

# Visualizing Geospatial Data with GMT



# Generic Mapping Tools (GMT)

- The **objective** of this session is to introduce you to geospatial visualization using GMT
- Introduction ~30 min
  - What are GMT?
  - Why create maps using GMT?
  - Examples of GMT maps/uses
- Part 1 - Getting Started ~60 min
  - Basic Syntax and commands
  - Map Projections/Coordinate Systems
- Part 2 - Advanced Topics ~60 min
  - Gridding and contouring datasets
  - Color/Illumination/Intensities
  - Using Photoshop to create animations



# What are GMT?

- The Generic Mapping Tools are an open source collection of tools for manipulating geographic and Cartesian data sets (including filtering, trend fitting, gridding, projecting, etc.) and producing PostScript illustrations ranging from simple x–y plots via contour maps to artificially illuminated surfaces and 3D perspective views.
- It makes publication quality maps and figures.

# Why Geospatial Visualization? When is geography important?

- Communicate geospatial information in ways that allow for informed decision making
  - Mineral and Resource Exploration
  - Earthquakes and Natural Hazards
  - Water Resource Management
  - Fire Fighting
  - Art History
  - Forestry
  - Archeology
  - Environmental Studies
  - Urban Planning
  - Social Services
  - Utility Mapping

# Why GMT?

- PROS
  - Open Source (free!)
  - Powerful, flexible, and robust
  - High quality (.ps) output suitable for publication
- CONS
  - Steep learning curve
  - Not user friendly

# Resources

- GMT web page – <http://gmt.soest.hawaii.edu>
  - Documentation and man pages
  - Discussion forum
  - Examples (included on box)
  - Tutorial
  - GMT Technical Reference and Cookbook
  - Podcast

Search:

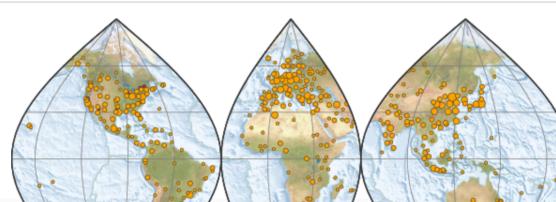
GMT

Overview Activity Roadmap Issues News Wiki Documentation Download Developer Forums Repository

## What is GMT?

GMT is an open source collection of about 80 command-line tools for manipulating geographic and Cartesian data sets (including filtering, trend fitting, gridding, projecting, etc.) and producing PostScript illustrations ranging from simple x-y plots via contour maps to artificially illuminated surfaces and 3D perspective views; the GMT supplements add another 40 more specialized and discipline-specific tools. GMT supports over 30 map projections and transformations and requires support data such as [GSHHG](#) coastlines, rivers, and political boundaries and optionally [DCW](#) country polygons. GMT is developed and maintained by Paul Wessel, Walter H. F. Smith, Remko Scharroo, Joaquim Luis and Florian Wobbe, with help from a global set of [volunteers](#), and is supported by the [National Science Foundation](#). It is released under the [GNU Lesser General Public License](#) version 3 or any later version.

The **GMT World Domination**



**Latest Releases**

- GMT-5.2.1 (2015-11-12)  
↳ Documentation (HTML)
- GMT-4.5.14 (2015-11-01)  
↳ Documentation

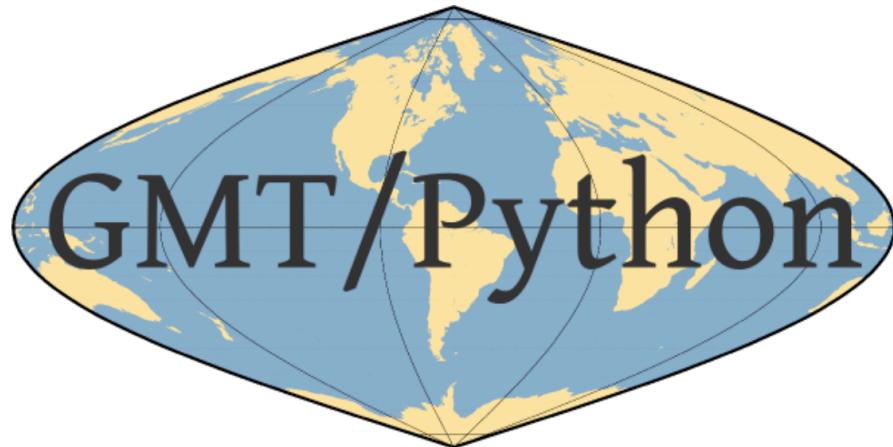
**Resources**

- Installing instructions
- Building instructions
- Mailing Lists
- Tidbits
- Podcasts
- References
- Postdoc Opportunity

**Wiki**

- Start page
- Index by title
- Index by date

# Python API



A Python interface for the [Generic Mapping Tools](#)

- Coming Soon!
- Package is still in early stages of design and implementation
- Goal is modern API for Python programmers who want to use GMT
- Requires development version of GMT and Python 3

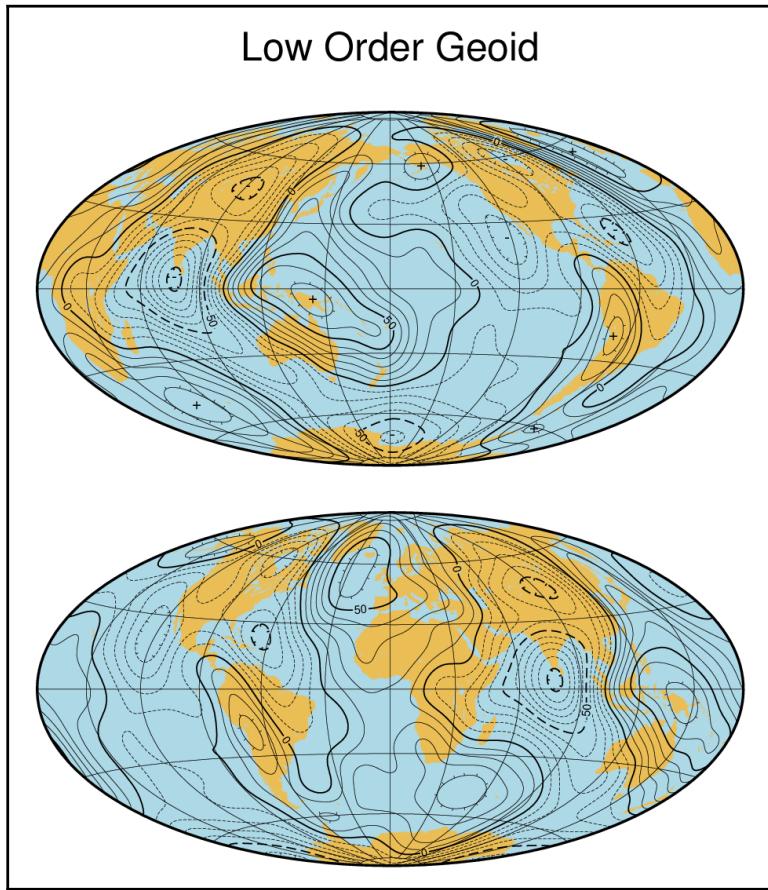
<https://genericmappingtools.github.io/gmt-python/index.html>

# GMT Output

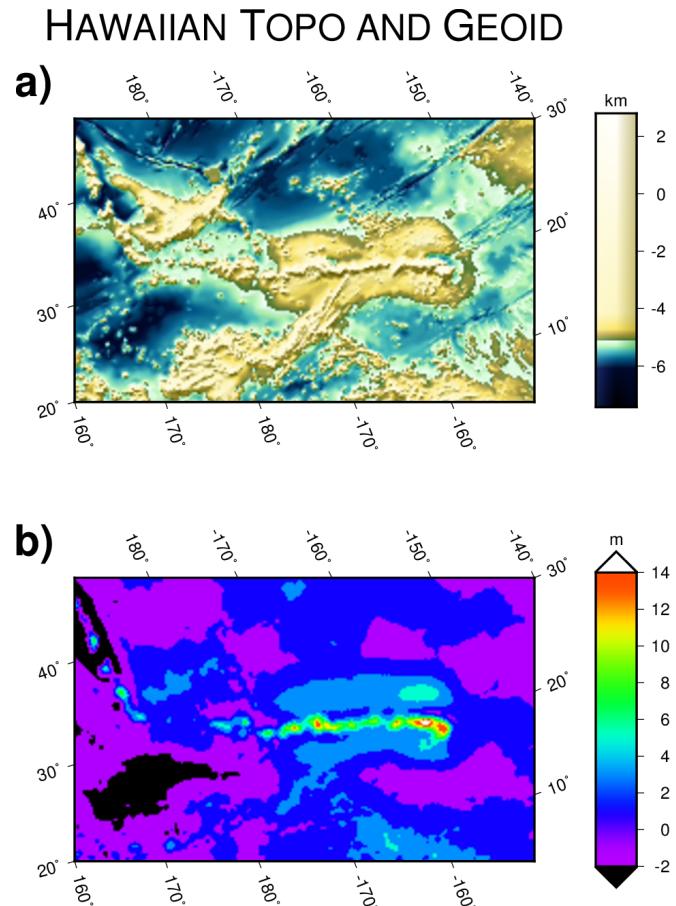
1. PostScript plot(s).
2. Data Table(s).
3. Gridded data set(s).
4. Statistics & Summaries.
5. Warnings and Errors, written to *stderr*.
6. Exit status (0 means success, otherwise failure).

# GMT Examples

## Contour Maps

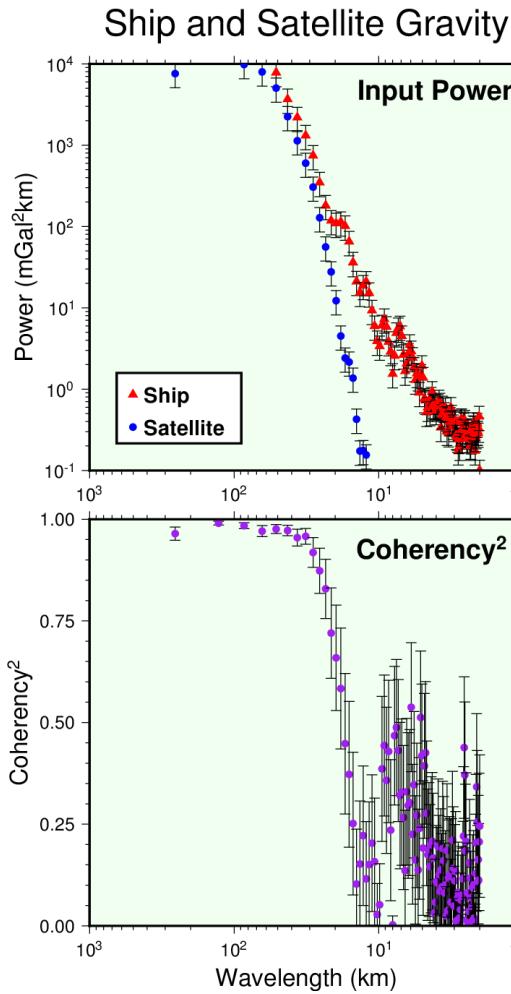


## Topo and Geoid Maps



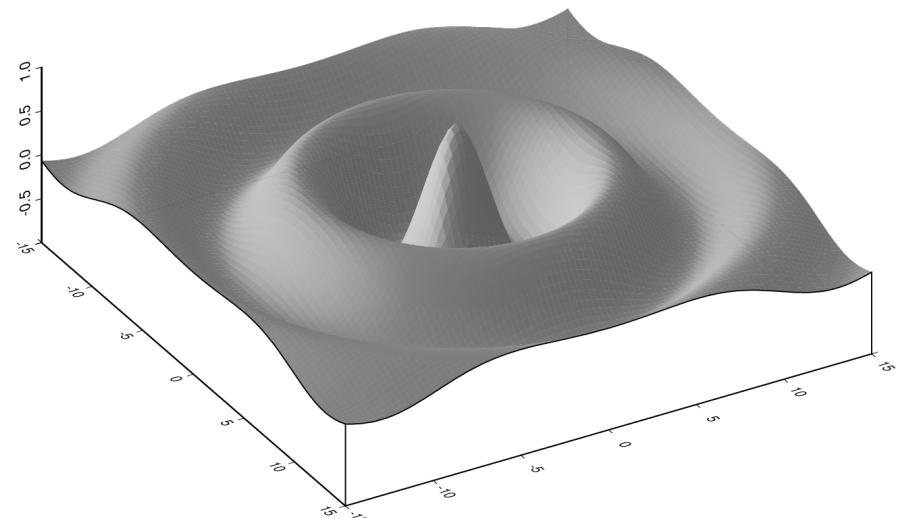
# GMT Examples

## *Spectral Estimation and xy plots*



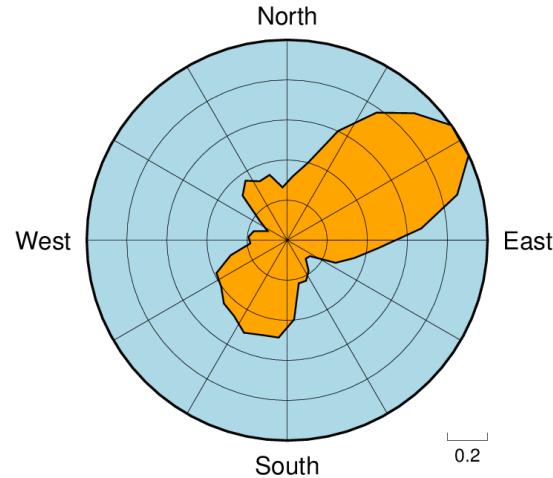
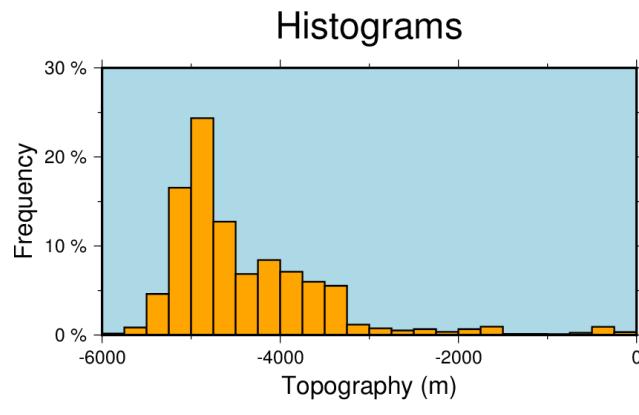
## *3D Perspective Mesh Plot*

$$z(r) = \cos(2\pi r/8) \cdot e^{-r/10}$$

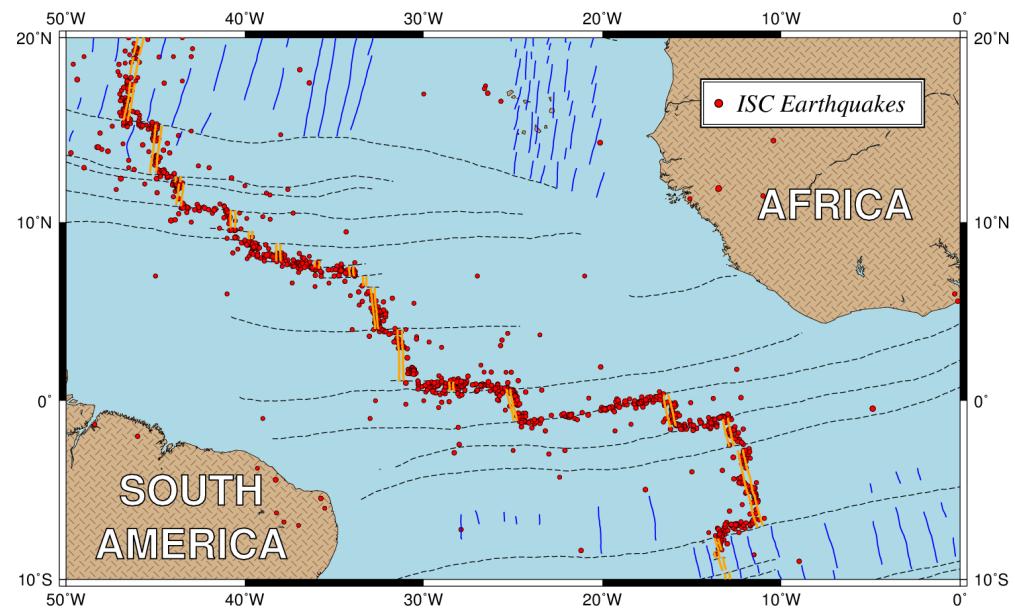


# GMT Examples

## *Plotting of Histograms*

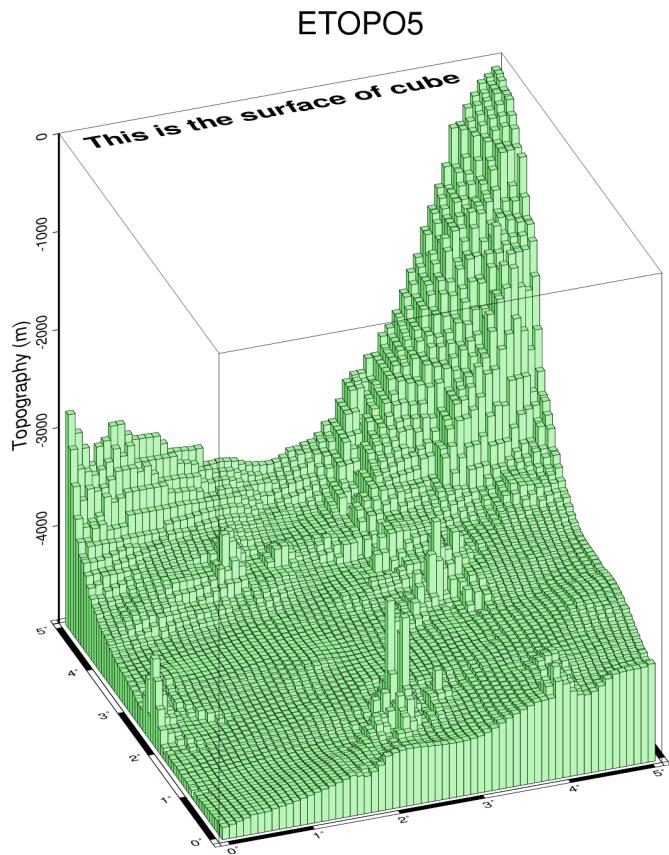


## *A Simple Location Map*

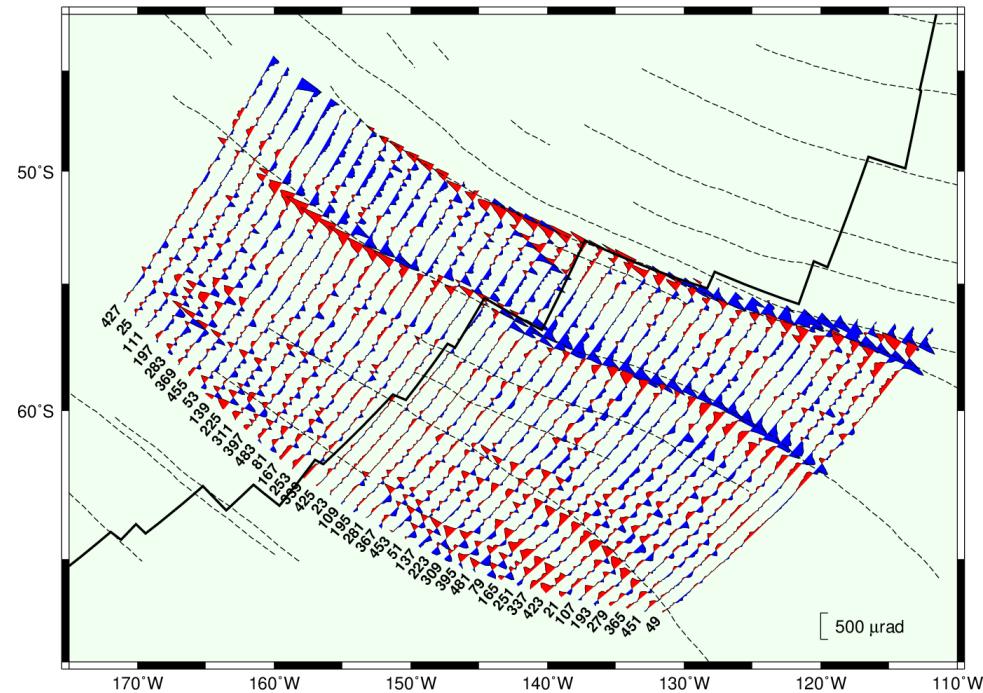


# GMT Examples

## *3D Histogram*



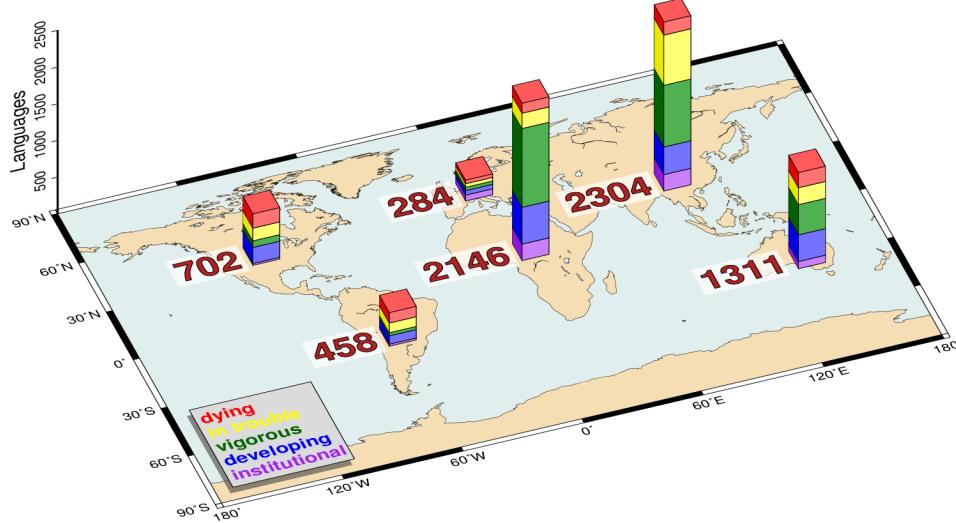
# *Time Series Along Tracks*



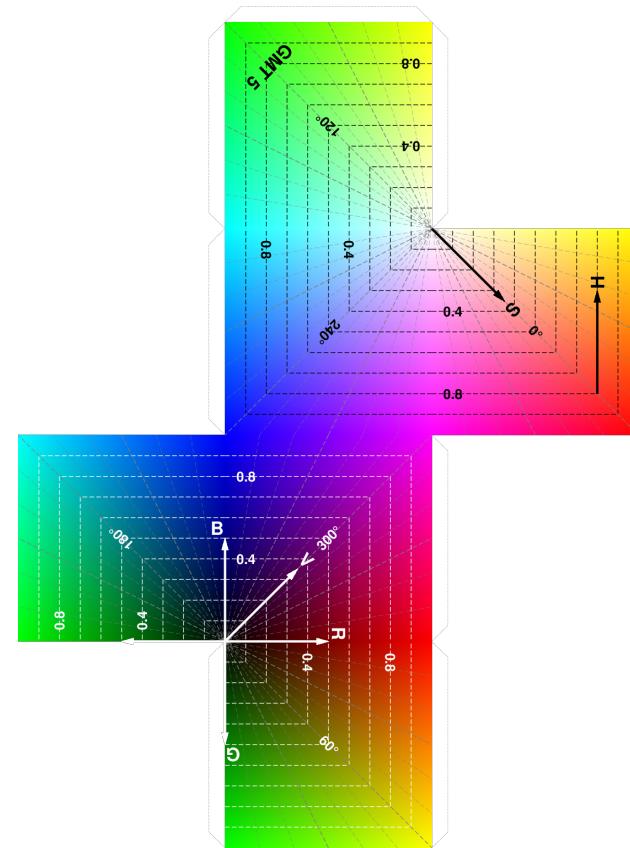
# GMT Examples

*Geographical Bar  
Graph Plot*

**World Languages By Continent**

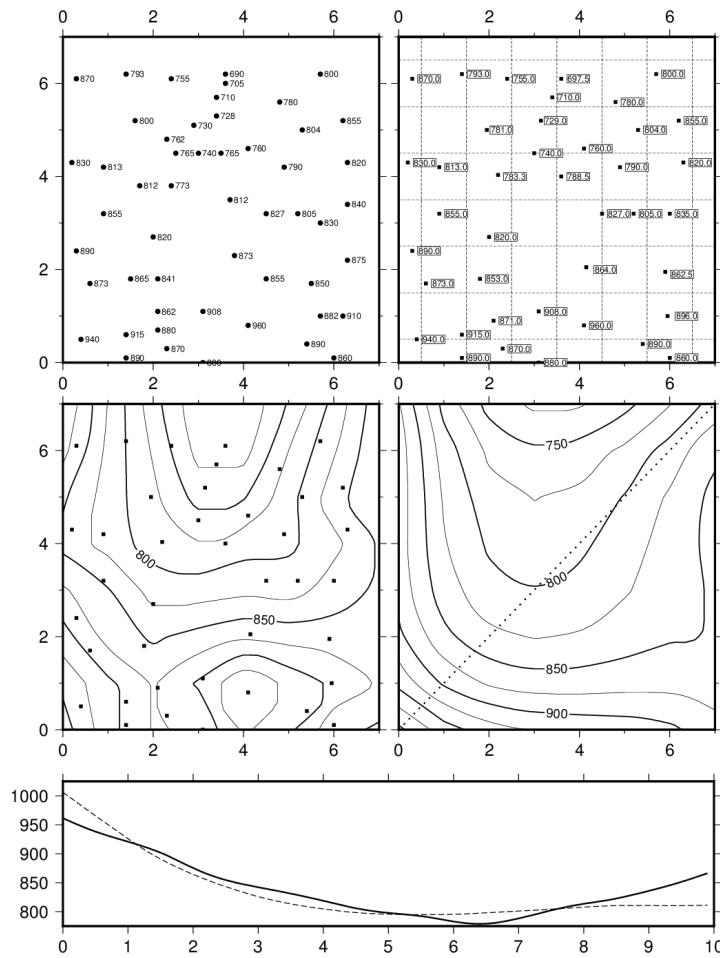


*A 3D RGB Color  
Cube*



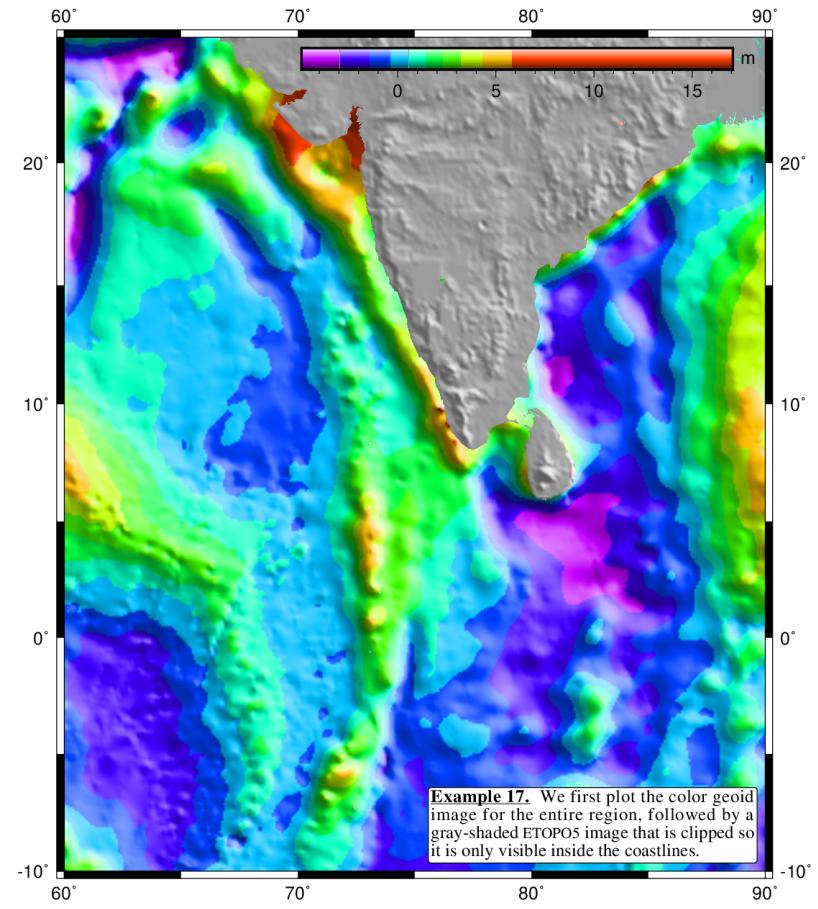
# GMT Examples

# *Gridding of Data and Trend Surfaces*



# *Images Clipped by Coastlines*

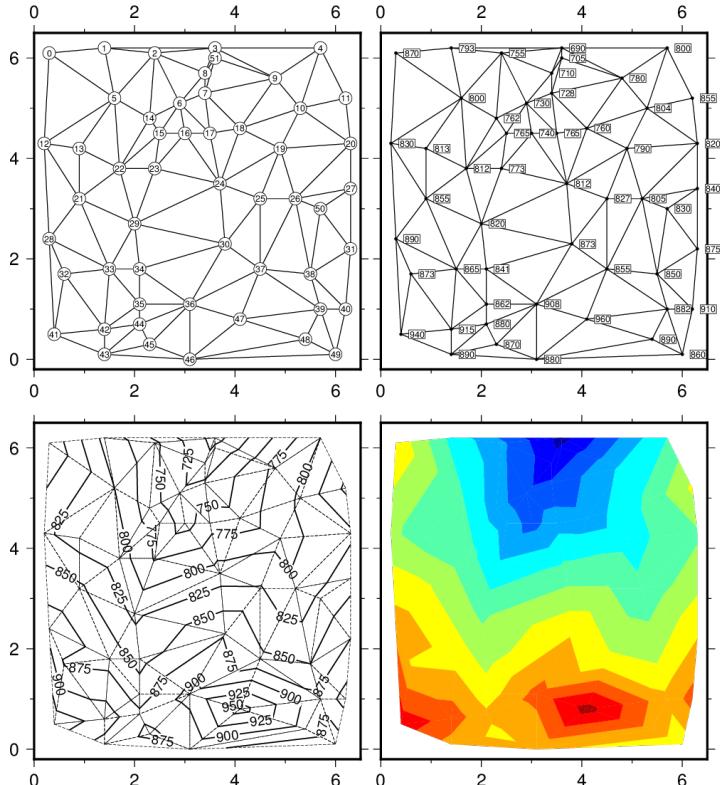
## Clipping of Images



# GMT Examples

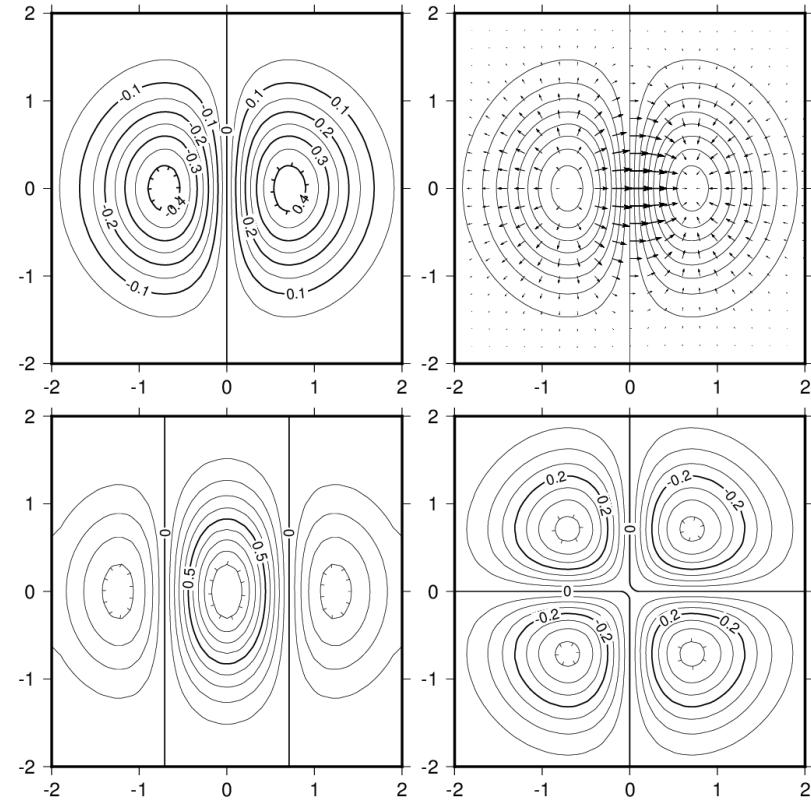
*Optimal Triangulation  
of Data*

**Delaunay Triangulation**



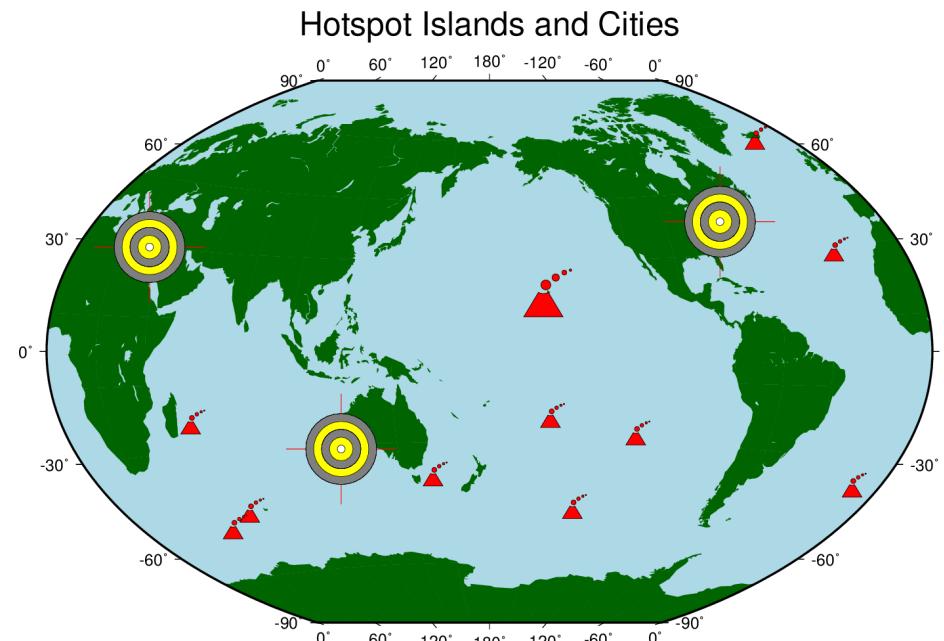
*Plotting of Vector  
Fields*

$$z(x,y) = x \cdot \exp(-x^2 - y^2)$$

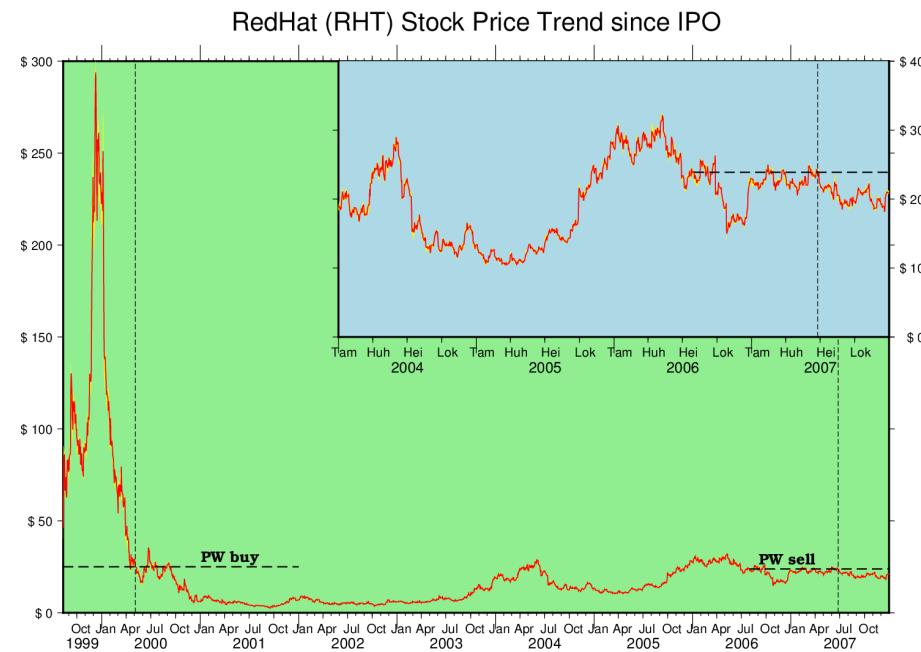


# GMT Examples

## *Custom Plot and Symbols*

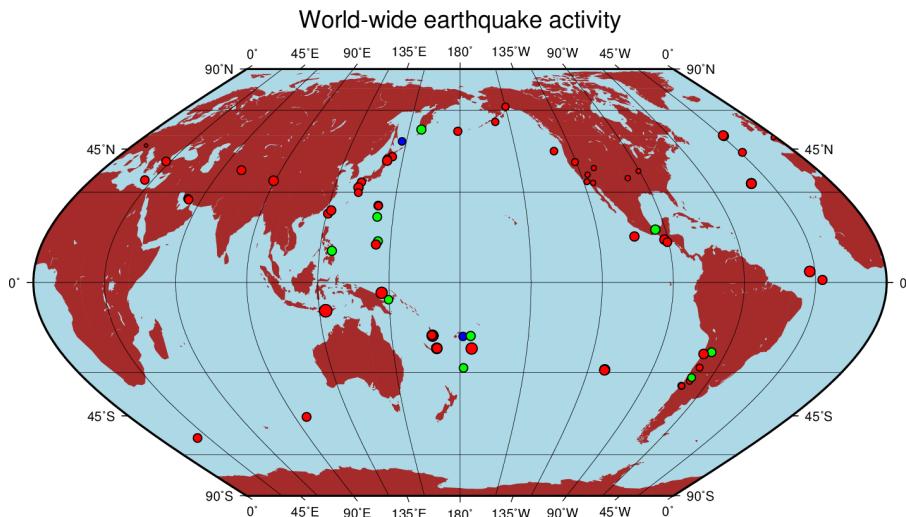


## *Time Series of Red Hat Stock Price*



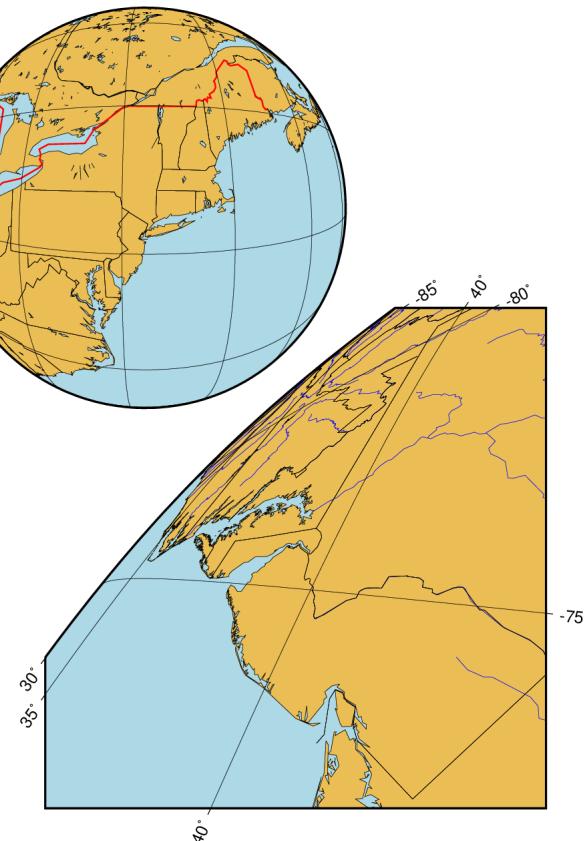
# GMT Examples

## Worldwide Seismicity Last 7 days



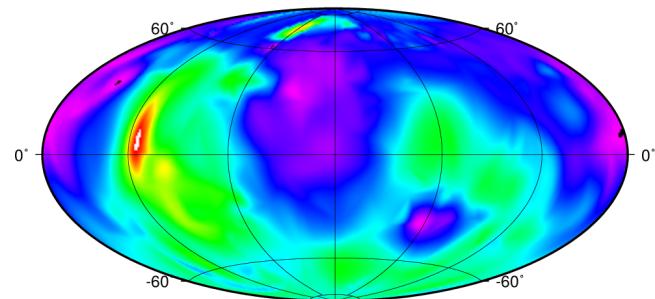
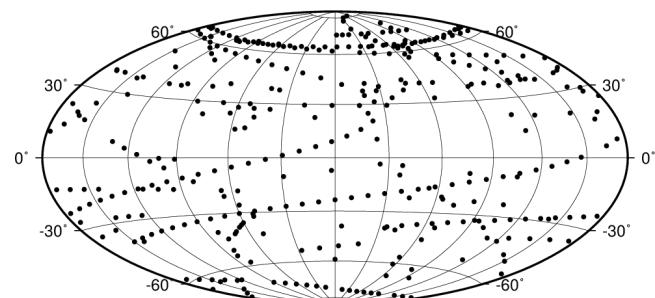
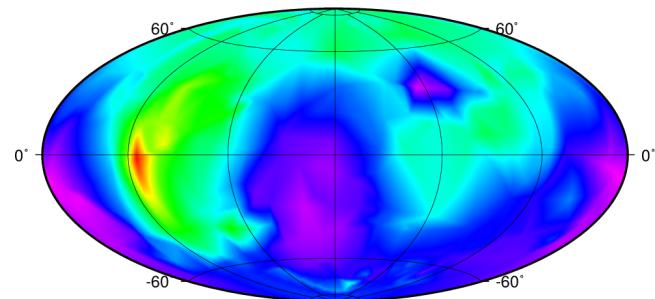
GMT guru @ GMTbox

## General Vertical Perspective Projection



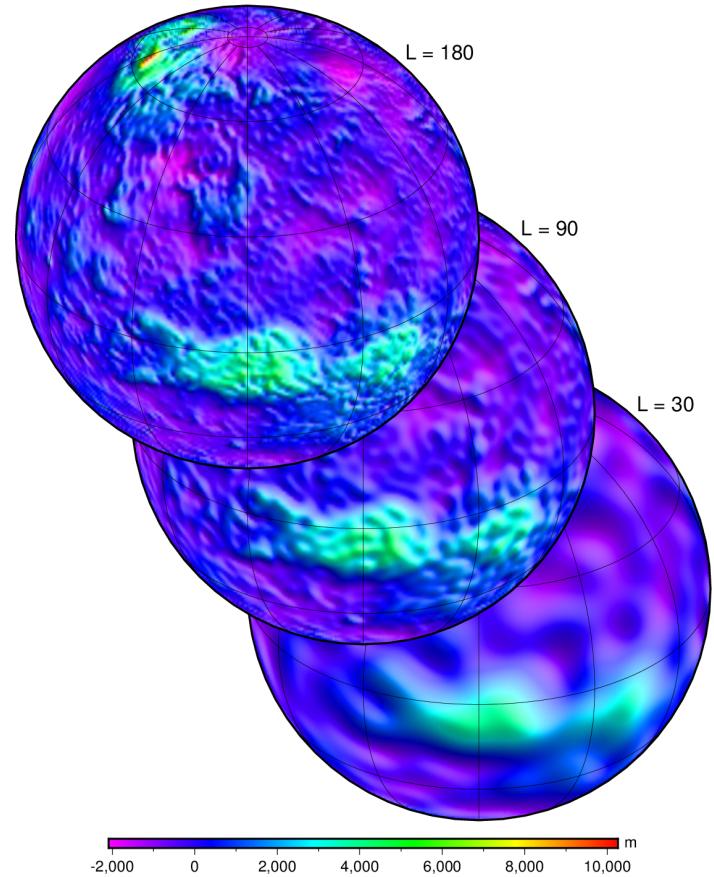
# GMT Examples

*Spherical Gridding  
using Renka's Algortihm*



*Evaluation of Spherical  
Harmonics Coefficients*

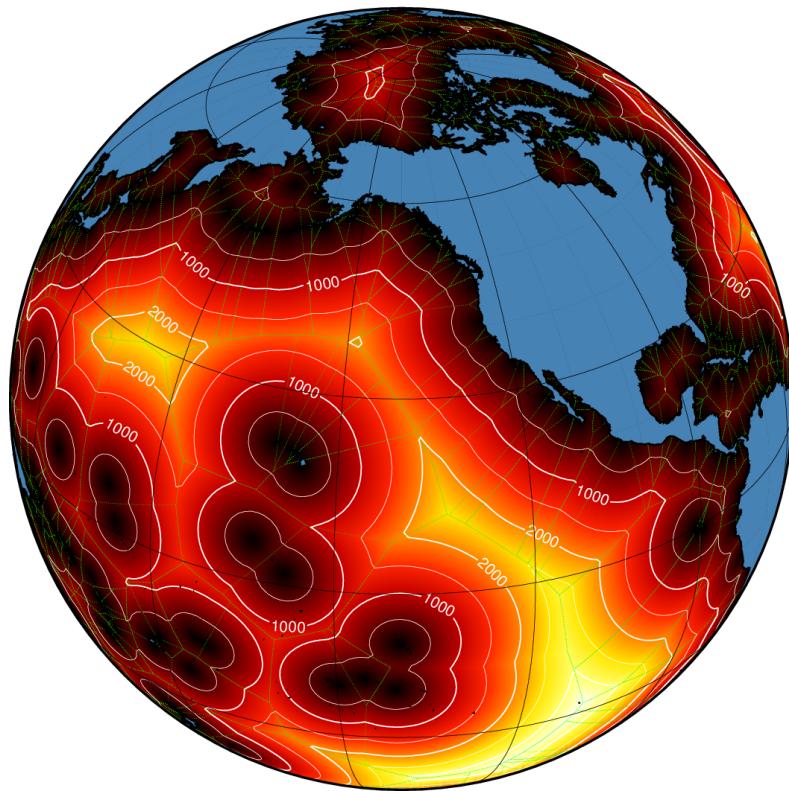
Venus Spherical Harmonic Model



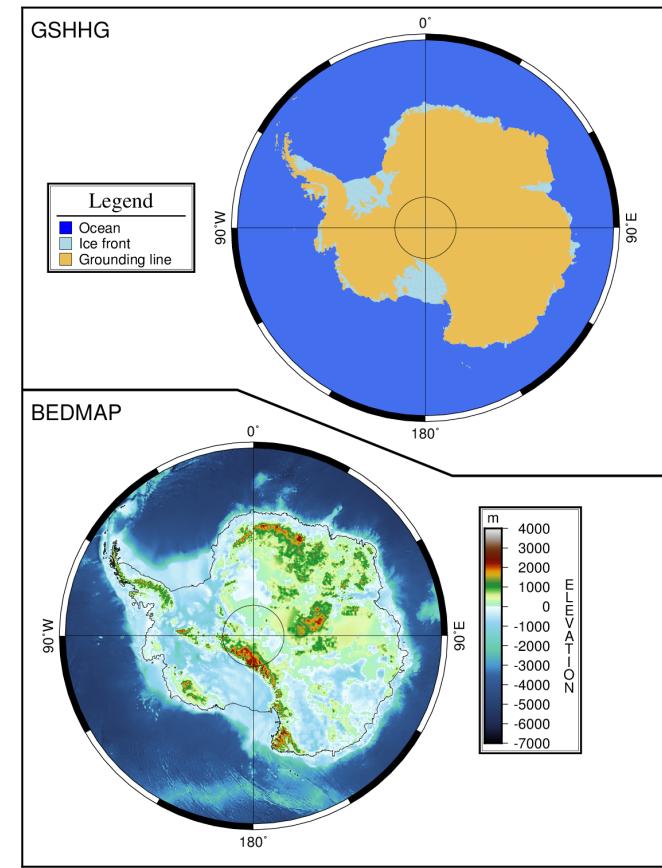
# GMT Examples

## *Spherical Triangulation and Distance Calculations*

Distances from GSHHG crude coastlines

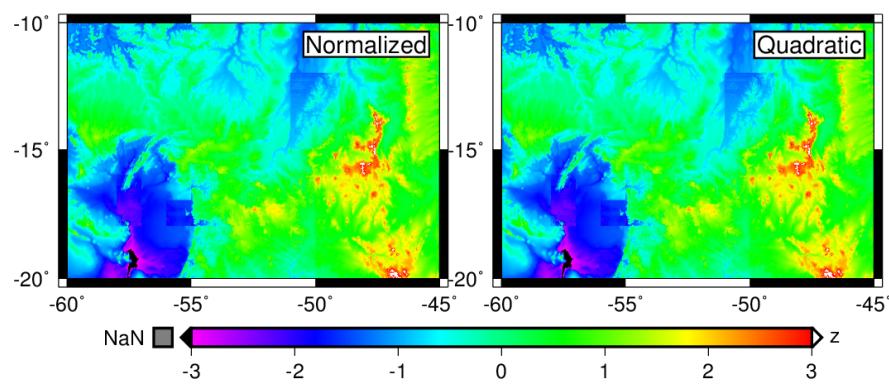
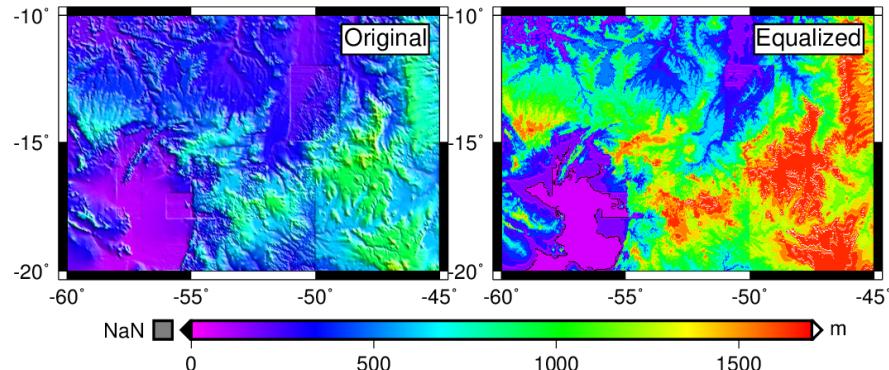


## *Antarctica and Stereographic Projections*

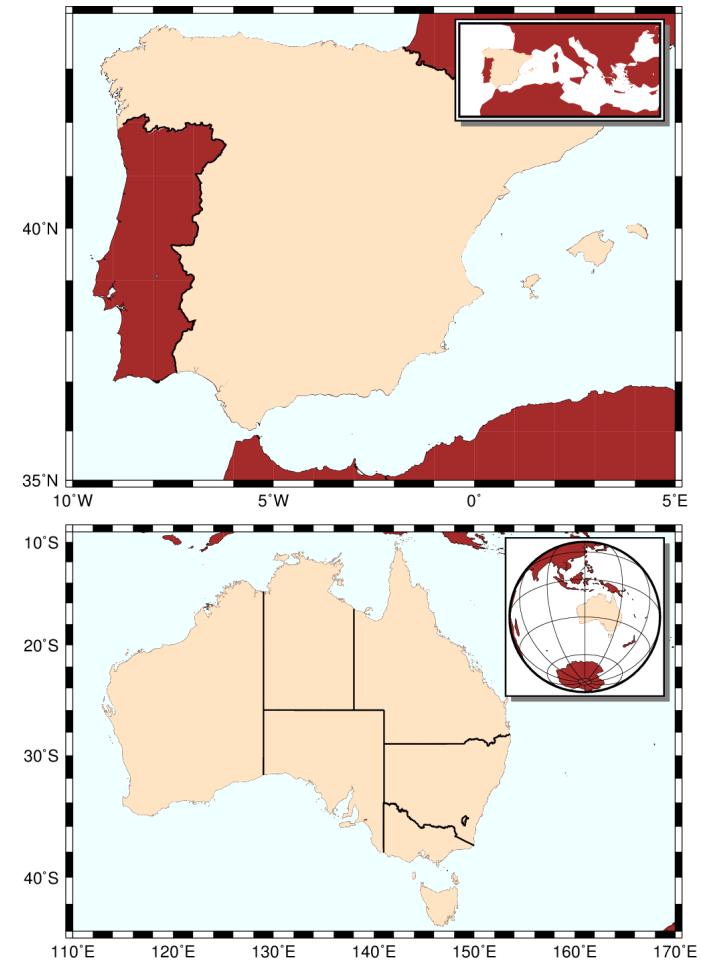


# GMT Examples

*Histogram Equalization  
of Bathymetry Grids*

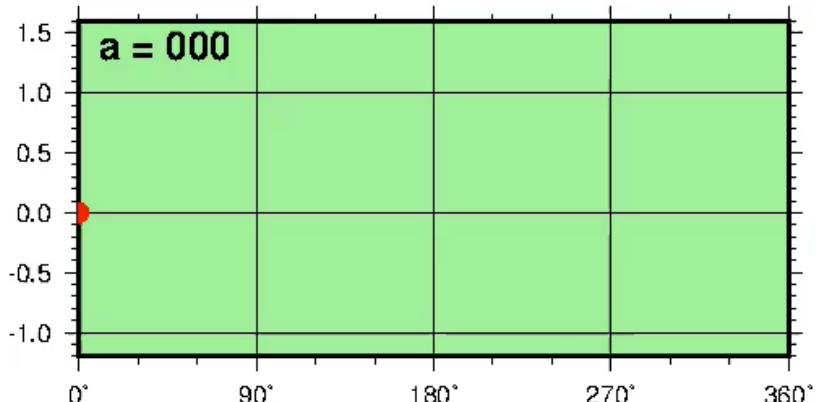


*Map Insets*

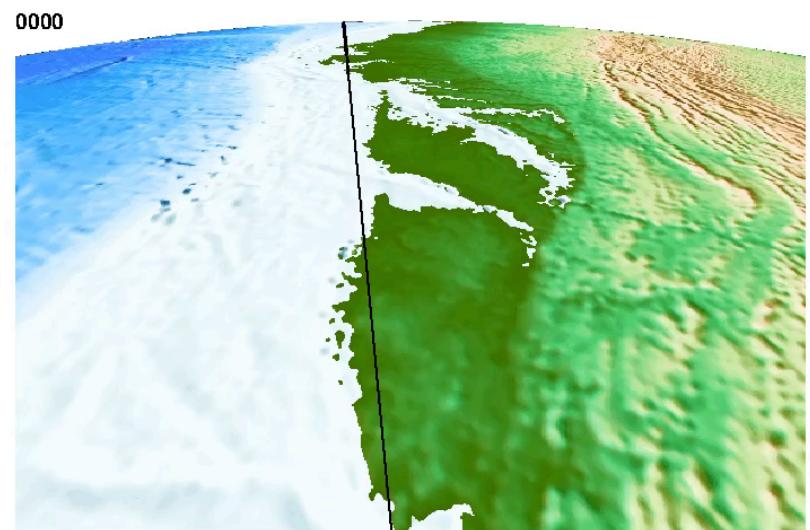


# GMT Examples

*Animation of Sine Function*



*Topography Flyover*



# GMT Basics

- Run GMT commands through bash script on the command line
  - Create new text file with favorite text editor
  - Type `#!/bin/bash` on first line of file
  - Save and make executable



A screenshot of a text editor window titled "test.sh". The file path is shown as "~Documents/GMT\_course/test.sh". The status bar indicates "Not registered". The code in the editor is:

```
1 #!/bin/bash
2
3 gmt psbasemap -R10/70/-3/8 -JX4i/3i -Ba -B+glightred+t"My first plot" -P > GMT_tut_1.ps
4 gs GMT_tut_1.ps
```

The third line, which contains the GMT command, is highlighted with a yellow background.

# Linear Projection

```
gmt psbasemap -R10/70/-3/8 -JX4i/3i -Ba -B+glightred+t"My first plot" -P > GMT_tut_1.ps
```



Exercises:

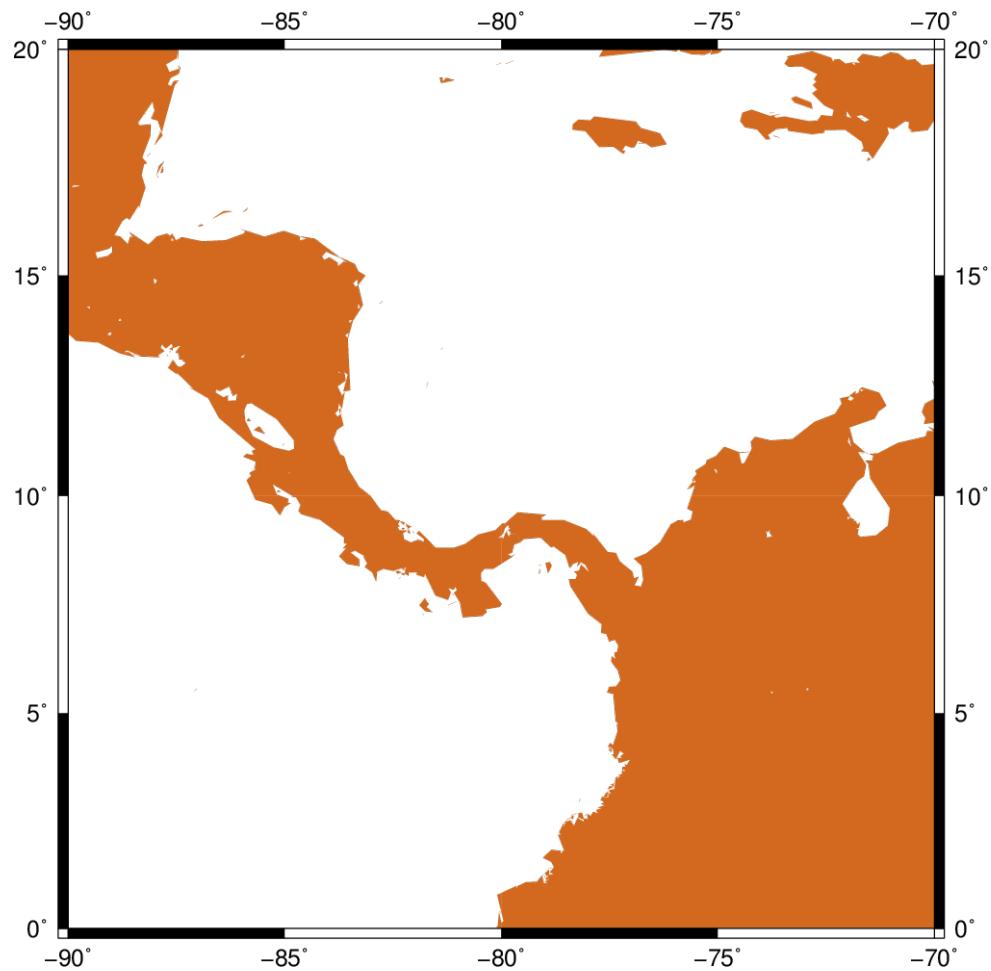
1. Try change the **-JX** values.
2. Try change the **-B** values.
3. Omit the **-P**.
4. Change title and canvas color.

# Mercator Projection

```
gmt pscoast -R-90/-70/0/20 -JM6i -P -Ba -Gchocolate > GMT_mercator.ps
```

## Exercises:

1. Add the **-V** option.
2. Pick another region and change land color.
3. Pick a region that includes the north or south poles.
4. Try **-W0.25p** instead of (or in addition to) **-G**.



# Orthographic Projection

```
gmt pscoast -Rg -JG280/30/6i -Bag -Dc -A5000 -Gwhite -SDarkTurquoise -P >  
GMT_tut_5.ps
```



## Exercises:

1. Use the rectangular option in **-R** to make a rectangular map showing the US only.

# Available GMT projections

C = Conformal  
E = Equal Area

## GMT PROJECTIONS

### GEOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS

#### CYLINDRICAL

Basic [E]

Cassini

Equidistant

Mercator [C]

Miller

Oblique Mercator [C]

Stereographic

Transverse Mercator [C]

UTM [C]

#### CONICAL

Albers [E]

Equidistant

Lambert [C]

Polyconic

#### AZIMUTHAL

Equidistant

Gnomonic

Orthographic

Perspective

Lambert [E]

Stereographic [C]

#### THEMATIC

Eckert IV + VI [E]

Hammer [E]

Mollweide [E]

Robinson

Sinusoidal [E]

Winkel Tripel

Van der Grinten

#### OTHER

Linear

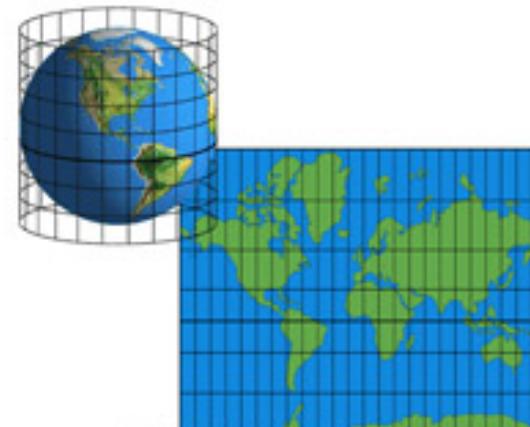
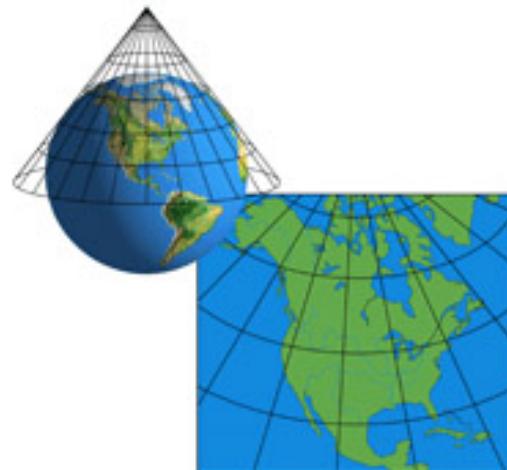
Logarithmic

Exponential

Time

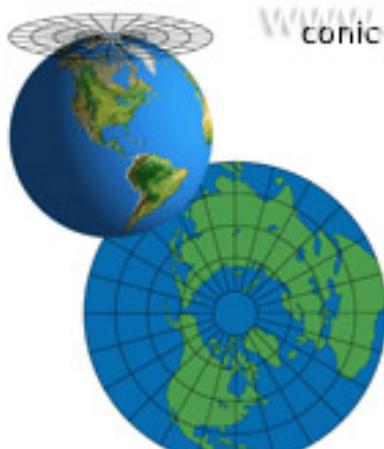
Polar

# Map Projections

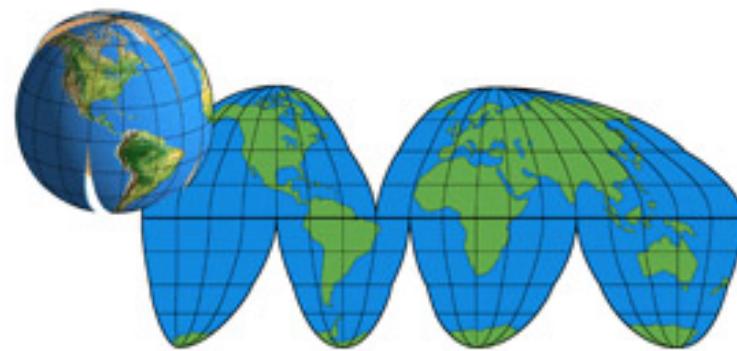


conic projection

cylindrical projection



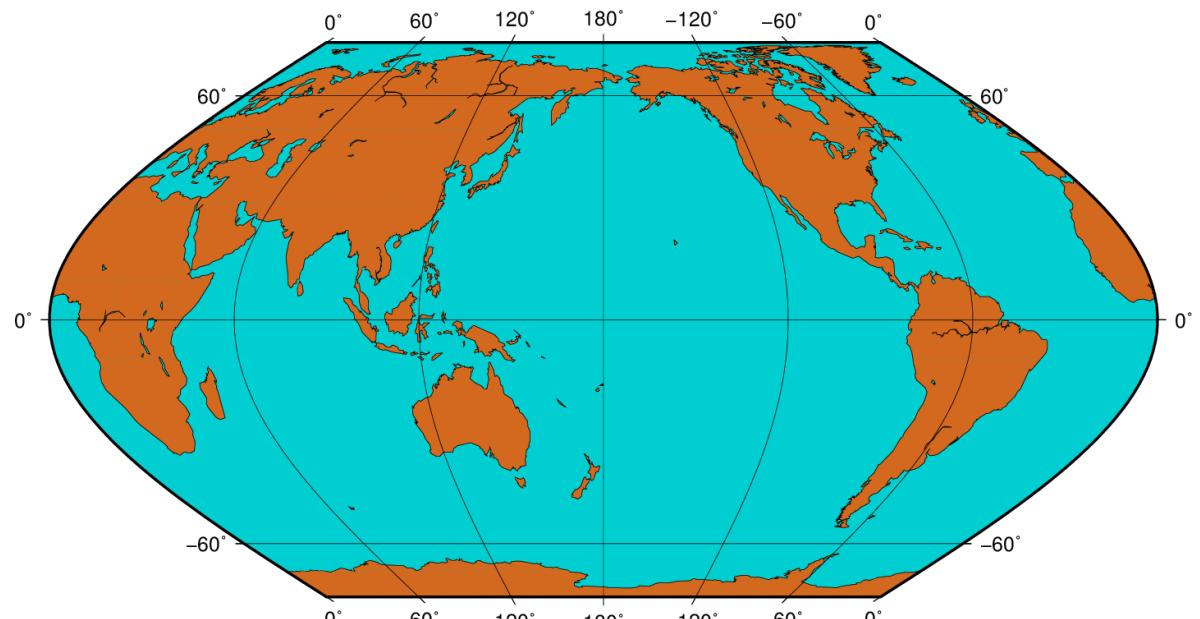
plane projection



interrupted projection

# Eckert VI Projection

```
gmt pscoast -Rg -JKs180/9i -Bag -Dc -A5000 -Gchocolate -SDarkTurquoise  
-Wthinnest > GMT_tut_6.ps
```



## Exercises:

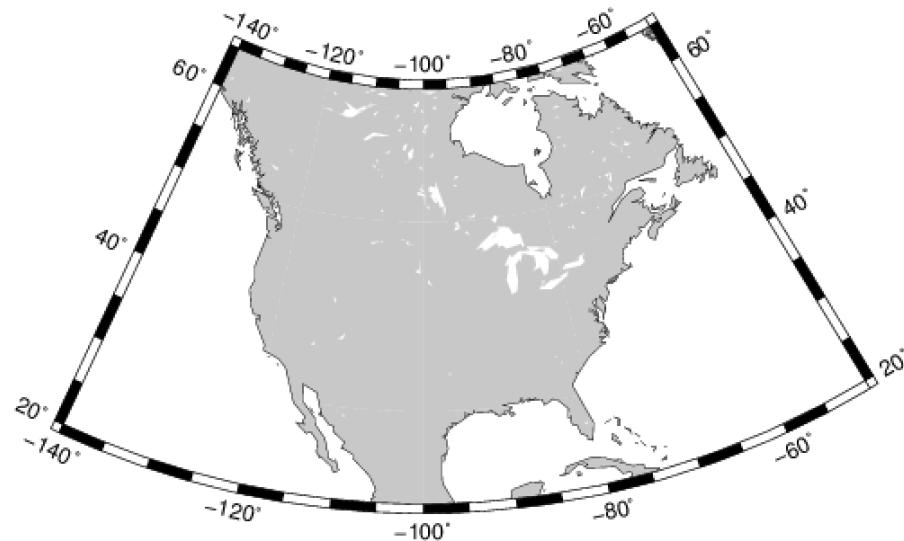
1. Center the map on Greenwich.
2. Add a map scale with **-L**.

# Albers Projection

```
gmt pscoast -R-140/-50/20/65 -JB-100/35/33/45/6i -Ba20f5/a20f5 -Dc -Ggray -  
W1/0 -P > GMT_alpers.ps
```

Change/add the following features to your map:

- Longitudinal interval marks every  $20^\circ$
- Latitudinal interval marks every  $10^\circ$
- Light brown land masses
- Light blue oceans
- Intermediate resolution coastlines
- 1500 km long map scale in bottom right corner
- 7.5 inches wide
- All major rivers in blue pen
- State boundaries in dashed black pen
- Country borders in solid red
- Solid green star showing your favorite city
- Text annotation of your favorite city
- Map Title



# Postscript File handling Best Practices

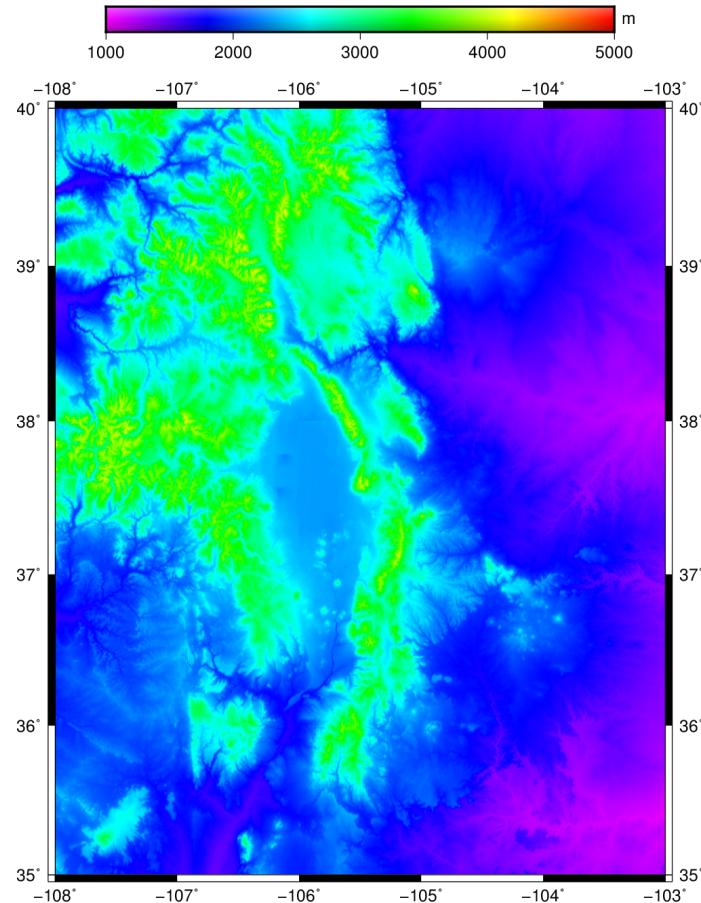
- -K and -O options
  - Important when using multiple commands to create postscript file
  - **-K** Allow more plot code to be appended to this plot later (every command except the last)
  - **-O** Allow this plot code to be appended to an existing plot (every command except first)
- > and >> options
  - Use > for first command of script
  - Use >> for every subsequent command

# Color Images – USA topography

```
gmt makecpt -Crainbow -T1000/5000/500 -Z > topo.cpt
```

```
gmt grdimage us.nc -JM6i -P -Ba -Ctopo.cpt -V -K > GMT_tut_15.ps
```

```
gmt psscale -DjTC+w5i/0.25i+h+o0/-1i -Rus.nc -J -Ctopo.cpt -I0.4 -By+Im -O >>  
GMT_tut_15.ps
```



# Color Images – USA topography

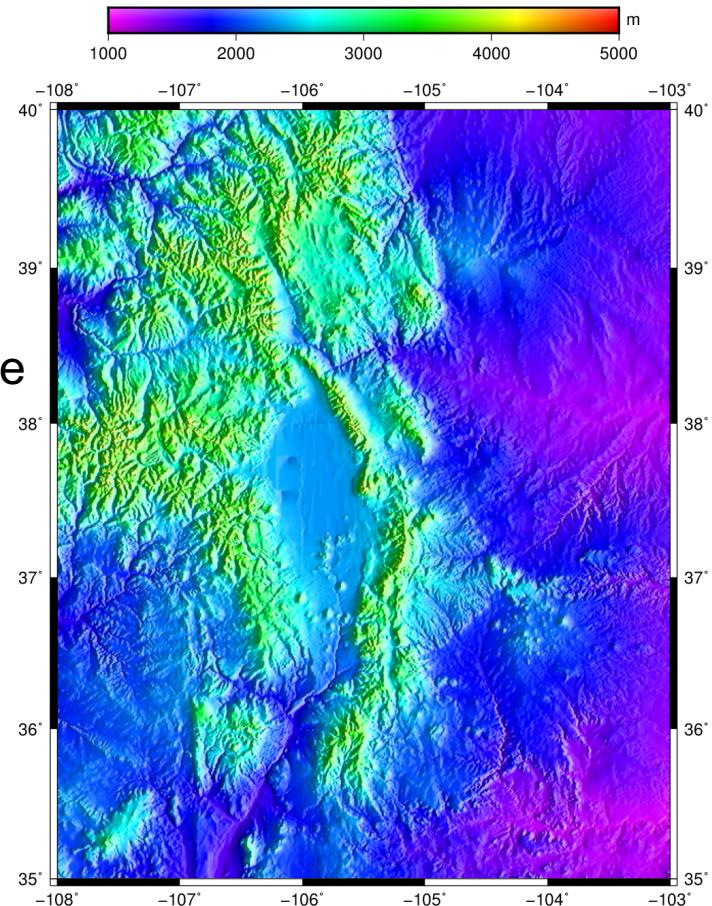
```
gmt grdgradient us.nc -Ne0.8 -A100 -fg -Gus_i.nc
```

```
gmt grdimage us.nc -lus_i.nc -JM6i -P -Ba -Ctopo.cpt -K > GMT_tut_16.ps
```

```
gmt psscale -DjTC+w5i/0.25i+h+o0/-1i -Rus.nc -J -Ctopo.cpt -I0.4 -By+Im -O >>  
GMT_tut_16.ps
```

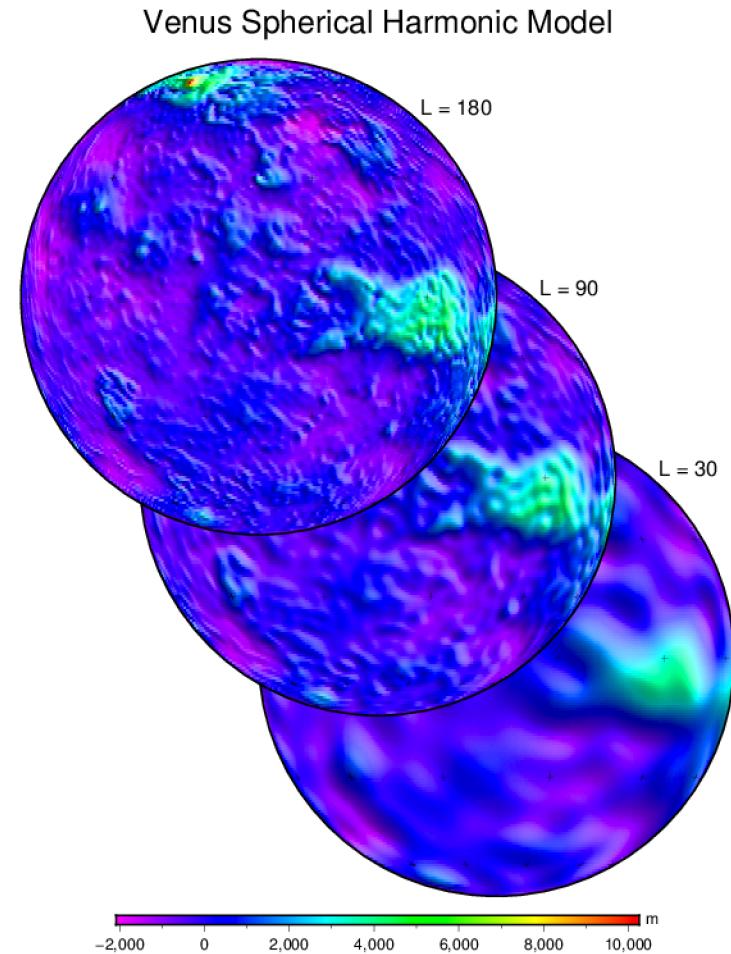
Exercises:

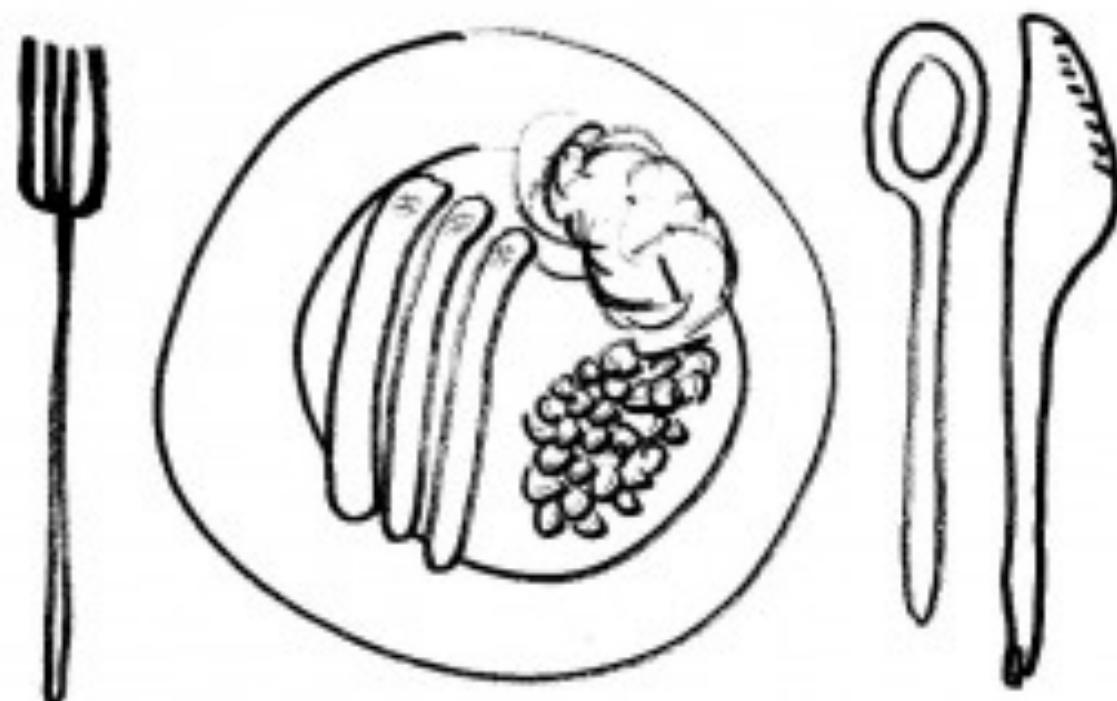
1. Force a gray-shade image. Compare the topographic features. Is rainbow the best colorbar? Try a few different color bars. Which one works the best and why?
2. Rerun *grdgradient* with **-N1**.
3. Change the illumination azimuth and rerun. What azimuth is best and why?



# Venus topography

- Use the script venus.sh to complete the exercise
- Try changing the order of the spherical harmonic topographic model by adjusting the sph2grd filter options (-F)
- Try changing the azimuth of the gridded image. What happened?
- Create a movie of Venus as a revolving planetary body
  1. Uncomment the while loop and associated lines in venus.sh
  2. Run script to create a series of tif images over a range of azimuths that will be used as frames for the animation.
  3. Follow the attached instructions to use Adobe Photoshop to make the movie.





*out for lunch*

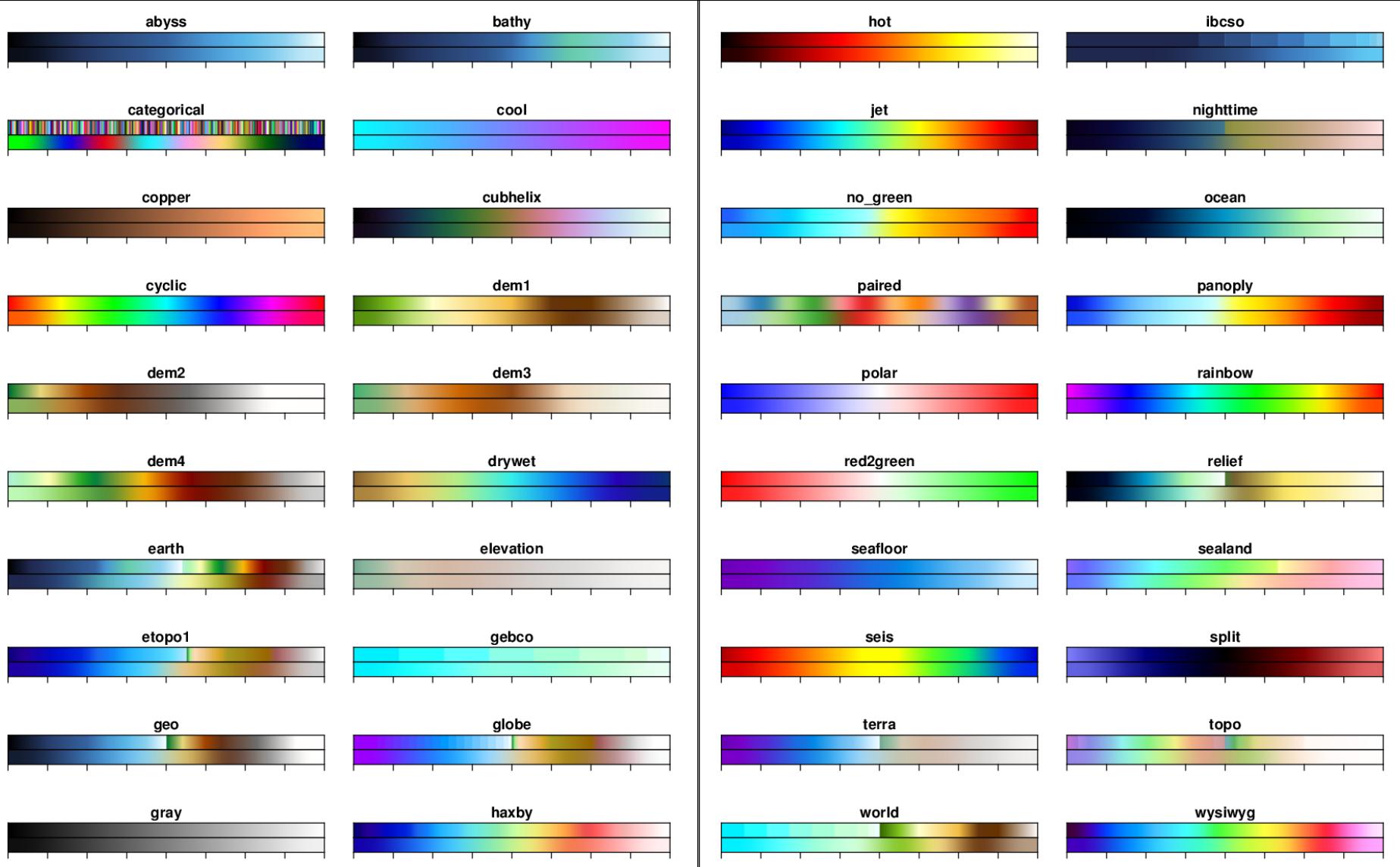
# LIGO data exercises

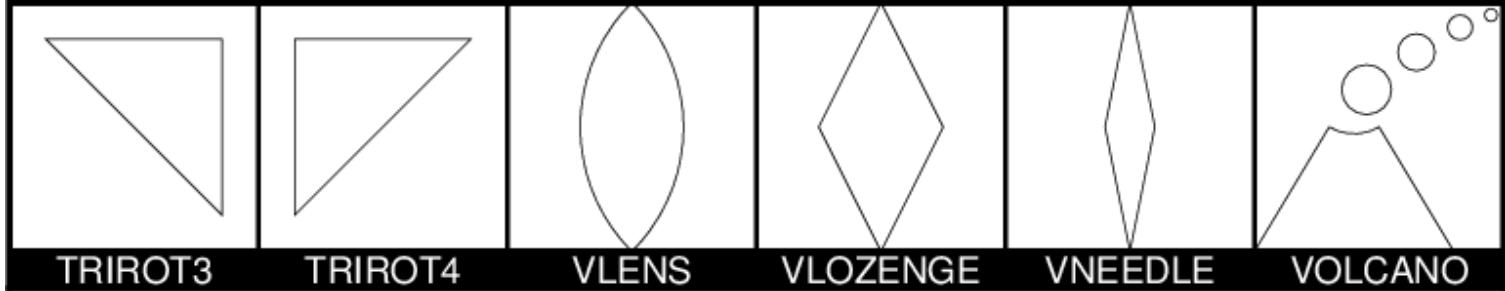
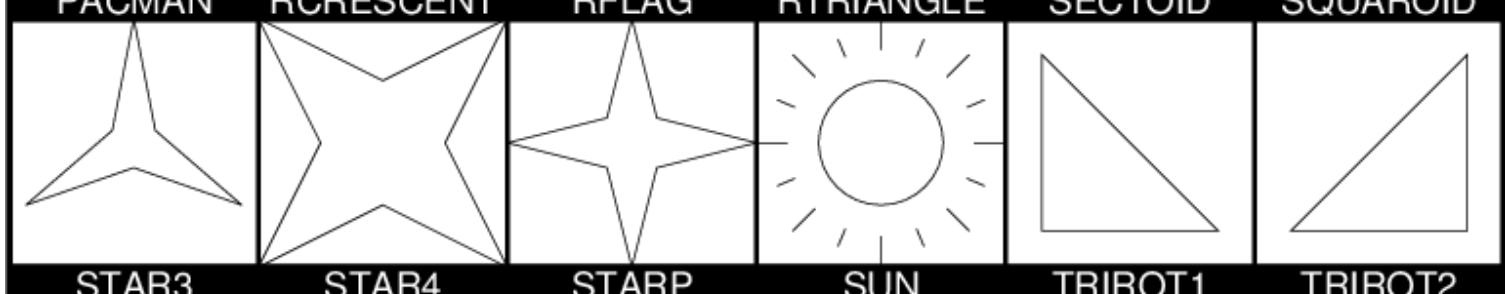
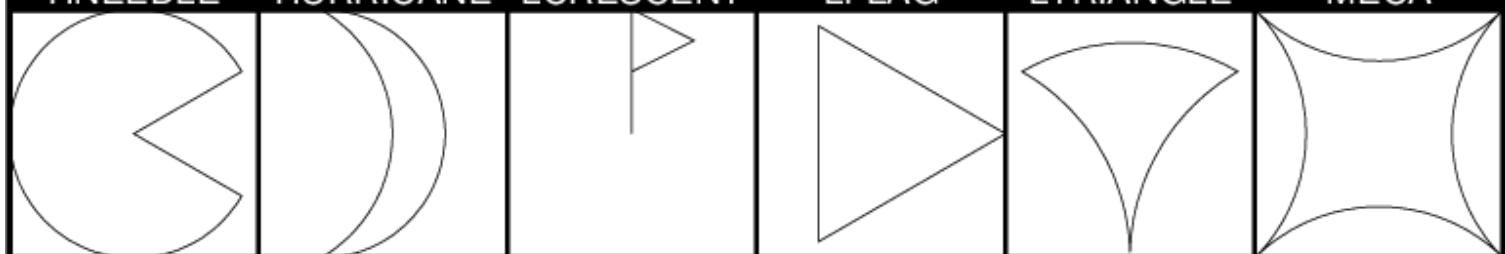
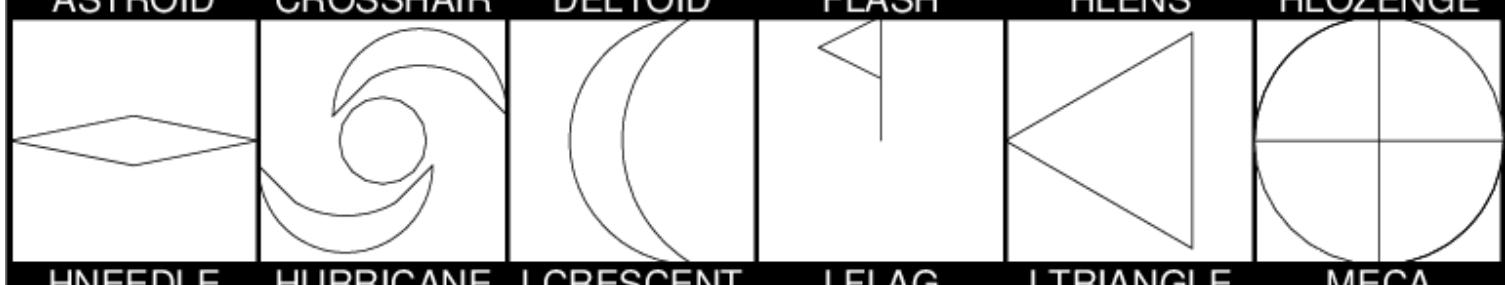
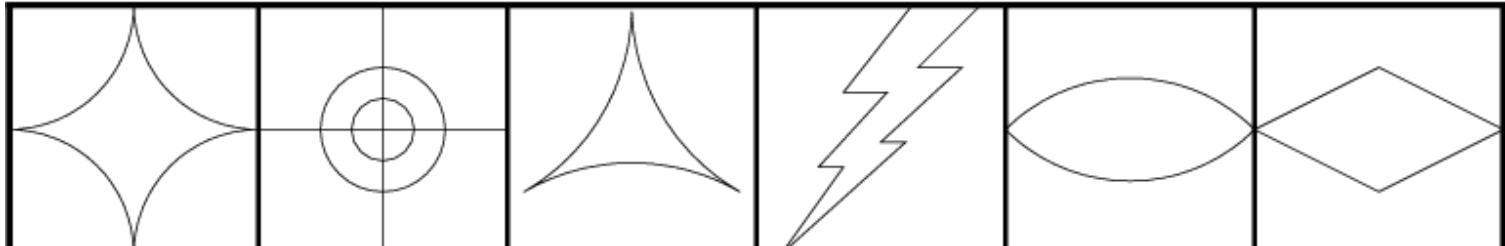
- Plot L1 data
- Plot H1 data
- Plot L1 data overlaid on H1 data
- Plot L1 and H1 station locations on a map showing their geospatial relationship
- Plot observed data as inset on map
- Plot line connecting Hanford and Livingstone stations. Is it straight? What if you change the map projection?
- Add topography to your map
- Plot an animation of

# Example Datasets

- Global topography/bathymetry data
  - <https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/>
- LIGO data
  - <https://losc.ligo.org/data/>
- Planetary Data
  - <http://pds-geosciences.wustl.edu>

# Some Usefule References





# Standardized Command Line Options

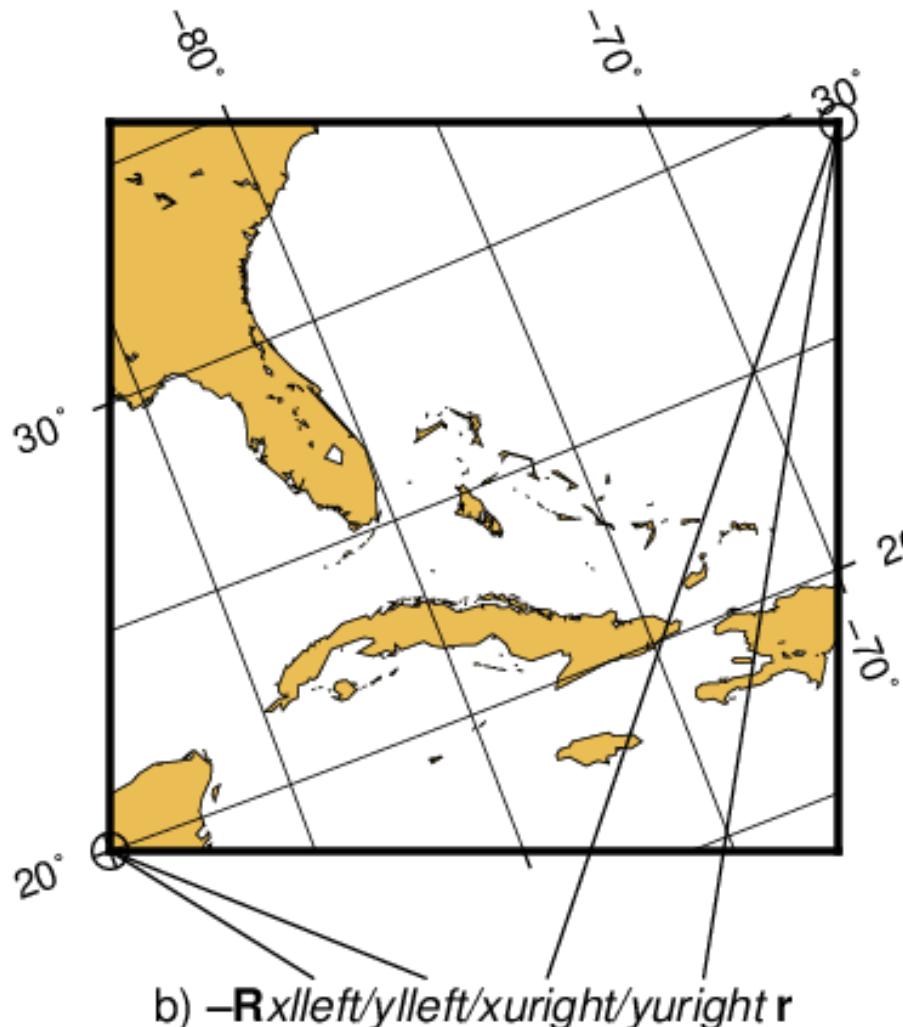
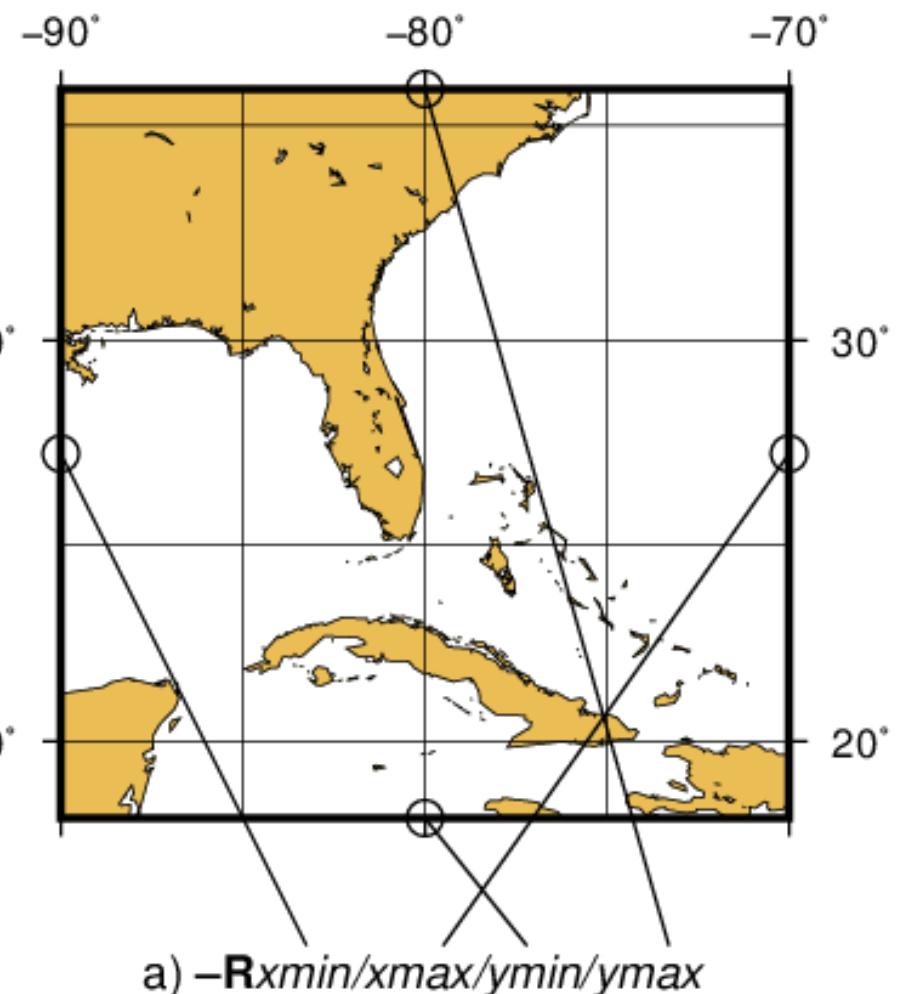
- B** Define tick marks, annotations, and labels for basemaps and axes
- J** Select a map projection or coordinate transformation
- K** Allow more plot code to be appended to this plot later
- O** Allow this plot code to be appended to an existing plot
- P** Select Portrait plot orientation [Default is landscape]
- R** Define the extent of the map/plot region
- U** Plot a time-stamp, by default in the lower left corner of page
- V** Select verbose operation; reporting on progress
- X** Set the x-coordinate for the plot origin on the page
- Y** Set the y-coordinate for the plot origin on the page
- a** Associate aspatial data from OGR/GMT files with data columns
- b** Select binary input and/or output
- c** Specify the number of plot copies
- d** Replace user *nodata* values with IEEE NaNs
- f** Specify the data format on a per column basis
- g** Identify data gaps based on supplied criteria
- h** Specify that input/output tables have header record(s)
- i** Specify which input columns to read
- n** Specify grid interpolation settings
- o** Specify which output columns to write
- p** Control perspective views for plots
- r** Set the grid registration to pixel [Default is gridline]
- s** Control output of records containing one or more NaNs
- t** Change layer PDF transparency
- x** Set number of cores to be used in multi-threaded applications
- :** Assume input geographic data are (*lat,lon*) and not (*lon,lat*)

# pscoast Command Line Options

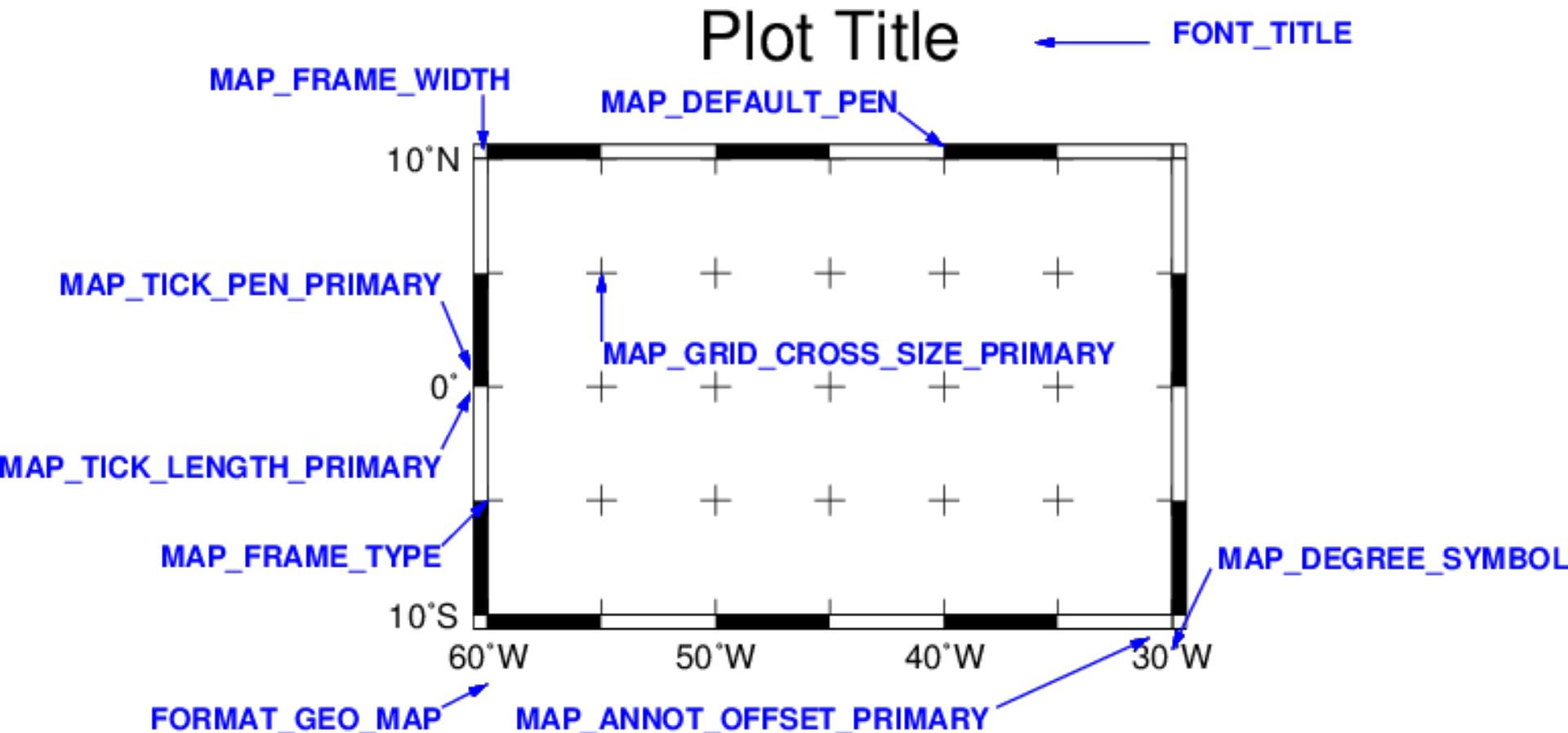
## Option    Purpose

- A**      Exclude small features or those of high hierarchical levels (see Appendix K)
- D**      Select data resolution (**full**, **high**, **intermediate**, **low**, or **crude**)
- G**      Set color of dry areas (default does not paint)
- I**      Draw rivers (choose features from one or more hierarchical categories)
- L**      Plot map scale (length scale can be km, miles, or nautical miles)
- N**      Draw political borders (including US state borders)
- S**      Set color for wet areas (default does not paint)
- W**      Draw coastlines and set pen thickness

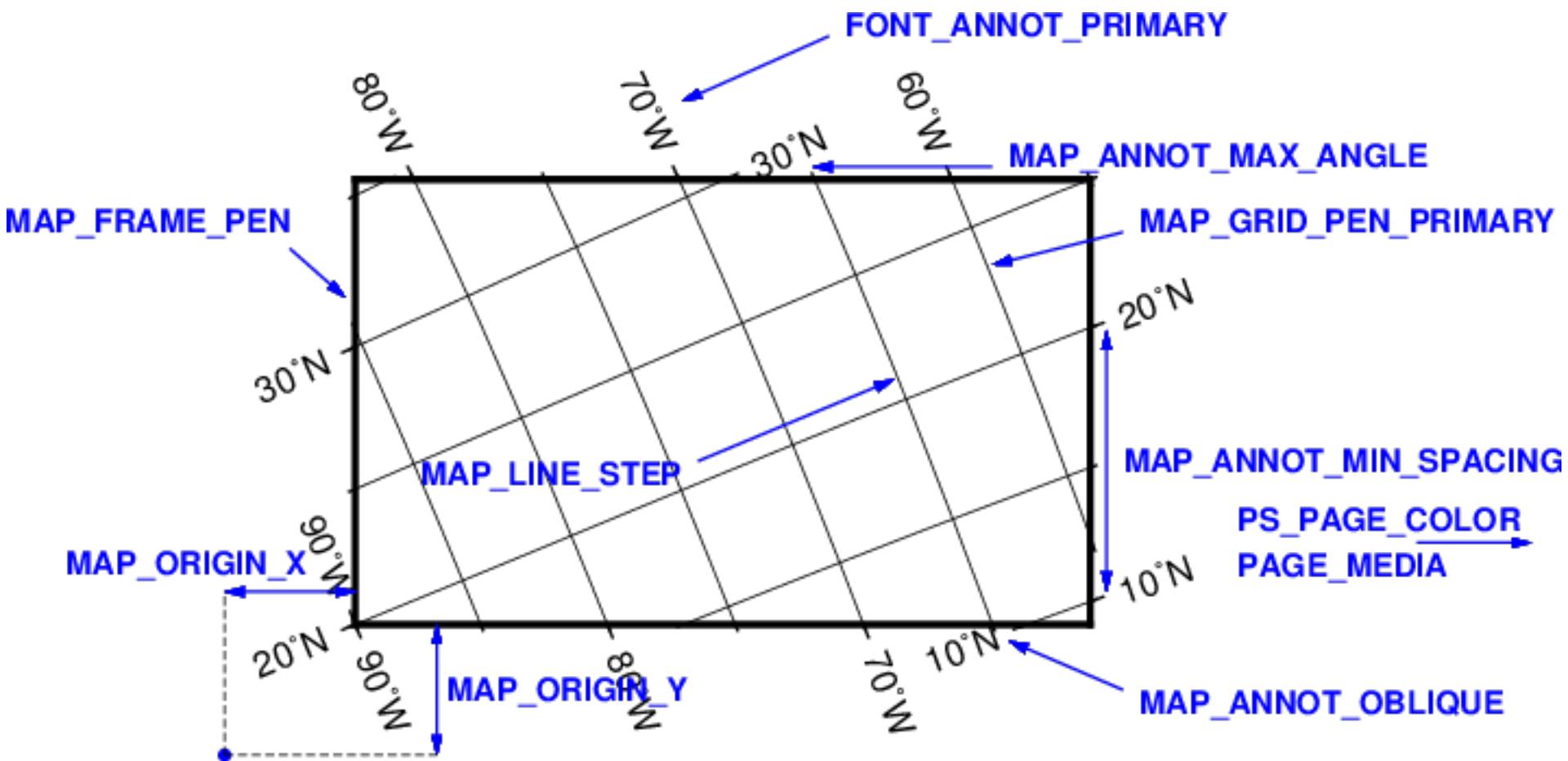
# Map Region: the **-R** option



# GMT defaults



# GMT defaults



# GMT defaults

