^7} (61 + 662t_1^2 + 1320t_1^4 + 720t_1^6)$$

Further reading

1. [Wikipedia](#)
2. EPSG, POSC literature pertaining to Coordinate Conversions and Transformations including Formulas

Two Point Equidistant

`+proj=tpeqd +lat_1=60 +lat_2=65`



Tilted perspective

Classification	Azimuthal
Available forms	Forward and inverse, spherical projection
Defined area	Global
Implemented by	Gerald I. Evenden
Options	
<code>+h</code>	Height (in meters) above the surface. Required.
<code>+azi</code>	Bearing (in degrees) from due north.
<code>+tilt</code>	Angle (in degrees) away from nadir.
<code>+lat_0</code>	Latitude (in degrees) of the view position.
<code>+lon_0</code>	Longitude (in degrees) of the view position.

`+proj=tpers +h=5500000 +lat_0=40`

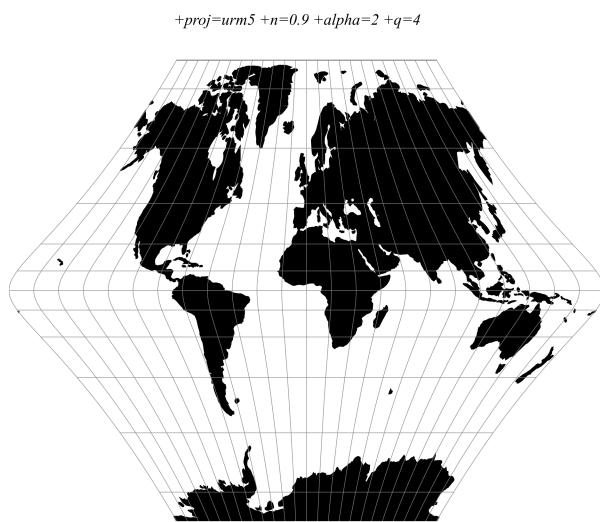


Tilted Perspective is similar to [*Near-sided perspective*](#) (`nsper`) in that it simulates a perspective view from a height. Where `nsper` projects onto a plane tangent to the surface, Tilted Perspective orients the plane towards the direction of the view. Thus, extra parameters `azi` and `tilt` are required beyond `nsper`'s `h`. As with `nsper`, `lat_0` & `lon_0` are also required for satellite position.

Universal Polar Stereographic

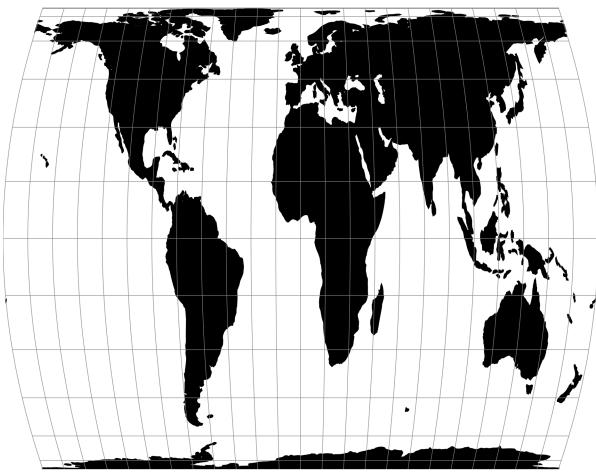


Urmaev V



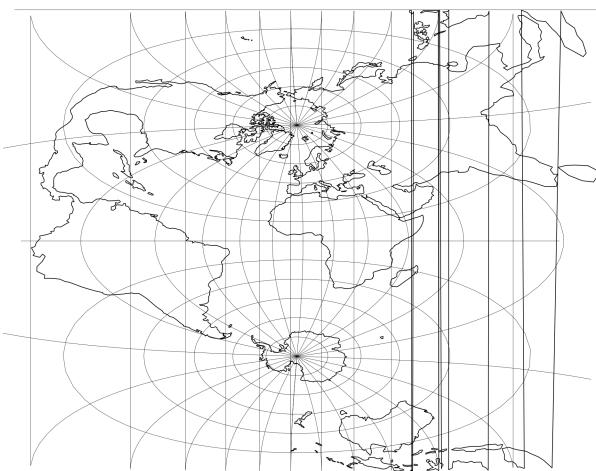
Urmaev Flat-Polar Sinusoidal

+proj=urmfps +n=0.5



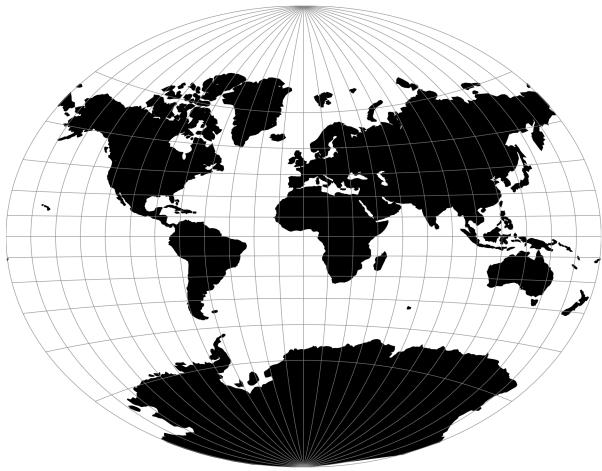
Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)

+proj=utm



van der Grinten (I)

`+proj=vandg`



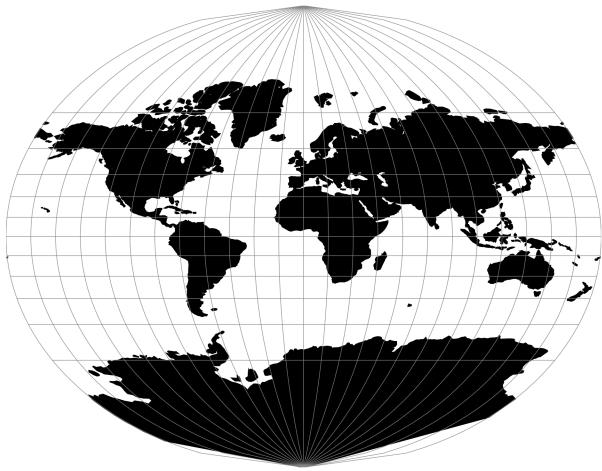
van der Grinten II

`+proj=vandg2`



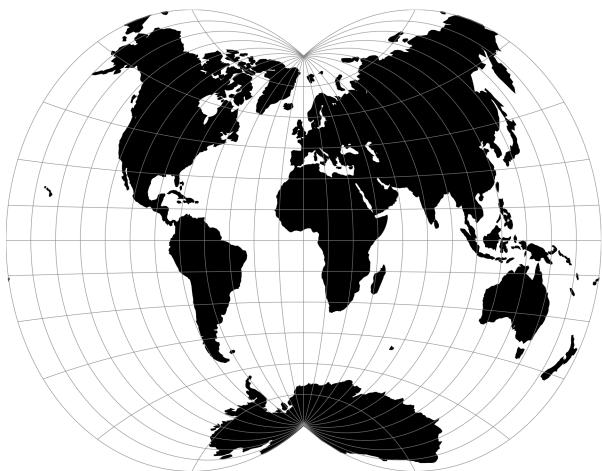
van der Grinten III

+proj=vandg3



van der Grinten IV

+proj=vandg4



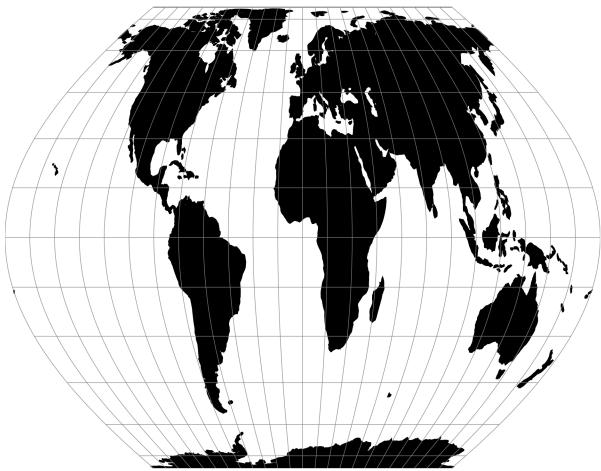
Vitkovsky I

`+proj=vitk1 +lat_1=45 +lat_2=55`



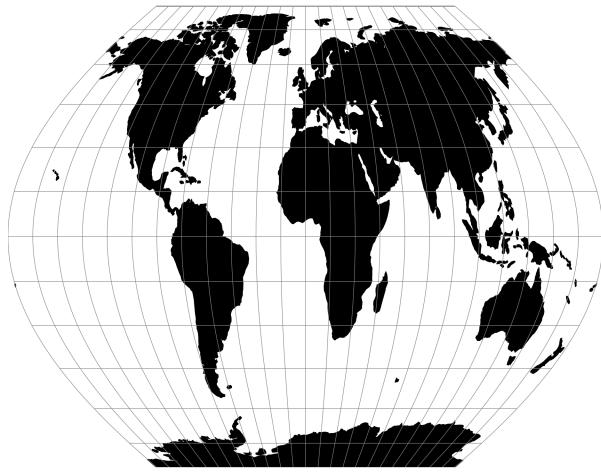
Wagner I (Kavraisky VI)

`+proj=wag1`



Wagner II

`+proj=wag2`



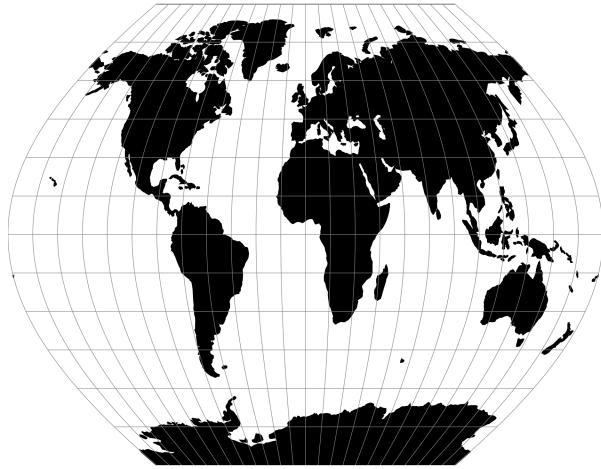
$$x = 0.92483\lambda \cos \theta$$

$$y = 1.38725\theta$$

$$\sin \theta = 0.88022 \sin(0.8855\phi)$$

Wagner III

`+proj=wag3`

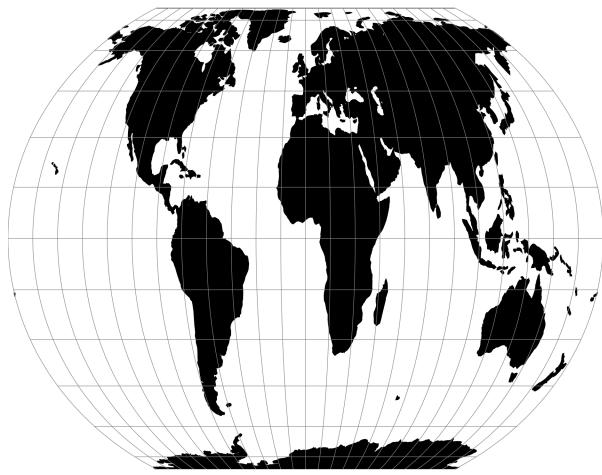


$$x = [\cos \phi_{ts} / \cos(2\phi_{ts}/3)]\lambda \cos(2\phi/3)$$

$$y = \phi$$

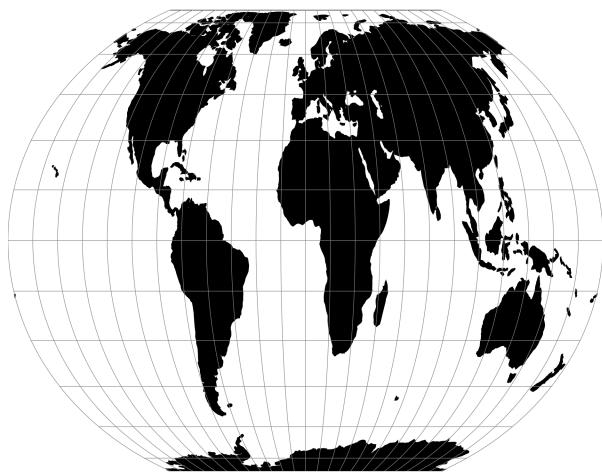
Wagner IV

`+proj=wag4`



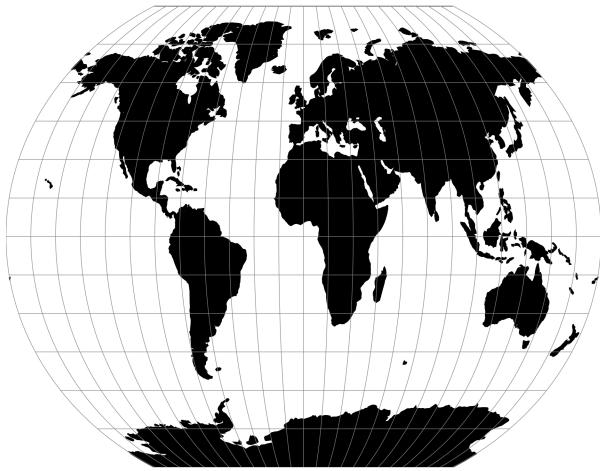
Wagner V

`+proj=wag5`



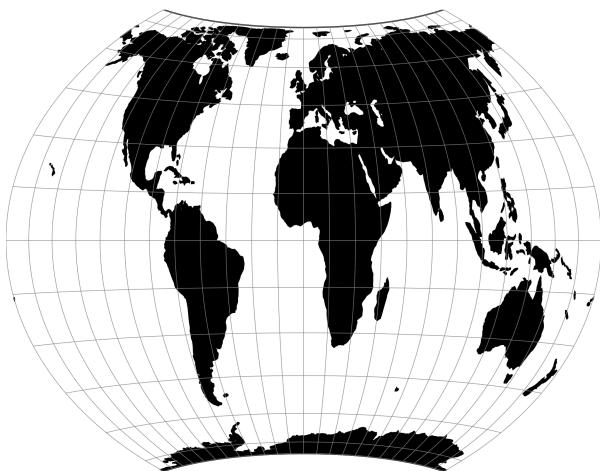
Wagner VI

`+proj=wag6`



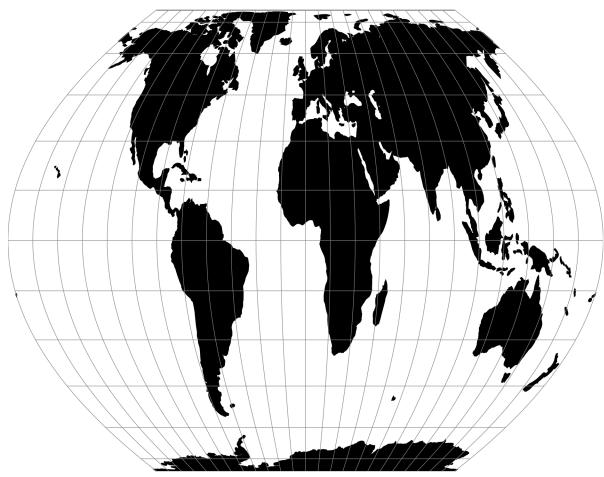
Wagner VII

`+proj=wag7`



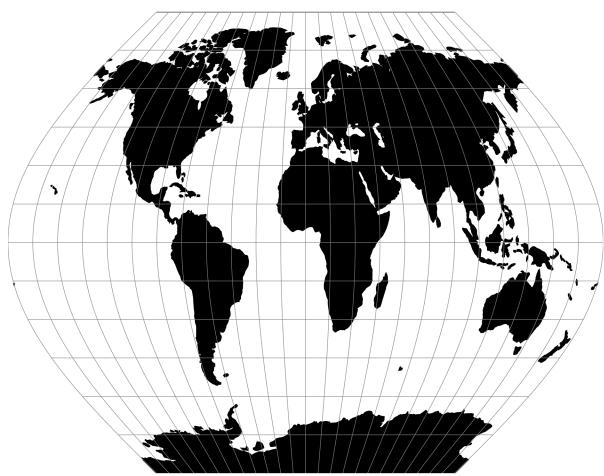
Werenstiold I

+proj=weren



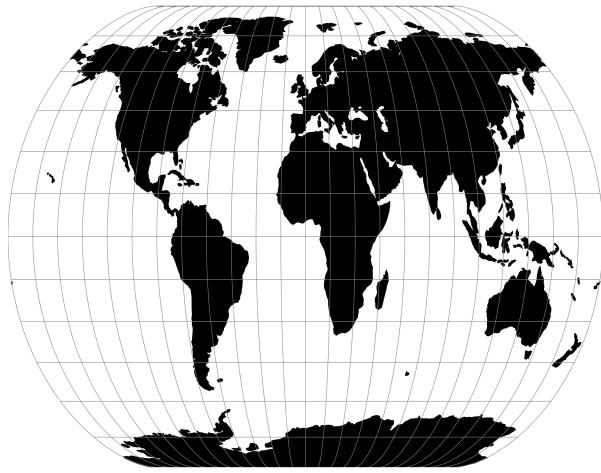
Winkel I

+proj=winkel



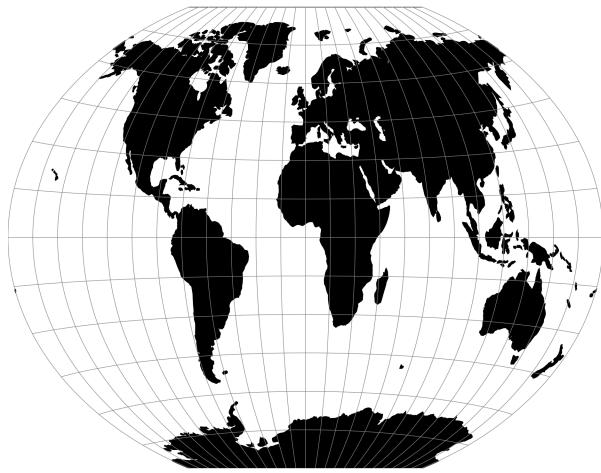
Winkel II

`+proj=wink2`



Winkel Tripel

`+proj=wintri`



Transformations

Cartesian to geodetic conversion

Convert geodetic coordinates to cartesian coordinates.

Options	
+ellps	Ellipsoid of the input coordinates. If used together with the ellipsoid parameters below, +ellps is overwritten.
+a	Semi-major radius of ellipsoid axis.
+b	Semi-minor radius of ellipsoid axis.
+es	Eccentricity of ellipsoid.
+f	Flattening of ellipsoid.

Helmert transform

Change reference frame by Helmert shift.

Molodensky transform

Perform a datum shift in geodetic coordinate space.

Horizontal grid shift

Change of horizontal datum by grid shift.

Options	
+grids	Comma-separated list of grids to load.

The horizontal grid shift is done by offsetting the planar input coordinates by a specific amount determined by the loaded grids. The simplest use case of the horizontal grid shift is applying a single grid:

```
+hgridshift +grids=nzgr2kgid0005.gsb
```

More than one grid can be loaded at the same time, for instance in case the dataset needs to be transformed spans several countries. In this example grids of the continental US, Alaska and Canada is loaded at the same time:

```
+hgridshift +grids=@conus,@alaska,@ntv2_0.gsb,@ntv_can.dat
```

The @ in the above example states that the grid is optional, in case the grid is not found in the PROJ.4 search path. The list of grids is prioritized so that grids in the start of the list takes precedence over the grids in the back of the list.

Vertical grid shift

Change Vertical datum change by grid shift

Options	
+grids	Comma-separated list of grids to load.

The vertical grid shift is done by offsetting the vertical input coordinates by a specific amount determined by the loaded grids. The simplest use case of the horizontal grid shift is applying a single grid. Here we change the vertical reference from the ellipsoid to the global geoid model, EGM96:

```
+vgridshift +grids=egm96_16.gtx
```

More than one grid can be loaded at the same time, for instance in the case where a better geoid model than the global is available for a certain area. Here the gridshift is set up so that the local DVR90 geoid model takes precedence over the global model:

```
+vgridshift +grids=@dvr90.gtx,egm96_16.gtx
```

The @ in the above example states that the grid is optional, in case the grid is not found in the PROJ.4 search path. The list of grids is prioritized so that grids in the start of the list takes precedence over the grids in the back of the list.

Unit conversion

Convert between various distance and time units.

Geodesic Calculations

Contents

- *Geodesic Calculations*
 - *Geodesic Calculations*
 - * *Relevant mailing list threads*
 - *Terminology*
 - *The Math*
 - * *Spherical Approximation*
 - * *Ellipsoidal Approximation*
 - * *Triaxial Ellipsoid*
 - *The History*

Geodesic Calculations

Geodesic calculations are calculations along lines (great circle) on the surface of the earth. They can answer questions like:

- What is the distance between these two points?
- If I travel X meters from point A at bearing phi, where will I be. They are done in native lat-long coordinates, rather than in projected coordinates.

Relevant mailing list threads

- <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/3361>
- <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/3375>
- <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/3435>
- <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/3588>
- <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/3925>
- <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/4047>

- <http://thread.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/4083>

Terminology

The shortest distance on the surface of a solid is generally termed a geodesic, be it an ellipsoid of revolution, aposphere, etc. On a sphere, the geodesic is termed a Great Circle.

HOWEVER, when computing the distance between two points using a projected coordinate system, that is a conformal projection such as Transverse Mercator, Oblique Mercator, Normal Mercator, Stereographic, or Lambert Conformal Conic - that then is a GRID distance which can be converted to an equivalent GEODETIC distance using the function for "Scale Factor at a Point." The conversion is then termed "Grid Distance to Geodetic Distance," even though it will not be as exactly correct as a true ellipsoidal geodesic. Closer to the truth with a TM than with a Lambert or other conformal projection, but still not exactly "on."

So, it can be termed "geodetic distance" or a "geodesic distance," depending on just how you got there ...

The Math

Spherical Approximation

The simplest way to compute geodesics is using a sphere as an approximation for the earth. This from Mikael Rittri on the Proj mailing list:

If 1 percent accuracy is enough, I think you can use spherical formulas with a fixed Earth radius. You can find good formulas in the Aviation Formulary of Ed Williams, <http://williams.best.vwh.net/avform.htm>.

For the fixed Earth radius, I would choose the average of the:

c = radius of curvature at the poles,

$\frac{b^2}{a}$ = radius of curvature in a meridian plane at the equator,

since these are the extreme values for the local radius of curvature of the earth ellipsoid.

If your coordinates are given in WGS84, then

$c = 6\,399\,593.626$ m,

$\frac{b^2}{a} = 6\,335\,439.327$ m,

(see http://home.online.no/~sigurdhu/WGS84_Eng.html) so their average is 6,367,516.477 m. The maximal error for distance calculation should then be less than 0.51 percent.

When computing the azimuth between two points by the spherical formulas, I think the maximal error on WGS84 will be 0.2 degrees, at least if the points are not too far away (less than 1000 km apart, say). The error should be maximal near the equator, for azimuths near northeast etc.

I am not sure about the spherical errors for the forward geodetic problem: point positioning given initial point, distance and azimuth.

Ellipsoidal Approximation

For more accuracy, the earth can be approximated with an ellipsoid, complicating the math somewhat. See the wikipedia page, [Geodesics on an ellipsoid](#), for more information.

Thaddeus Vincenty's method, April 1975

For a very good procedure to calculate inter point distances see:

http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/PC_PROD/Inv_Fwd/ (Fortran code, DOS executables, and an online app)

and algorithm details published in: Vincenty, T. (1975)

Javascript code

Chris Veness has coded Vincenty's formulas as !JavaScript.

distance: <http://www.movable-type.co.uk/scripts/latlong-vincenty.html>

direct: <http://www.movable-type.co.uk/scripts/latlong-vincenty-direct.html>

C code

From Gerald Evenden: a library of the converted NGS Vincenty geodesic procedure and an application program, 'geodesic'. In the case of a spherical earth [[Snyder1987](#)]’s preferred equations are used.

- <http://article.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/3588>

The link in this message is broken. The correct URL is <http://home.comcast.net/~gevenden56/proj/>

Earlier Mr. Evenden had posted to the PROJ.4 mailing list this code for determination of true distance and respective forward and back azimuths between two points on the ellipsoid. Good for any pair of points that are not antipodal. Later he posted that this was not in fact the translation of NGS FORTRAN code, but something else. But, for what it's worth, here is the posted code (source unknown):

- <http://article.gmane.org/gmane.comp.gis.proj-4.devel/3478>

PROJ.4 - geod program

The PROJ.4 [wiki:man_geod geod] program can be used for great circle distances on an ellipsoid. As of proj version 4.9.0, this uses a translation of GeographicLib::Geodesic (see below) into C. The underlying geodesic calculation API is exposed as part of the PROJ.4 library (via the geodesic.h header). Prior to version 4.9.0, the algorithm documented here was used: ‘ Paul D. Thomas, 1970 Spheroidal Geodesics, Reference Systems, and Local Geometry’ U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, p. 162 Engineering Library 526.3 T36s

<http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/AD0703541>

GeographicLib::Geodesic

Charles Karney has written a C++ class to do geodesic calculations and a utility GeodSolve to call it. See

- <http://geographiclib.sourceforge.net/geod.html>

An online version of GeodSolve is available at

- <http://geographiclib.sourceforge.net/cgi-bin/GeodSolve>

This is an attempt to do geodesic calculations “right”, i.e.,

- accurate to round-off (i.e., about 15 nm);
- inverse solution always succeeds (even for near anti-podal points);

- reasonably fast (comparable in speed to Vincenty);
- differential properties of geodesics are computed (these give the scales of geodesic projections);
- the area between a geodesic and the equator is computed (allowing the area of geodesic polygons to be found);
- included also is an implementation in terms of elliptic integrals which can deal with ellipsoids with $0.01 < b/a < 100$.

A JavaScript implementation is included, see

- [geo-calc](#), a text interface to geodesic calculations;
- [geod-google](#), a tool for drawing geodesics on Google Maps.

Implementations in [Python](#), [Matlab](#), [C](#), [Fortran](#), and [Java](#) are also available.

The algorithms are described in

- C. F. F. Karney, [Algorithms for geodesics](#), J. Geodesy “‘87”(1), 43-55 (2013), DOI: [10.1007/s00190-012-0578-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00190-012-0578-z); geo-addenda.html.

Triaxial Ellipsoid

A triaxial ellipsoid is a marginally better approximation to the shape of the earth than an ellipsoid of revolution. The problem of geodesics on a triaxial ellipsoid was solved by Jacobi in 1838. For a discussion of this problem see * <http://geographiclib.sourceforge.net/html/triaxial.html> * the wikipedia entry: [Geodesics on a triaxial ellipsoid](#)

The History

The bibliography of papers on the geodesic problem for an ellipsoid is available at

- <http://geographiclib.sourceforge.net/geodesic-papers/biblio.html>

this includes links to online copies of the papers.

Grids

Contents

- *Grids*
 - *US, Canadian, French and New Zealand*
 - *Switzerland*
 - *HARN*
 - *HTDP*
 - *Hungary*
 - *Non-Free Grids*
 - * *Canada NTv2.0*
 - * *Australia*
 - * *Canada*

- * *Germany*
- * *Great Britain*
- * *Austria*
- * *Spain*
- * *Portugal*
- * *Brazil*
- * *South Africa*
- * *Netherlands*

Grid files are important for shifting and transforming between datums

US, Canadian, French and New Zealand

- <http://download.osgeo.org/proj/proj-datumgrid-1.6.zip>: US, Canadian, French and New Zealand datum shift grids - unzip in the *nad* directory before configuring to add NAD27/NAD83 and NZGD49 datum conversion

Switzerland

Background in ticket #145

We basically have two shift grids available. An official here:

[Swiss CHENyx06 dataset in NTv2 format](#)

And a derived in a temporary location which is probably going to disappear soon.

Main problem seems to be there's no mention of distributivity of the grid from the official website. It just tells: "you can use freely". The "contact" link is also broken, but maybe someone could make a phone call to ask for rephrasing that.

HARN

With the support of i-cubed, Frank Warmerdam has written tools to translate the HPGN grids from NOAA/NGS from .los/.las format into NTv2 format for convenient use with PROJ.4. This project included implementing a .los/.las reader for GDAL, and an NTv2 reader/writer. Also, a script to do the bulk translation was implemented in <https://github.com/OSGeo/gdal/tree/trunk/gdal/swig/python/samples/loslas2ntv2.py>. The command to do the translation was:

```
loslas2ntv2.py -auto *hpgn.los
```

As GDAL uses NAD83/WGS84 as a pivot datum, the sense of the HPGN datum shift offsets were negated to map from HPGN to NAD83 instead of the other way. The files can be used with PROJ.4 like this:

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +datum=NAD83
      +to +proj=latlong +nadgrids=./azhpgn.gsb +ellps=GRS80
```

```
# input:
-112 34
```

```
# output:  
111d59'59.996"W 34d0'0.006"N -0.000
```

This was confirmed against the NGS HPGN calculator.

The grids are available at http://download.osgeo.org/proj/hpgn_ntv2.zip

See also:

HTPD describes similar grid shifting

HTDP

HTPD describes the situation with HTDP grids based on NOAA/NGS HTDP Model.

Hungary

Hungarian grid ETRS89 - HD72/EOV (epsg:23700), both horizontal and elevation grids

Non-Free Grids

Not all grid shift files have licensing that allows them to be freely distributed, but can be obtained by users through free and legal methods.

Canada NTv2.0

Although NTv1 grid shifts are provided freely with PROJ.4, the higher-quality NTv2.0 file needs to be downloaded from Natural Resources Canada. More info: http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca/tools-ouils/ntv2_e.php.

Procedure:

1. Visit the [NTv2](#), and register/login
2. Follow the Download NTv2 link near the bottom of the page.
3. Unzip *ntv2_100325.zip* (or similar), and move the grid shift file *NTV2_0.GSB* to the proj directory (be sure to change the name to lowercase for consistency) * e.g.: *mv NTV2_0.GSB /usr/local/share/proj/ntv2_0.gsb*
4. **Test it using:**

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=clrk66 +nadgrids=@ntv2_0.gsb +to +proj=latlong  
+ellps=GRS80 +datum=NAD83  
-111 50
```

```
111d0'3.006"W 50d0'0.103"N 0.000 # correct answer
```

Australia

Geocentric Datum of Australia AGD66/AGD84

Canada

Canadian NTv2 grid shift binary for NAD27 <=> NAD83.

Germany

German BeTA2007 DHDN GK3 => ETRS89/UTM

Great Britain

Great Britain's OSTN15_NTv2: OSGB 1936 => ETRS89

Great Britain's OSTN02_NTv2: OSGB 1936 => ETRS89

Austria

Austrian Grid for MGI

Spain

Spanish grids for ED50.

Portugal

Portuguese grids for ED50, Lisbon 1890, Lisbon 1937 and Datum 73

Brazil

Brazilian grids for datums Corrego Alegre 1961, Corrego Alegre 1970-72, SAD69 and SAD69(96)

South Africa

South African grid (Cape to Hartebeesthoek94 or WGS84)

Netherlands

Dutch grid (Registration required before download)

HTPD

Contents

- *HTPD*
 - *Getting and building HTDP*
 - *Getting crs2crs2grid.py*
 - *Usage*
 - *See Also*

This page documents use of the *crs2crs2grid.py* script and the HTDP (Horizontal Time Dependent Positioning) grid shift modelling program from NGS/NOAA to produce PROJ.4 compatible grid shift files for fine grade conversions between various NAD83 epochs and WGS84. Traditionally PROJ.4 has treated NAD83 and WGS84 as equivalent and failed to distinguish between different epochs or realizations of those datums. At the scales of much mapping this is adequate but as interest grows in high resolution imagery and other high resolution mapping this is inadequate. Also, as the North American crust drifts over time the displacement between NAD83 and WGS84 grows (more than one foot over the last two decades).

Getting and building HTDP

The HTDP modelling program is in written FORTRAN. The source and documentation can be found on the HTDP page at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/TOOLS/Htdp/Htdp.shtml>

On linux systems it will be necessary to install *gfortran* or some FORTRAN compiler. For ubuntu something like the following should work.

```
apt-get install gfortran
```

To compile the program do something like the following to produce the binary “htdp” from the source code.

```
gfortran htdp.f90 -o htdp
```

Getting crs2crs2grid.py

The *crs2crs2grid.py* script can be found at <https://github.com/OSGeo/gdal/tree/trunk/gdal/swig/python/samples/crs2crs2grid.py>

It depends on having the GDAL Python bindings operational. If they are not available you will get an error something like the following:

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "./crs2crs2grid.py", line 37, in <module>
    from osgeo import gdal, gdal_array, osr
ImportError: No module named osgeo
```

Usage

```
crs2crs2grid.py
<src_crs_id> <src_crs_date> <dst_crs_id> <dst_crs_year>
[-griddef <ul_lon> <ul_lat> <ll_lon> <ll_lat> <lon_count> <lat_count>]
[-htdp <path_to_exe>] [-wrkdir <dirpath>] [-kwf]
-o <output_grid_name>

-griddef: by default the following values for roughly the continental USA
at a six minute step size are used:
-127 50 -66 25 251 611
-kwf: keep working files in the working directory for review.
```

```
crs2crs2grid.py 29 2002.0 8 2002.0 -o nad83_2002.ct2
```

The goal of *crs2crs2grid.py* is to produce a grid shift file for a designated region. The region is defined using the *-griddef* switch. When missing a continental US region is used. The script creates a set of sample points for the grid definition, runs the “htdp” program against it and then parses the resulting points and computes a point by point shift

to encode into the final grid shift file. By default it is assumed the *htdp* program will be in the executable path. If not, please provide the path to the executable using the *-htdp* switch.

The *htdp* program supports transformations between many CRSes and for each (or most?) of them you need to provide a date at which the CRS is fixed. The full set of CRS IDs available in the HTDP program are:

```

1...NAD_83(2011) (North America tectonic plate fixed)
29...NAD_83(CORS96) (NAD_83(2011) will be used)
30...NAD_83(2007) (NAD_83(2011) will be used)
2...NAD_83(PA11) (Pacific tectonic plate fixed)
31...NAD_83(PACP00) (NAD 83(PA11) will be used)
3...NAD_83(MA11) (Mariana tectonic plate fixed)
32...NAD_83(MARP00) (NAD_83(MA11) will be used)

4...WGS_72
5...WGS_84(transit) = NAD_83(2011)
6...WGS_84(G730) = ITRF92
7...WGS_84(G873) = ITRF96
8...WGS_84(G1150) = ITRF2000
9...PNEOS_90 = ITRF90
10...NEOS_90 = ITRF90
11...SIO/MIT_92 = ITRF91
12...ITRF88
13...ITRF89
14...ITRF90
15...ITRF91
16...ITRF92
17...ITRF93
18...ITRF94 = ITRF96
19...ITRF96
20...ITRF97
21...IGS97 = ITRF97
22...ITRF2000
23...IGS00 = ITRF2000
24...IGb00 = ITRF2000
25...ITRF2005
26...IGS05 = ITRF2005
27...ITRF2008
28...IGS08 = ITRF2008

```

The typical use case is mapping from NAD83 on a particular date to WGS84 on some date. In this case the source CRS ID “29” (NAD_83(CORS96)) and the destination CRS ID is “8 (WGS_84(G1150)). It is also necessary to select the source and destination date (epoch). For example:

```
crs2crs2grid.py 29 2002.0 8 2002.0 -o nad83_2002.ct2
```

The output is a CTable2 format grid shift file suitable for use with PROJ.4 (4.8.0 or newer). It might be utilized something like:

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +ellps=GRS80 +nadgrids=./nad83_2002.ct2 +to +proj=latlong
↪+datum=WGS84
```

See Also

- <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/TOOLS/Htdp/Htdp.shtml> - NGS/NOAA page about the HTDP model and program. Source for the HTDP program can be downloaded from here.

Development

These pages are primarily focused towards developers either contributing to the PROJ.4 project or using the library in their own software.

Quick start

This is a short introduction to the PROJ.4 API. In the following section we create a simple program that transforms a geodetic coordinate to UTM and back again. The program is explained a few lines at a time. The complete program can be seen at the end of the section.

See the following sections for more in-depth descriptions of different parts of the PROJ.4 API or consult the [API reference](#) for specifics.

Before the PROJ.4 API can be used it is necessary to include the `proj.h` header file. Here `stdio.h` is also included so we can print some text to the screen:

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <proj.h>
```

Let's declare a few variables that'll be used later in the program. Each variable will be discussed below. See the [reference for more info on data types](#).

```
PJ_CONTEXT *C;
PJ *P;
PJ_COORD a, b;
```

For use in multi-threaded programs the `PJ_CONTEXT` threading-context is used. In this particular example it is not needed, but for the sake of completeness it created here. The section on [threads](#) discusses this in detail.

```
C = proj_context_create();
```

Next we create the `PJ` transformation object `P` with the function `proj_create`. `proj_create` takes the threading context `C` created above, and a proj-string that defines the desired transformation. Here we transform from geodetic coordinate to UTM zone 32N. It is recommended to create one threading-context per thread used by the program. This ensures that all `PJ` objects created in the same context will be sharing resources such as error-numbers and loaded grids. In case the creation of the `PJ` object fails an error message is displayed and the program returns. See [Error handling](#) for further details.

```
P = proj_create (C, "+proj=utm +zone=32 +ellps=GRS80");
if (0==P)
    return puts ("Oops"), 0;
```

PROJ.4 uses its own data structures for handling coordinates. Here we use a `PJ_COORD` which is easily assigned with the function `proj_coord`. Note that the input values are converted to radians with `proj_torad`. This is necessary since PROJ.4 is using radians internally. See [Transformations](#) for further details.

```
a = proj_coord (proj_torad(12), proj_torad(55), 0, 0);
```

The coordinate defined above is transformed with `proj_trans_coord`. For this a `PJ` object, a transformation direction (either forward or inverse) and the coordinate is needed. The transformed coordinate is returned in `b`. Here the forward (`PJ_FWD`) transformation from geodetic to UTM is made.

```
b = proj_trans_coord (P, PJ_FWD, a);
printf ("easting: %g, northing: %g\n", b.en.e, b.en.n);
```

The inverse transformation (UTM to geodetic) is done similar to above, this time using `PJ_INV` as the direction.

```
b = proj_trans_coord (P, PJ_INV, b);
printf ("longitude: %g, latitude: %g\n", b.lp.lam, b.lp.phi);
```

Before ending the program the allocated memory needs to be released again:

```
proj_destroy (P);
proj_context_destroy (C); /* may be omitted in the single threaded case */
```

A complete compilable version of the above can be seen here:

```

1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <proj.h>
3
4 int main (void) {
5     PJ_CONTEXT *C;
6     PJ *P;
7     PJ_COORD a, b;
8
9     /* or you may set C=0 if you are sure you will use PJ objects from only one
10    thread */
11    C = proj_context_create();
12
13    P = proj_create (C, "+proj=utm +zone=32 +ellps=GRS80");
14    if (0==P)
15        return puts ("Oops"), 0;
16
17    /* a coordinate union representing Copenhagen: 55d N, 12d E */
18    /* note: PROJ.4 works in radians, hence the proj_torad() calls */
19    a = proj_coord (proj_torad(12), proj_torad(55), 0, 0);
20
21    /* transform to UTM zone 32, then back to geographical */
22    b = proj_trans_coord (P, PJ_FWD, a);
23    printf ("easting: %g, northing: %g\n", b.en.e, b.en.n);
24    b = proj_trans_coord (P, PJ_INV, b);
25    printf ("longitude: %g, latitude: %g\n", b.lp.lam, b.lp.phi);
26
27    /* Clean up */
28    proj_destroy (P);
29    proj_context_destroy (C); /* may be omitted in the single threaded case */
30    return 0;
}
```

Transformations

Error handling

Threads

This page is about efforts to make PROJ.4 thread safe.

Key Thread Safety Issues

- the global pj_errno variable is shared between threads and makes it essentially impossible to handle errors safely. Being addressed with the introduction of the projCtx execution context.
- the datum shift using grid files uses globally shared lists of loaded grid information. Access to this has been made safe in 4.7.0 with the introduction of a proj.4 mutex used to protect access to these memory structures (see pj_mutex.c).

projCtx

Primarily in order to avoid having pj_errno as a global variable, a “thread context” structure has been introduced into a variation of the PROJ.4 API for the 4.8.0 release. The pj_init() and pj_init_plus() functions now have context variations called pj_init_ctx() and pj_init_plus_ctx() which take a projections context.

The projections context can be created with pj_ctx_alloc(), and there is a global default context used when one is not provided by the application. There is a pj_ctx_ set of functions to create, manipulate, query, and destroy contexts. The contexts are also used now to handle setting debugging mode, and to hold an error reporting function for textual error and debug messages. The API looks like:

```
projPJ pj_init_ctx( projCtx, int, char ** );
projPJ pj_init_plus_ctx( projCtx, const char * );

projCtx pj_get_default_ctx(void);
projCtx pj_get_ctx( projPJ );
void pj_set_ctx( projPJ, projCtx );
projCtx pj_ctx_alloc(void);
void pj_ctx_free( projCtx );
int pj_ctx_get_errno( projCtx );
void pj_ctx_set_errno( projCtx, int );
void pj_ctx_set_debug( projCtx, int );
void pj_ctx_set_logger( projCtx, void (*) (void *, int, const char *) );
void pj_ctx_set_app_data( projCtx, void * );
void *pj_ctx_get_app_data( projCtx );
```

Multithreaded applications are now expected to create a projCtx per thread using pj_ctx_alloc(). The context’s error handlers, and app data may be modified if desired, but at the very least each context has an internal error value accessed with pj_ctx_get_errno() as opposed to looking at pj_errno.

Note that pj_errno continues to exist, and it is set by pj_ctx_set_errno() (as well as setting the context specific error number), but pj_errno still suffers from the global shared problem between threads and should not be used by multithreaded applications.

Note that pj_init_ctx(), and pj_init_plus_ctx() will assign the projCtx to the created projPJ object. Functions like pj_transform(), pj_fwd() and pj_inv() will use the context of the projPJ for error reporting.

src/multistresstest.c

A small multi-threaded test program has been written (src/multistresstest.c) for testing multithreaded use of PROJ.4. It performs a series of reprojections to setup a table expected results, and then it does them many times in several threads to confirm that the results are consistent. At this time this program is not part of the builds but it can be built on linux like:

```
gcc -g multistresstest.c .libs/libproj.so -lpthread -o multistresstest
./multistresstest
```

Reference

Data types

This section describe the multitude of data types in use in PROJ.4. As a rule of thumb PROJ.4 data types are prefixed with PJ_, or in one particular case, is simply called PJ. A few notable exceptions can be traced back to the very early days of PROJ.4 when the PJ_ prefix was not consistently used.

Transformation objects

PJ

Object containing everything related to a given projection or transformation. As a user of the PROJ.4 library your are only exposed to pointers to this object and the contents are hidden in the public API. *PJ* objects are created with `proj_create()` and destroyed with `proj_destroy()`.

PJ_CONTEXT

Context objects enables safe multi-threaded usage of PROJ.4. Each *PJ* object is connected to a context (if not specified, the default context is used). All operations within a context should be performed in the same thread. *PJ_CONTEXT* objects are created with `proj_context_create()` and destroyed with `proj_context_destroy()`.

2 dimensional coordinates

Various 2-dimensional coordinate data types.

LP

Geodetic coordinate, latitude and longitude. Usually in radians.

```
typedef struct { double lam, phi; } LP;
```

double LP.lam

Longitude. Lambda.

double LP.phi

Latitude. Phi.

XY

2-dimensional cartesian coordinate.

```
typedef struct { double x, y; } XY;
```

double XY.lam

Easting.

double XY.phi

Northing.

UV

2-dimensional generic coordinate. Usually used when contents can be either a *XY* or *UV*.

```
typedef struct { double u, v; } UV;
```

double UV.u

Longitude or easting, depending on use.

double UV.v

Latitude or northing, depending on use.

PJ_EN

Generic easting/northing coordinate.

```
typedef struct { double e, n; } PJ_EN;
```

double PJ_EN.e

Easting

```
double PJ_EN.n  
Northing
```

3 dimensional coordinates

The following data types are the 3-dimensional equivalents to the data types above.

LPZ

3-dimensional version of [LP](#). Holds longitude, latitude and vertical component.

```
typedef struct { double lam, phi, z; } LPZ;
```

```
double LPZ.lam  
Longitude. Lambda.
```

```
double LPZ.phi  
Latitude. Phi.
```

```
double LPZ.z  
Vertical component.
```

XYZ

Cartesian coordinate in 3 dimensions. Extension of [XY](#).

```
typedef struct { double x, y, z; } XYZ;
```

```
double XYZ.x  
Easting.
```

```
double XYZ.y  
Northing.
```

```
double XYZ.z  
Vertical component.
```

UVW

3-dimensional extension of [UV](#).

```
typedef struct { double u, v, w; } UVW;
```

```
double UVW.u  
Longitude or easting, depending on use.
```

```
double UVW.v  
Latitude or northing, depending on use.
```

```
double UVW.w  
Vertical component.
```

PJ_ENH

Easting, northing and height.

```
typedef struct { double e, n, h; } PJ_ENH;
```

```
double PJ_ENH.e  
Easting
```

```
double PJ_ENH.n  
Northing
```

```
double PJ_ENH.h
Height
```

Spatiotemporal coordinate types

The following data types are extensions of the triplets above into the time domain.

PJ_LPZT

Spatiotemporal version of [PJ_Z](#).

```
typedef struct {
    double lam;
    double phi;
    double z;
    double t;
} PJ_LPZT;
```

double PJ_LPZT.lam
Longitude.

double PJ_LPZT.phi
Latitude

double PJ_LPZT.z
Vertical component.

double PJ_LPZT.t
Time component.

PJ_XYZT

Generic spatiotemporal coordinate. Usefull for e.g. cartesian coordinates with an attached time-stamp.

```
typedef struct {
    double x;
    double y;
    double z;
    double t;
} PJ_XYZT;
```

double PJ_XYZT.x
Easting.

double PJ_XYZT.y
Northing.

double PJ_XYZT.z
Vertical component.

double PJ_XYZT.t
Time component.

PJ_UVWT

Spatiotemporal version of [PJ_UVW](#).

```
typedef struct { double u, v, w, t; } PJ_UVWT;
```

double PJ_UVWT.e
First horizontal component.

```
double PJ_UVWT.n  
Second horizontal component.
```

```
double PJ_UVWT.w  
Vertical component.
```

```
double PJ_UVWT.t  
Temporal component.
```

PJ_ENHT

Spatiotemporal version of *PJ_ENH*.

```
typedef struct { double e, n, h, t; } PJ_ENHT;
```

```
double PJ_ENHT.e
```

Easting

```
double PJ_ENHT.n
```

Northing

```
double PJ_ENHT.h
```

Height

```
double PJ_ENHT.t
```

Ancillary types for geodetic computations

PJ_OPK

Rotations, for instance three euler angles.

```
typedef struct { double o, p, k; } PJ_OPK;
```

```
double PJ_OPK.o
```

First rotation angle, omega.

```
double PJ_OPK.p
```

Second rotation angle, phi.

```
double PJ_OPK.k
```

Third rotation angle, kappa.

PJ_DMS

Describe a longitude or latitude by degrees, minutes and seconds.

```
typedef struct { double d, m, s; } PJ_DMS;
```

```
double PJ_DMS.d
```

Degrees.

```
double PJ_DMS.m
```

Minutes

```
double PJ_DMS.s
```

Seconds.

PJ_EZN

Geoid undulation and deflections of the vertical.

```
typedef struct { double e, z, N; } PJ_EZN;
```

double PJ_EZN.e
Deflection of the vertical, eta.

double PJ_EZN.z
Deflection of the vertical, zeta

double PJ_EZN.N
Geoid undulation.

PJ_AF

Ellipsoidal parameters.

```
typedef struct {double a, f; } PJ_AF;
```

double PJ_AF.a
Major axis of ellipsoid.

double PJ_AF.f
Flattening of ellipsoid.

Complex coordinate types**PJ_PAIR**

```
typedef union {
    XY      xy;
    LP      lp;
    UV      uv;
    PJ_AF   af;
    PJ_EN   en;
    double  v[2];
} PJ_PAIR;
```

XY PJ_PAIR.xy
Coordinate in projected space.

LP PJ_PAIR.lp
Coordinate in lat/long space.

UV PJ_PAIR.uv
Coordinate either in lat/lon or projected space.

PJ_AF PJ_PAIR.af;
Ellipsoidal parameters.

PJ_EN PJ_PAIR.en
Easting/Northing pair.

double PJ_PAIR.v[2]
Generic 2D-vector.

PJ_TRIPLET

Union type that groups all coordinate data types of two and tree dimensions.

```
typedef union {
    PJ_OPK  opk;
    PJ_ENH  enh;
    PJ_EZN  ezn;
}
```

```
PJ_DMS    dms;
double v[3];
XYZ      xyz;
LPZ      lpz;
UVW      uvw;
XY       xy;
LP       lp;
UV       uv;
PJ_AF   af;
} PJ_TRIPLET;
```

PJ_OPK PJ_TRIPLET.opk

Rotations.

PJ_ENH PJ_TRIPLET.enh

Easting, northing and height.

PJ_EZN PJ_TRIPLET.ezn

Geoid undulation and deflections of the vertical.

PJ_DMS PJ_TRIPLET.dsm

Degrees, minutes and seconds.

double PJ_TRIPLET.v[3]

Generic 3-dimensional vector.

XYZ PJ_TRIPLET.xyz

Coordinates in projected space.

LPZ PJ_TRIPLET.lpz

Geodetic coordinates, including height.

UVW PJ_TRIPLET.uvw

Either geodetic or projected coordinates.

XY PJ_TRIPLET.xy

Horizontal coordinates in projected space.

LP PJ_TRIPLET.lp

Geodetic coordinates.

UV PJ_TRIPLET.uv

Geodetic or projected coordinate.

PJ_AF PJ_TRIPLET.af

Ellipsoidal parameters.

PJ_COORD

General purpose coordinate union type useful in two, three and four dimensions.

```
typedef union {
    PJ_XYZT xyzt;
    PJ_UVWT uvwt;
    PJ_ENHT enht;
    PJ_LPZT lpzt;
    PJ_ENH enh;
    PJ_EN en;
    double v[4];
    XYZ xyz;
    UVW uvw;
    LPZ lpz;
```

```
XY    xy;
UV    uv;
LP    lp;
} PJ_COORD ;
```

PJ_XYZT PJ_COORD .xyzt

Spatiotemporal cartesian coordinate.

PJ_UVWT PJ_COORD .uvwt

Spatiotemporal generic coordinate.

PJ_ENHT PJ_COORD .enht

Easting, northing, height and time.

PJ_LPZT PJ_COORD .lpzt

Longitude, latitude, vertical and time components.

PJ_ENH PJ_COORD .enh

Easting, northing and height

PJ_EN PJCOORD .en

Easting and northing.

double v[4]

Generic four-dimensional vector.

XYZ PJ_COORD .xyz

3-dimensional cartesian coordinate.

UVW PJ_COORD .uvw

3-dimensional generic coordinate.

LPZ PJ_COORD .lpz

Longitude, latitude and vertical component.

XY PJ_COORD .xy

2-dimensional cartesian coordinate.

UV PJ_COORD .uv

2-dimensional generic coordinate.

LP PJ_COORD .lp

Longitude and latitude.

PJ_OBS

Geodetic observation data type.

```
typedef struct {
    PJ_COORD coo;
    PJ_TRIPLET anc;
    int id;
    unsigned int flags;
} PJ_OBS;
```

PJ_COORD PJ_OBS .coo

Coordinate data

PJ_TRIPLET PJ_OBS .anc

Ancillary data

int PJ_OBS .id

Integer ancillary data, e.g. observation number, EPSG code, etc.

```
unsigned int PJ_OBS.flags
```

Additional data intended for flags.

Projection derivatives

PJ_DERIVS

Partial derivatives of geodetic coordinate (λ, ϕ) . Calculated with [proj_derivatives\(\)](#).

```
typedef struct {
    double x_l, x_p;
    double y_l, y_p;
} PJ_DERIVS;
```

```
double PJ_DERIVS.x_l
       $\frac{\partial x}{\partial \lambda}$ 
double PJ_DERIVS.x_p
       $\frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi}$ 
double PJ_DERIVS.y_l
       $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \lambda}$ 
double PJ_DERIVS.y_p
       $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi}$ 
```

PJ_FACTORS

Various cartographic properties, such as scale factors, angular distortion and meridian convergence. Calculated with [proj_factors\(\)](#). Depending on the underlying projection, values can be calculated either numerically or analytically.

```
typedef struct {
    struct PJ_DERIVS der;
    double h, k;
    double omega, thetap;
    double conv;
    double s;
    double a, b;
    int code;
} PJ_FACTORS;
```

PJ_DERIVS PJ_FACTORS.der

Partial derivatives of coordinate (λ, ϕ) .

double PJ_FACTORS.h

Meridian scale at coordinate (λ, ϕ) .

double PJ_FACTORS.k

Parallel scale at coordinate (λ, ϕ) .

double PJ_FACTORS.omega

Angular distortion at coordinate (λ, ϕ) .

double PJ_FACTORS.thetap

Meridian/parallel angle, θ' , at coordinate (λ, ϕ) .

double PJ_FACTORS.conv

Meridian convergence at coordinate (λ, ϕ) . Sometimes also described as *grid declination*.

```

double PJ_FACTORS.s
    Areal scale factor at coordinate ( $\lambda, \phi$ ).

double PJ_FACTORS.a
    Maximum scale error.

double PJ_FACTORS.b
    Minimum scale error.

int code
    Bitmask determining if calculation of various factors was done numerically or analytically. If a bit flags is set the calculation was done analytically. The following bit flags exists:

PJ_IS_ANAL_XL_YL
    Longitude derivatives are calculated analytically

PJ_IS_ANAL_XP_YP
    Latitude derivatives are calculated analyticall.

PJ_IS_ANAL_HK
    Meridinal and parallel scale factors are calculated analytically.

PJ_IS_ANAL_CONV
    Meridian convergence calculated analytically.

```

Info structures

PJ_INFO

Struct holding information about the current instance of PROJ.4. Struct is populated by `proj_info()`.

```

typedef struct {
    char release[64];
    char version[64];
    int major;
    int minor;
    int patch;
    char searchpath[512];
} PJ_INFO;

```

`char PJ_INFO.release[64]`

Release info. Version number and release date, e.g. “Rel. 4.9.3, 15 August 2016”.

`char PJ_INFO.version[64]`

Text representation of the full version number, e.g. “4.9.3”.

`int PJ_INFO.major`

Major version number.

`int PJ_INFO.minor`

Minor version number.

`int PJ_INFO.patch`

Patch level of release.

`char PJ_INFO.searchpath[512]`

Search path for PROJ.4. List of directories separated by semicolons, e.g. “C:Usersdoctorwho;C:OSGeo4W64\shareproj”. Grids and init files are looked for in directories in the search path.

PJ_PROJ_INFO

Struct holding information about a *PJ* object. Populated by *proj_pj_info()*.

```
typedef struct {
    char        id[16];
    char        description[128];
    char        definition[512];
    int         has_inverse;
} PJ_PROJ_INFO;
```

char PJ_PROJ_INFO.id[16]

Short ID of the operation the *PJ* object is based on, that is, what comes after the `+proj=` in a proj-string, e.g. “*merc*”.

char PJ_PROJ_INFO.description[128]

Long describes of the operation the *PJ* object is based on, e.g. “*Mercator Cyl, Sph&Ell lat_ts=*”.

char PJ_PROJ_INFO.definition[512]

The proj-string that was used to create the *PJ* object with, e.g. “`+proj=merc +lat_0=24 +lon_0=53 +ellps=WGS84`”.

int PJ_PROJ_INFO.has_inverse

1 if an inverse mapping of the defined operation exists, otherwise 0.

PJ_GRID_INFO

Struct holding information about a specific grid in the search path of PROJ.4. Populated with the function *proj_grid_info()*.

```
typedef struct {
    char        gridname[32];
    char        filename[260];
    char        format[8];
    LP          lowerleft;
    LP          upperright;
    int         n_lon, n_lat;
    double      cs_lon, cs_lat;
} PJ_GRID_INFO;
```

char PJ_GRID_INFO.gridname[32]

Name of grid, e.g. “*BETA2007.gsb*”.

char PJ_GRID_INFO

Full path of grid file, e.g. “*C:/OSGeo4W64/share/proj/BETA2007.gsb*”

char PJ_GRID_INFO.format[8]

File format of grid file, e.g. “*ntv2*”

LP PJ_GRID_INFO.lowerleft

Geodetic coordinate of lower left corner of grid.

LP PJ_GRID_INFO.upperright

Geodetic coordinate of upper right corner of grid.

int PJ_GRID_INFO.n_lon

Number of grid cells in the longitudinal direction.

int PJ_GRID_INFO.n_lat

Number of grid cells in the latitudinal direction.

double PJ_GRID_INFO.cs_lon

Cell size in the longitudinal direction. In radians.

double PJ_GRID_INFO.cs_lat
 Cell size in the latitudinal direction. In radians.

PJ_INIT_INFO

Struct holding information about a specific init file in the search path of PROJ.4. Populated with the function `proj_init_info()`.

```
typedef struct {
    char      name[32];
    char      filename[260];
    char      version[32];
    char      origin[32];
    char      lastupdate[16];
} PJ_INIT_INFO;
```

char PJ_INIT_INFO.name[32]

Name of init file, e.g. “epsg”.

char PJ_INIT_INFO.filename[260]

Full path of init file, e.g. “C:OSGeo4W64shareprojepsg“

char PJ_INIT_INFO.version[32]

Version number of init-file, e.g. “9.0.0“

char PJ_INIT_INFO.origin[32]

Originating entity of the init file, e.g. “EPSG“

char PJ_INIT_INFO.lastupdate

Date of last update of the init-file.

Functions**Threading contexts**

PJ_CONTEXT* proj_context_create(void)

Create a new threading-context.

Returns `PJ_CONTEXT*`

void proj_context_destroy(PJ_CONTEXT *ctx)

Deallocates a threading-context.

Parameters

- **ctx** (`PJ_CONTEXT*`) – Threading context.

Transformation setup

PJ* proj_create(PJ_CONTEXT *ctx, const char *definition)

Create a transformation object from a proj-string.

Example call:

```
PJ *P = proj_create(0, "+proj=etmerc +lat_0=38 +lon_0=125 +ellps=bessel");
```

The returned `PJ`-pointer should be deallocated with `proj_destroy()`.

Parameters

- **ctx** (*PJ_CONTEXT**) – Threading context.
- **definition** (*const char**) – Proj-string of the desired transformation.

*PJ** **proj_create_argv** (*PJ_CONTEXT* **ctx*, int *argc*, *char* ***argv*)

Create transformation object with argc/argv-style initialization. For this application each parameter in the defining proj-string is an entry in argv.

Example call:

```
char *args[3] = {"proj=utm", "zone=32", "ellps=GRS80"};  
PJ* P = proj_create_argv(0, 3, args);
```

The returned *PJ*-pointer should be deallocated with *proj_destroy()*.

Parameters

- **ctx** (*PJ_CONTEXT**) – Threading context
- **argc** (*int*) – Count of arguments in argv
- **argv** (*char***) – Vector of strings with proj-string parameters, e.g. +proj=merc

Returns *PJ**

*PJ** **proj_create_crs_to_crs** (*PJ_CONTEXT* **ctx*, *const char* **srid_from*, *const char* **srid_to*)

Create a transformation object that is a pipeline between two known coordinate reference systems.

srid_from and *srid_to* should be the value part of a +init=... parameter set, i.e. “epsg:25833” or “IGNF:AMST63”. Any projection definition that can be found in a init-file in PROJ_LIB is a valid input to this function.

For now the function mimics the cs2cs app: An input and an output CRS is given and coordinates are transformed via a hub datum (WGS84). This transformation strategy is referred to as “early-binding” by the EPSG. The function can be extended to support “late-binding” transformations in the future without affecting users of the function.

Example call:

```
PJ *P = proj_create_crs_to_crs(0, "epsg:25832", "epsg:25833");
```

The returned *PJ*-pointer should be deallocated with *proj_destroy()*.

Parameters

- **ctx** (*PJ_CONTEXT**) – Threading context.
- **srid_from** (*const char**) – Source SRID.
- **srid_to** (*const char**) – Destination SRID.

Returns *PJ**

*PJ** **proj_destroy** (*PJ* **P*)

Deallocate a *PJ* transformation object.

Parameters

- **P** (*PJ**) –

Returns *PJ**

Coordinate transformation

`PJ_COORD proj_trans_coord (PJ *P, enum proj_direction direction, PJ_COORD coord)`
Transform a single `PJ_COORD` coordinate.

Parameters

- `P (PJ*)` –
- `direction (enum proj_direction)` – Transformation direction.
- `coord (PJ_COORD)` – Coordinate that will be transformed.

Returns `PJ_COORD`

`PJ_OBS proj_trans_obs (PJ *P, enum proj_direction direction, PJ_OBS obs)`
Transform a single `PJ_OBS` observation.

Parameters

- `P (PJ*)` –
- `direction (enum proj_direction)` – Transformation direction.
- `obs (PJ_OBS)` – Observation data to transform.

Returns `PJ_OBS`

`size_t proj_transform (PJ *P, enum proj_direction direction, double *x, size_t sx, size_t nx, double *y, size_t sy, size_t ny, double *z, size_t sz, size_t nz, double *t, size_t st, size_t nt)`
Transform a series of coordinates, where the individual coordinate dimension may be represented by an array that is either

- 1.fully populated
- 2.a null pointer and/or a length of zero, which will be treated as a fully populated array of zeroes
- 3.of length one, i.e. a constant, which will be treated as a fully populated array of that constant value

The strides, sx, sy, sz, st, represent the step length, in bytes, between consecutive elements of the corresponding array. This makes it possible for `proj_transform()` to handle transformation of a large class of application specific data structures, without necessarily understanding the data structure format, as in:

```
typedef struct {
    double x, y;
    int quality_level;
    char surveyor_name[134];
} XYQS;

XYQS survey[345];
double height = 23.45;
size_t stride = sizeof (XYQS);

...

proj_transform (
    P, PJ_INV, sizeof(XYQS),
    &(survey[0].x), stride, 345, /* We have 345 eastings */
    &(survey[0].y), stride, 345, /* ...and 345 northings. */
    &height, 1,                /* The height is the constant 23.45 m */
    0, 0                      /* and the time is the constant 0.00 s */
);
```

This is similar to the inner workings of the deprecated pj_transform function, but the stride functionality has been generalized to work for any size of basic unit, not just a fixed number of doubles.

In most cases, the stride will be identical for x, y, z, and t, since they will typically be either individual arrays (stride = sizeof(double)), or strided views into an array of application specific data structures (stride = sizeof(...)).

But in order to support cases where x, y, z, and t come from heterogeneous sources, individual strides, sx, sy, sz, st, are used.

Note: Since `proj_transform()` does its work *in place*, this means that even the supposedly constants (i.e. length 1 arrays) will return from the call in altered state. Hence, remember to reinitialize between repeated calls.

Parameters

- **P** (`PJ*`) – Transformation object
- **direction** – Transformation direction
- **x** (`double*`) – Array of x-coordinates
- **y** (`double*`) – Array of y-coordinates
- **z** (`double*`) – Array of z-coordinates
- **t** (`double*`) – Array of t-coordinates
- **sx** (`size_t`) – Step lenght, in bytes, between consecutive elements of the corresponding array
- **sy** (`size_t`) – Number of elements in the corresponding array
- **sz** (`size_t`) – Step lenght, in bytes, between consecutive elements of the corresponding array
- **nz** (`size_t`) – Number of elements in the corresponding array
- **st** (`size_t`) – Step lenght, in bytes, between consecutive elements of the corresponding array
- **nt** (`size_t`) – Number of elements in the corresponding array

Returns Number of transformations successfully completed

`size_t proj_transform_coord(PJ *P, enum proj_direction direction, size_t n, PJ_COORD *coord)`
Batch transform an array of `PJ_COORD`.

Parameters

- **P** (`PJ*`) –
- **direction** (`enum proj_direction`) – Transformation direction
- **n** (`size_t`) – Number of coordinates in coord

Returns `size_t` 0 if all observations are transformed without error, otherwise returns error number

`size_t proj_transform_obs(PJ *P, enum proj_direction direction, size_t n, PJ_OBS *obs)`
Batch transform an array of `PJ_OBS`.

Parameters

- **P** ([PJ*](#)) –
- **direction** (*enum proj_direction*) – Transformation direction
- **n** (*size_t*) – Number of observations in `obs`

Returns `size_t` 0 if all observations are transformed without error, otherwise returns error number

Initializers

`PJ_COORD proj_coord(double x, double y, double z, double t)`

Initializer for the `PJ_COORD` union. The function is shorthand for the otherwise convoluted assignment. Equivalent to

```
PJ_COORD c = {{10.0, 20.0, 30.0, 40.0}};
```

or

```
PJ_COORD c;
// Assign using the PJ_XYZT struct in the union
c.xyzt.x = 10.0;
c.xyzt.y = 20.0;
c.xyzt.z = 30.0;
c.xyzt.t = 40.0;
```

Since `PJ_COORD` is a union of structs, the above assignment can also be expressed in terms of the other types in the union, e.g. `PJ_UVWT` or `PJ_LPZT`.

Parameters

- **x** (*double*) – 1st component in a `PJ_COORD`
- **y** (*double*) – 2nd component in a `PJ_COORD`
- **z** (*double*) – 3rd component in a `PJ_COORD`
- **t** (*double*) – 4th component in a `PJ_COORD`

Returns `PJ_COORD`

`PJ_OBS proj_obs(double x, double y, double z, double t, double o, double p, double k, int id, unsigned int flags)`

Initializer for the `PJ_OBS` union. The function is shorthand for the otherwise convoluted assignment. Equivalent to

```
PJ_OBS c = {{1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0}, {5.0, 6.0, 7.0}, 8, 9};
```

or

```
PJ_OBS c;
// Assign using the PJ_COORD part of the struct in the union
o.coo.v[0] = 1.0;
o.coo.v[1] = 2.0;
o.coo.v[2] = 3.0;
o.coo.v[3] = 4.0;
o.anc.v[0] = 5.0;
o.anc.v[1] = 6.0;
o.anc.v[2] = 7.0;
```

```
o.id      = 8;  
o.flags   = 9;
```

which is a bit too verbose in most practical applications.

Parameters

- **x** (*double*) – 1st component in a *PJ_COORD*
- **y** (*double*) – 2nd component in a *PJ_COORD*
- **z** (*double*) – 3rd component in a *PJ_COORD*
- **t** (*double*) – 4th component in a *PJ_COORD*
- **o** (*double*) – 1st component in a *PJ_TRIPLET*
- **p** (*double*) – 2nd component in a *PJ_TRIPLET*
- **k** (*double*) – 3rd component in a *PJ_TRIPLET*
- **id** (*int*) – Ancillary data, e.g. an ID
- **flags** (*unsigned int*) – Flags

Returns *PJ_OBS*

Info functions

PJ_INFO **proj_info** (void)

Get information about the current instance of the PROJ.4 library.

Returns *PJ_INFO*

PJ_PROJ_INFO **proj_pj_info** (const *PJ* **P*)

Get information about a specific transformation object, *P*.

Parameters

- **P** (const *PJ**) – Transformation object

Returns *PJ_PROJ_INFO*

PJ_GRID_INFO **proj_grid_info** (const char **gridname*)

Get information about a specific grid.

Parameters

- **gridname** (const char*) – Gridname in the PROJ.4 searchpath

Returns *PJ_GRID_INFO*

PJ_INIT_INFO **proj_init_info** (const char **initname*)

Get information about a specific init file.

Parameters

- **initname** (const char*) – Init file in the PROJ.4 searchpath

Returns *PJ_INIT_INFO*

Distances

`double proj_lp_dist (PJ *P, LP a, LP b)`

Calculate geodesic distance between two points in geodetic coordinates.

Parameters

- `P (PJ*)` – Transformation object
- `a (LP)` – Coordinate of first point
- `b (LP)` – Coordinate of second point

Returns `double` Distance between a and b in meters.

`double proj_xy_dist (XY a, XY b)`

Calculate 2-dimensional euclidean between two projected coordinates.

Parameters

- `a (XY)` – First coordinate
- `b (XY)` – Second coordinate

Returns `double` Distance between a and b in meters.

`double proj_xyz_dist (XYZ a, XYZ b)`

Calculate 3-dimensional euclidean between two projected coordinates.

Parameters

- `a (XYZ)` – First coordinate
- `b (XYZ)` – Second coordinate

Returns `double` Distance between a and b in meters.

Various

`double proj_roundtrip (PJ *P, enum proj_direction direction, int n, PJ_OBS obs)`

Measure internal consistency of a given transformation. The function performs n round trip transformations starting in either the forward or reverse `direction`. Returns the euclidean distance of the starting point `obs` and the resulting coordinate after n iterations back and forth.

Parameters

- `P (PJ*)` –
- `direction (enum proj_direction)` – Starting direction of transformation
- `n (int)` – Number of roundtrip transformations
- `obs (PJ_OBS)` – Input coordinate

Returns `double` Distance between original coordinate and the resulting coordinate after n transformation iterations.

PJ_DERIVS `proj_derivatives (const PJ *P, const LP lp)`

Calculate partial derivatives of geodetic coordinates.

Parameters

- `P (const PJ*)` – Transformation object
- `lp (const LP)` – Geodetic coordinate

Returns *PJ_DERIVS***PJ_FACTORS** **proj_factors** (const *PJ* **P*, const *LP* *lp*)

Calculate various cartographic properties, such as scale factors, angular distortion and meridian convergence. Depending on the underlying projection values will be calculated either numerically (default) or analytically.

The function also calculates the partial derivatives of the given coordinate.

Parameters

- **P** (const *PJ**) – Transformation object
- **lp** (const *LP*) – Geodetic coordinate

Returns *PJ_FACTORS***double** **proj_torad** (double *angle_in_degrees*)

Convert degrees to radians.

Parameters

- **angle_in_degrees** (double) – Degrees

Returns double Radians**double** **proj_todeg** (double *angle_in_radians*)

Convert radians to degrees

Parameters

- **angle_in_radians** (double) – Radians

Returns double Degrees**double** **proj_dmstor** (const char **is*, char ***rs*)

Convert string of degrees, minutes and seconds to radians. Works similarly to the C standard library function `strtod()`.

Parameters

- **is** (const char*) – Value to be converted to radians
- **rs** – Reference to an already allocated char*, whose value is set by the function to the next character in *is* after the numerical value.

char * **proj_rtodms** (char **s*, double *r*, int *pos*, int *neg*)

Convert radians to string representation of degrees, minutes and seconds.

Parameters

- **s** (char*) – Buffer that holds the output string
- **r** (double) – Value to convert to dms-representation
- **pos** (int) – Character denoting positive direction, typically ‘N’ or ‘E’.
- **neg** (int) – Character denoting negative direction, typically ‘S’ or ‘W’.

Returns char* Pointer to output buffer (same as *s*)**Deprecated API****Contents**

- *Deprecated API*
 - *Introduction*
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 - * *pj_transform*
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Introduction

Procedure `pj_init()` selects and initializes a cartographic projection with its argument control parameters. `argc` is the number of elements in the array of control strings `argv` that each contain individual cartographic control keyword assignments (+ proj arguments). The list must contain at least the proj=projection and Earth's radius or elliptical parameters. If the initialization of the projection is successful a valid address is returned otherwise a NULL value.

The `pj_init_plus()` function operates similarly to `pj_init()` but takes a single string containing the definition, with each parameter prefixed with a plus sign. For example `+proj=utm +zone=11 +ellps=WGS84`.

Once initialization is performed either forward or inverse projections can be performed with the returned value of `pj_init()` used as the argument `proj`. The argument structure `projUV` values `u` and `v` contain respective longitude and latitude or `x` and `y`. Latitude and longitude are in radians. If a projection operation fails, both elements of `projUV` are set to `HUGE_VAL` (defined in `math.h`).

Note: all projections have a forward mode, but some do not have an inverse projection. If the projection does not have an inverse the `projPJ` structure element `inv` will be NULL.

The `pj_transform` function may be used to transform points between the two provided coordinate systems. In addition to converting between cartographic projection coordinates and geographic coordinates, this function also takes care of datum shifts if possible between the source and destination coordinate system. Unlike `pj_fwd()` and `pj_inv()` it is also allowable for the coordinate system definitions (`projPJ *`) to be geographic coordinate systems (defined as `+proj=latlong`). The `x`, `y` and `z` arrays contain the input values of the points, and are replaced with the output values. The function returns zero on success, or the error number (also in `pj_errno`) on failure.

Memory associated with the projection may be freed with `pj_free()`.

Example

The following program reads latitude and longitude values in decimal degrees, performs Mercator projection with a Clarke 1866 ellipsoid and a 33° latitude of true scale and prints the projected cartesian values in meters:

```
#include <proj_api.h>

main(int argc, char **argv) {
    projPJ pj_merc, pj_latlong;
    double x, y;

    if (!(pj_merc = pj_init_plus("+proj=merc +ellps=clrk66 +lat_ts=33")) )
        exit(1);
    if (!(pj_latlong = pj_init_plus("+proj=latlong +ellps=clrk66")) )
        exit(1);
    while (scanf("%lf %lf", &x, &y) == 2) {
        x *= DEG_TO_RAD;
        y *= DEG_TO_RAD;
        p = pj_transform(pj_latlong, pj_merc, 1, 1, &x, &y, NULL );
        printf("%.2f\t%.2f\n", x, y);
    }
    exit(0);
}
```

For this program, an input of -16 20.25 would give a result of -1495284.21 1920596.79.

API Functions

pj_transform

```
int pj_transform( projPJ srcdefn,
                  projPJ dstdefn,
                  long point_count,
                  int point_offset,
                  double *x,
                  double *y,
                  double *z );
```

Transform the x/y/z points from the source coordinate system to the destination coordinate system.

srcdefn: source (input) coordinate system.

dstdefn: destination (output) coordinate system.

point_count: the number of points to be processed (the size of the x/y/z arrays).

point_offset: the step size from value to value (measured in doubles) within the x/y/z arrays - normally 1 for a packed array. May be used to operate on xyz interleaved point arrays.

x/y/z: The array of X, Y and Z coordinate values passed as input, and modified in place for output. The Z may optionally be NULL.

return: The return is zero on success, or a PROJ.4 error code.

The `pj_transform()` function transforms the passed in list of points from the source coordinate system to the destination coordinate system. Note that geographic locations need to be passed in radians, not decimal degrees, and will be returned similarly. The z array may be passed as NULL if Z values are not available.

If there is an overall failure, an error code will be returned from the function. If individual points fail to transform - for instance due to being over the horizon - then those x/y/z values will be set to `HUGE_VAL` on return. Input values that are `HUGE_VAL` will not be transformed.

pj_init_plus

```
projPJ pj_init_plus(const char *definition);
```

This function converts a string representation of a coordinate system definition into a `projPJ` object suitable for use with other API functions. On failure the function will return `NULL` and set `pj_errno`. The definition should be of the general form `+proj=tmerc +lon_0 +datum=WGS84`. Refer to PROJ.4 documentation and the *Geodetic transformation* notes for additional detail.

Coordinate system objects allocated with `pj_init_plus()` should be deallocated with `pj_free()`.

pj_free

```
void pj_free( projPJ pj );
```

Frees all resources associated with `pj`.

pj_is_latlong

```
int pj_is_latlong( projPJ pj );
```

Returns TRUE if the passed coordinate system is geographic (`proj=latlong`).

pj_is_geocent

```
int pj_is_geocent( projPJ pj );``
```

Returns TRUE if the coordinate system is geocentric (`proj=geocent`).

pj_get_def

```
char *pj_get_def( projPJ pj, int options);``
```

Returns the PROJ.4 initialization string suitable for use with `pj_init_plus()` that would produce this coordinate system, but with the definition expanded as much as possible (for instance `+init=` and `+datum=` definitions).

pj_latlong_from_proj

```
projPJ pj_latlong_from_proj( projPJ pj_in );``
```

Returns a new coordinate system definition which is the geographic coordinate (lat/long) system underlying `pj_in`.

pj_set_finder

```
void pj_set_finder( const char *(*new_finder)(const char *) );``
```

Install a custom function for finding init and grid shift files.

pj_set_searchpath

```
void pj_set_searchpath ( int count, const char **path );``
```

Set a list of directories to search for init and grid shift files.

pj_deallocate_grids

```
void pj_deallocate_grids( void );``
```

Frees all resources associated with loaded and cached datum shift grids.

pj_strerror

```
char *pj_strerror( int );``
```

Returns the error text associated with the passed in error code.

pj_get_errno_ref

```
int *pj_get_errno_ref( void );``
```

Returns a pointer to the global pj_errno error variable.

pj_get_release

```
const char *pj_get_release( void );``
```

Returns an internal string describing the release version.

Obsolete Functions

```
XY pj_fwd( LP lp, PJ *P );
LP pj_inv( XY xy, PJ *P );
projPJ pj_init(int argc, char **argv);
```

Language bindings

PROJ.4 bindings are available for a number of different development platforms.

Python

`pypyproj`: Python interface (wrapper for PROJ.4)

Ruby

`proj4rb`: Bindings for PROJ.4 in ruby

TCL

`proj4tcl`: Bindings for PROJ.4 in tcl (critcl source)

MySQL

`fProj4`: Bindings for PROJ.4 in MySQL

Excel

`proj.xll`: Excel add-in for PROJ.4 map projections

Visual Basic

PROJ.4 VB Wrappers: By Eric G. Miller.

FAQ

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Where can I find the list of projections and their arguments?

There is no simple single location to find all the required information. The !PostScript/PDF documents listed on the [<http://trac.osgeo.org/proj/wiki> main] PROJ.4 page under documentation are the authoritative source but projections and options are spread over several documents in a form more related to their order of implementation than anything else.

The ““proj”” command itself can report the list of projections using the ““-lp”” option, the list of ellipsoids with the ““-le”” option, the list of units with the ““-lu”” option, and the list of built-in datums with the ““-ld”” option.

The [http://www.remotesensing.org/geotiff/proj_list/ GeoTIFF Projections Pages] include most of the common PROJ.4 projections, and a definition of the projection specific options for each.

- How do I do datum shifts between NAD27 and NAD83?

While the ““nad2nad”” program can be used in some cases, the ““cs2cs”” is now the preferred mechanism. The following example demonstrates using the default shift parameters for NAD27 to NAD83:

```
% cs2cs +proj=latlong +datum=NAD27 +to +proj=latlong +datum=NAD83 -117 30
```

producing:

```
117d0'2.901"W 30d0'0.407"N 0.000
```

In order for datum shifting to work properly the various grid shift files must be available. See below. More details are available in the [[wiki:GenParms#nadgrids-GridBasedDatumAdjustments General Parameters](#)] document.

How do I build/configure PROJ.4 to support datum shifting?

After downloading and unpacking the PROJ.4 source, also download and unpack the set of datum shift files. See [Download](#) for instructions how to fetch and install these files

On Windows the extra nadshift target must be used. For instance `nmake /f makefile.vc nadshift` in the `proj/src` directory.

A default build and install on Unix will normally build knowledge of the directory where the grid shift files are installed into the PROJ.4 library (usually `/usr/local/share/proj`). On Windows the library is normally built thinking that `C:PROJNAD` is the installed directory for the grid shift files. If the built in concept of the PROJ.4 data directory is incorrect, the `PROJ_LIB` environment can be defined with the correct directory.

How do I debug problems with NAD27/NAD83 datum shifting?

1. Verify that you have the binary files (eg. `/usr/local/share/proj/conus`) installed on your system. If not, see the previous question.
2. Try a datum shifting operation in relative isolation, such as with the `cs2cs` command listed above. Do you get reasonable results? If not it is likely the grid shift files aren't being found. Perhaps you need to define `PROJ_LIB`?

3. The cs2cs command and the underlying pj_transform() API know how to do a grid shift as part of a more complex coordinate transformation; however, it is imperative that both the source and destination coordinate system be defined with appropriate datum information. That means that implicitly or explicitly there must be a +datum= clause, a +nadgrids= clause or a +towgs84= clause. For instance cs2cs +proj=latlong +datum=NAD27 +to +proj=latlong +ellps=WGS84 won't work because defining the output coordinate system as using the ellipse WGS84 isn't the same as defining it to use the datum WGS84 (use +datum=WGS84). If either the input or output are not identified as having a datum, the datum shifting (and ellipsoid change) step is just quietly skipped!
4. The PROJ_DEBUG environment can be defined (any value) to force extra output from the PROJ.4 library to stderr (the text console normally) with information on what data files are being opened and in some cases why a transformation fails.

```
export PROJ_DEBUG=ON
cs2cs ...
```

Note: PROJ_DEBUG support is not yet very mature in the PROJ.4 library.

5. The -v flag to cs2cs can be useful in establishing more detail on what parameters being used internally for a coordinate system. This will include expanding the definition of +datum clause.

How do I use EPSG coordinate system codes with PROJ.4?

There is somewhat imperfect translation between 2d geographic and projected coordinate system codes and PROJ.4 descriptions of the coordinate system available in the epsg definition file that normally lives in the proj/nad directory. If installed (it is installed by default on Unix), it is possible to use EPSG numbers like this:

```
% cs2cs -v +init=epsg:26711
# ---- From Coordinate System ----
#Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM)
#      Cyl, Sph
#      zone= south
# +init=epsg:26711 +proj=utm +zone=11 +ellps=clrk66 +datum=NAD27 +units=m
# +no_defs +nadgrids=conus,ntv1_can.dat
#--- following specified but NOT used
# +ellps=clrk66
# ---- To Coordinate System ----
#Lat/long (Geodetic)
#
# +proj=latlong +datum=NAD27 +ellps=clrk66 +nadgrids=conus,ntv1_can.dat
```

The proj/nad/epsg file can be browsed and searched in a text editor for coordinate systems. There are known to be problems with some coordinate systems, and any coordinate systems with odd axes, a non-greenwich prime meridian or other quirkiness are unlikely to work properly. Caveat Emptor!

How do I use 3 parameter and 7 parameter datum shifting

Datum shifts can be approximated with 3 and 7 parameter transformations. Their use is more fully described in the [wiki:GenParms#towgs84-DatumtransformationtoWGS84 towgs84] parameter discussion.

Does PROJ.4 work in different international numeric locales?

No. PROJ.4 makes extensive use of sprintf() and atof() internally to translate numeric values. If a locale is in effect that modifies formatting of numbers, altering the role of commas and periods in numbers, then PROJ.4 will not work. This problem is common in some European locales.

On unix-like platforms, this problem can be avoided by forcing the use of the default numeric locale by setting the LC_NUMERIC environment variable to C.

```
$ export LC_NUMERIC=C  
$ proj ...
```

Note: NOTE: Per ticket #49, in PROJ 4.7.0 and later pj_init() operates with locale overridden to “C” to avoid most locale specific processing for applications using the API. Command line tools may still have issues.

Changing Ellipsoid / Why can't I convert from WGS84 to Google Earth / Virtual Globe Mercator?

The coordinate system definition for Google Earth, and Virtual Globe Mercator is as follows, which uses a sphere as the earth model for the Mercator projection.

```
+proj=merc +a=6378137 +b=6378137 +lat_ts=0.0 +lon_0=0.0  
+x_0=0.0 +y_0=0 +k=1.0 +units=m +no_defs
```

But, if you do something like:

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +datum=WGS84  
+to +proj=merc +a=6378137 +b=6378137 +lat_ts=0.0 +lon_0=0.0  
+x_0=0.0 +y_0=0 +k=1.0 +units=m +no_defs
```

to convert between WGS84 and mercator on the sphere there will be substantial shifts in the Y mercator coordinates. This is because internally cs2cs is having to adjust the lat/long coordinates from being on the sphere to being on the WGS84 datum which has a quite differently shaped ellipsoid.

In this case, and many other cases using spherical projections, the desired approach is to actually treat the lat/long locations on the sphere as if they were on WGS84 without any adjustments when using them for converting to other coordinate systems. The solution is to “trick” PROJ.4 into applying no change to the lat/long values when going to (and through) WGS84. This can be accomplished by asking PROJ to use a null grid shift file for switching from your spherical lat/long coordinates to WGS84.

```
cs2cs +proj=latlong +datum=WGS84 \  
+to +proj=merc +a=6378137 +b=6378137 +lat_ts=0.0 +lon_0=0.0 \  
+x_0=0.0 +y_0=0 +k=1.0 +units=m +nadgrids=@null +no_defs
```

Note the strategic addition of `+nadgrids=@null` to the spherical projection definition.

Similar issues apply with many other datasets distributed with projections based on a spherical earth model - such as many NASA datasets. This coordinate system is now known by the EPSG code 3857 and has in the past been known as EPSG:3785 and EPSG:900913. When using this coordinate system with GDAL/OGR it is helpful to include the `+wktext` so the exact PROJ.4 string will be preserved in the WKT representation (otherwise key parameters like `+nadgrids=@null` will be dropped):

```
+proj=merc +a=6378137 +b=6378137 +lat_ts=0.0 +lon_0=0.0 +x_0=0.0 +y_0=0 +k=1.0  
+units=m +nadgrids=@null +wktext +no_defs
```

Why do I get different results with 4.5.0 and 4.6.0?

The default datum application behavior changed with the 4.6.0 release. PROJ.4 will now only apply a datum shift if both the source and destination coordinate system have valid datum shift information.

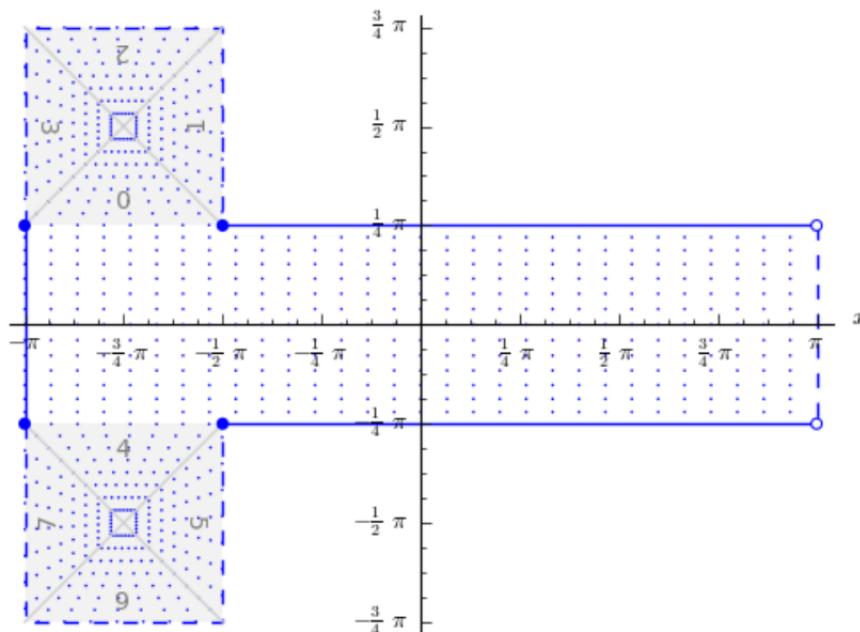
From the PROJ.4 4.6.0 Release Notes (in NEWS):

- MAJOR: Rework pj_transform() to avoid applying ellipsoid to ellipsoid transformations as a datum shift when no datum info is available.

How do I calculate distances/directions on the surface of the earth?

These are called geodesic calculations. There is a page about it here: [wiki:GeodesicCalculations]

What is the HEALPix projection and how can I use it?



The HEALPix projection is area preserving and can be used with a spherical and ellipsoidal model. It was initially developed for mapping cosmic background microwave radiation. The image below is the graphical representation of the mapping and consists of eight isomorphic triangular interrupted map graticules. The north and south contains four in which straight meridians converge polewards to a point and unequally spaced horizontal parallels. HEALPix provides a mapping in which points of equal latitude and equally spaced longitude are mapped to points of equal latitude and equally spaced longitude with the module of the polar interruptions. ||

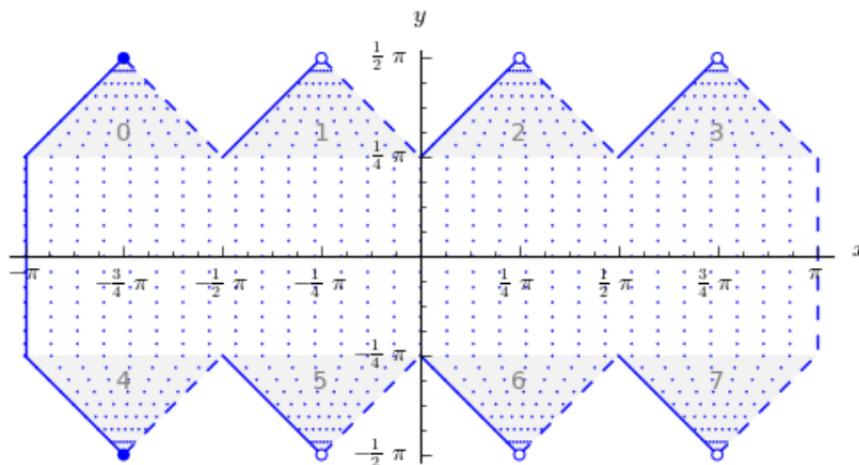
To run a forward HEALPix projection on a unit sphere model, use the following command:

```
proj +proj=healpix +lon_0=0 +a=1 -E <<EOF
0 0
EOF
```

Output of the above command.

```
0 0 0.00 0.00
```

What is the rHEALPix projection and how can I use it?



rHEALPix is a projection based on the HEALPix projection. The implementation of rHEALPix uses the HEALPix projection. The rHEALPix combines the peaks of the HEALPix into a square. The square's position can be translated and rotated across the x-axis which is a novel approach for the rHEALPix projection. The initial intention of using rHEALPix in the Spatial Computation Engine Science Collaboration Environment (SCENZGrid).

To run a inverse rHEALPix pro-

jection on a WGS84 ellipsoidal model, use the following command:

```
proj +proj=rhealpix -f '%.2f' -I +lon_0=0 +a=1 +ellps=WGS84 +npole=0 +spole=0 -E <<EOF
0 0.7853981633974483
EOF
```

Where spole and npole are integers from the range of 0 to 3 inclusive and represent the positions of the north polar and south polar squares.

Output of above command:

```
0 0.7853981633974483 0.00 41.94
```

What options does PROJ.4 allow for the shape of the Earth (geodesy)?

See https://github.com/OSGeo/proj.4/blob/master/src/pj_ells.c for possible ellipse options. For example, putting +ellps=WGS84 uses the WGS84 Earth shape.

What if I want a spherical Earth?

Use +ellps=sphere. See https://github.com/OSGeo/proj.4/blob/master/src/pj_ells.c for the radius used in this case.

How do I change the radius of the Earth? How do I use PROJ.4 for work on Mars?

You can supply explicit values for the semi minor and semi major axes instead of using the symbolic “sphere” value. Eg, if the radius were 2000000m:

```
+proj=laea +lon_0=-40.000000 +lat_0=74.000000 +x_0=1000000 +y_0=1700000 +a=2000000
↪+b=2000000"
```

How do I do False Eastings and False Northings?

Use +x_0 and +y_0 in the projection string.

Contributing

PROJ.4 has a wide and varied user base. Some are highly skilled geodesists with a deep knowledge of map projections and reference systems, some are GIS software developers and others are GIS users. All users, regardless of the profession or skill level, has the ability to contribute to PROJ.4. Here's a few suggestion on how:

- Help PROJ.4-users that is less experienced than yourself.
- Write a bug report
- Request a new feature
- Write documentation for your favorite map projection
- Fix a bug
- Implement a new feature

In the following sections you can find some guidelines on how to contribute. As PROJ.4 is managed on GitHub most contributions require that you have a GitHub account. Familiarity with [issues](#) and the [GitHub Flow](#) is an advantage.

Help a fellow PROJ.4 user

The main forum for support for PROJ.4 is the mailing list. You can subscribe to the mailing list [here](#) and read the archive [here](#).

If you have questions about the usage of PROJ.4 the mailing list is also the place to go. Please *do not* use the GitHub issue tracker as a support forum. Your question is much more likely to be answered on the mailing list, as many more people follow that than the issue tracker.

Adding bug reports

Bug reports are handled in the [issue tracker](#) on PROJ.4's home on GitHub. Writing a good bug report is not easy. But fixing a poorly documented bug is not easy either, so please put in the effort it takes to create a thorough bug report.

A good bug report includes at least:

- A title that quickly explains the problem
- A description of the problem and how it can be reproduced
- Version of PROJ.4 being used
- Version numbers of any other relevant software being used, e.g. operating system
- A description of what already has been done to solve the problem

The more information that is given up front, the more likely it is that a developer will find interest in solving the problem. You will probably get follow-up questions after submitting a bug report. Please answer them in a timely manner if you have an interest in getting the issue solved.

Finally, please only submit bug reports that are actually related to PROJ.4. If the issue materializes in software that uses PROJ.4 it is likely a problem with that particular software. Make sure that it actually is a PROJ.4 problem before you submit an issue. If you can reproduce the problem only by using tools from PROJ.4 it is definitely a problem with PROJ.4.

Feature requests

Got an idea for a new feature in PROJ.4? Submit a thorough description of the new feature in the [issue tracker](#). Please include any technical documents that can help the developer make the new feature a reality. An example of this could be a publicly available academic paper that describes a new projection. Also, including a numerical test case will make it much easier to verify that an implementation of your requested feature actually works as you expect.

Note that not all feature requests are accepted.

Write documentation

PROJ.4 is in dire need of better documentation. Any contributions of documentation are greatly appreciated. The PROJ.4 documentation is available on proj4.org. The website is generated with [Sphinx](#). Contributions to the documentation should be made as [Pull Requests](#) on GitHub.

If you intend to document one of PROJ.4's supported projections please use the [Mercator projection](#) as a template.

Code contributions

Code contributions can be either bug fixes or new features. The process is the same for both, so they will be discussed together in this section.

Making Changes

- Create a topic branch from where you want to base your work.
- You usually should base your topic branch off of the master branch.
- To quickly create a topic branch: `git checkout -b my-topic-branch`
- Make commits of logical units.
- Check for unnecessary whitespace with `git diff --check` before committing.
- Make sure your commit messages are in the [proper format](#).
- Make sure you have added the necessary tests for your changes.
- Make sure that all tests pass

Submitting Changes

- Push your changes to a topic branch in your fork of the repository.
- Submit a pull request to the PROJ.4 repository in the OSGeo organization.
- If your pull request fixes/references an issue, include that issue number in the pull request. For example:

```
Wiz the bang
```

```
Fixes #123.
```

- PROJ.4 developers will look at your patch and take an appropriate action.

Coding conventions

Programming language

PROJ.4 is developed strictly in ANSI C 89.

Coding style

We don't enforce any particular coding style, but please try to keep it as simple as possible. If improving existing code, please try to conform with the style of the locally surrounding code.

Whitespace

Throughout the PROJ.4 code base you will see differing whitespace use. The general rule is to keep whitespace in whatever form it is in the file you are currently editing. If the file has a mix of tabs and space please convert the tabs to space in a separate commit before making any other changes. This makes it a lot easier to see the changes in diffs when evaluating the changed code. New files should use spaces as whitespace.

File names

Files in which projections are implemented are prefixed with an upper-case `PJ_` and most other files are prefixed with lower-case `pj_`. Some file deviate from this pattern, most of them dates back to the very early releases of PROJ.4. New contributions should follow the `pj`-prefix pattern. Unless there are obvious reasons not to.

Legalese

Commiters are the front line gatekeepers to keep the code base clear of improperly contributed code. It is important to the PROJ.4 users, developers and the OSGeo foundation to avoid contributing any code to the project without it being clearly licensed under the project license.

Generally speaking the key issues are that those providing code to be included in the repository understand that the code will be released under the MIT/X license, and that the person providing the code has the right to contribute the code. For the committer themselves understanding about the license is hopefully clear. For other contributors, the committer should verify the understanding unless the committer is very comfortable that the contributor understands the license (for instance frequent contributors).

If the contribution was developed on behalf of an employer (on work time, as part of a work project, etc) then it is important that an appropriate representative of the employer understand that the code will be contributed under the MIT/X license. The arrangement should be cleared with an authorized supervisor/manager, etc.

The code should be developed by the contributor, or the code should be from a source which can be rightfully contributed such as from the public domain, or from an open source project under a compatible license.

All unusual situations need to be discussed and/or documented.

Commiters should adhere to the following guidelines, and may be personally legally liable for improperly contributing code to the source repository:

- Make sure the contributor (and possibly employer) is aware of the contribution terms.
- Code coming from a source other than the contributor (such as adapted from another project) should be clearly marked as to the original source, copyright holders, license terms and so forth. This information can be in the file headers, but should also be added to the project licensing file if not exactly matching normal project licensing (`COPYING`).

- Existing copyright headers and license text should never be stripped from a file. If a copyright holder wishes to give up copyright they must do so in writing to the foundation before copyright messages are removed. If license terms are changed it has to be by agreement (written in email is ok) of the copyright holders.
- Code with licenses requiring credit, or disclosure to users should be added to COPYING.
- When substantial contributions are added to a file (such as substantial patches) the author/contributor should be added to the list of copyright holders for the file.
- If there is uncertainty about whether a change is proper to contribute to the code base, please seek more information from the project steering committee, or the foundation legal counsel.

Additional Resources

- General GitHub documentation
- GitHub pull request documentation

Acknowledgements

The *code contribution* section of this CONTRIBUTING file is inspired by [PDAL's](#) and the *legalese* section is modified from [GDAL contributer guidelines](#)

Download

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Release Notes

- NEWS

Current Release

- [2016-09-02 proj-4.9.3.tar.gz \(md5\)](#)
- [2016-09-11 proj-datumgrid-1.6.zip](#)

Past Releases

- [2015-09-13 proj-4.9.2.tar.gz](#)
- [2015-03-04 proj-4.9.1.tar.gz](#)

Binaries

Linux

- RedHat RPMs
- SUSE
- Debian
- pkgsr
- Delphi

Docker

A Docker image with just PROJ.4 binaries and a full compliment of grid shift files is available on *DockerHub*:

Windows

- OSGeo4W contains 32-bit and 64-bit Windows binaries, including support for many *grids*.

Glossary

Pseudocylindrical Projection Pseudocylindrical projections have the mathematical characteristics of

$$\begin{aligned}x &= f(\lambda, \phi) \\y &= g(\phi)\end{aligned}$$

where the parallels of latitude are straight lines, like cylindrical projections, but the meridians are curved toward the center as they depart from the equator. This is an effort to minimize the distortion of the polar regions inherent in the cylindrical projections.

Pseudocylindrical projections are almost exclusively used for small scale global displays and, except for the Sinusoidal projection, only derived for a spherical Earth. Because of the basic definition none of the pseudocylindrical projections are conformal but many are equal area.

To further reduce distortion, pseudocylindrical are often presented in interrupted form that are made by joining several regions with appropriate central meridians and false easting and clipping boundaries. Interrupted Homolosine constructions are suited for showing respective global land and oceanic regions, for example. To reduce the lateral size of the map, some uses remove an irregular, North-South strip of the mid-Atlantic region so that the western tip of Africa is plotted north of the eastern tip of South America.

License

Author Frank Warmerdam

Contact warmingdam@pobox.com

Date 2001

PROJ.4 has been placed under an MIT license. I believe this to be as close as possible to public domain while satisfying those who say that a copyright notice is required in some countries. The COPYING file read as follows:

All source, data files and other contents of the PROJ.4 package are available under the following terms. Note that the PROJ 4.3 and earlier was “public domain” as is common with US government work, but apparently this is not a well defined legal term in many countries. I am placing everything under the following MIT style license because I believe it is effectively the same as public domain, allowing anyone to use the code as they wish, including making proprietary derivatives.

Though I have put my own name as copyright holder, I don’t mean to imply I did the work. Essentially all work was done by Gerald Evenden.

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**CHAPTER
TWO**

MAILING LIST

The PROJ.4 mailing list can be found at <http://lists.maptools.org/mailman/listinfo/proj>

**CHAPTER
THREE**

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