

Top Ten Tips For Building Apps With Maps

Rachel Hyman

Oct 24, 2015

Vokal

rachel.hyman@vokal.io
@COMETHRUGIRL

Slides:

github.com/rachelhyman/nsscotland



Maps are hard.



But also good.



Permissions

1. Encapsulate obtaining permissions & getting location in one method.



1. Encapsulate obtaining permissions & getting location in one method.

```
-(void)tryToGetLocationWithResult:  
    (void(^)(BOOL permissionsGranted,  
    CLLocation *location))completion;
```

1. Encapsulate obtaining permissions & getting location in one method.

```
self.locationManager = [[CLLocationManager alloc] init];  
self.locationManager.delegate = self;  
  
[self.locationManager requestAlwaysAuthorization];
```

```
-(void)locationManager:(CLLocationManager *)manager  
didUpdateLocations:(NSArray<CLLocation *> *)locations
```

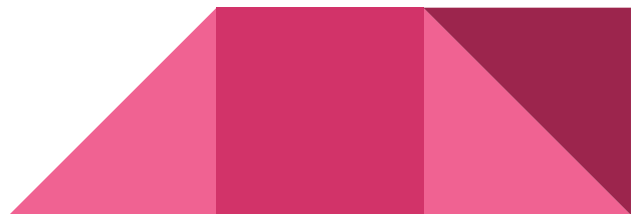

ALLOW LOCATION ACCESS

Never

While Using the App



Always





Obtaining location fix

2. Set accuracy level of location manager appropriately.



2. Set accuracy level of location manager appropriately.

```
self.locationManager.desiredAccuracy = kCLLocationAccuracyNearestTenMeters;
```



**3. Don't send the first location
when you get a location
manager delegate callback.**



3. Don't send the first location when you get a location manager delegate callback.

```
-(void)locationManager:(CLLocationManager *)manager  
didUpdateLocations:(NSArray<CLLocation *> *)locations
```

```
locations.lastObject.horizontalAccuracy
```



<+41.87821133, -87.66428022>

+/- 8081.00m @ 10/10/15, 3:20:56 PM




<+41.87821133, -87.66428022>

+/- 8081.00m @ 10/10/15, 3:20:56 PM

<+41.87829632, -87.62968999>

+/- 118.35m @ 10/10/15, 3:21:00 PM



<+41.86821133, -87.65428022>

+/- 8081.00m @ 10/10/15, 3:20:56 PM

<+41.86829632, -87.61968999>

+/- 118.35m @ 10/10/15, 3:21:00 PM

<+41.86851095, -87.61944450>

+/- 10.00m @ 10/10/15, 3:21:03 PM

There's no one right
way to filter locations.
It's a balancing act.



4. Request single location update* when possible.

*new in iOS 9



- (void)requestLocation

- (void)locationManager:(CLLocationManager *)manager
didUpdateLocations:(NSArray<CLLocation *> *)locations

- (void)locationManager:(CLLocationManager *)manager
didFailWithError:(NSError *)error



Testing on simulator

5. Use .gpx files to simulate routes.

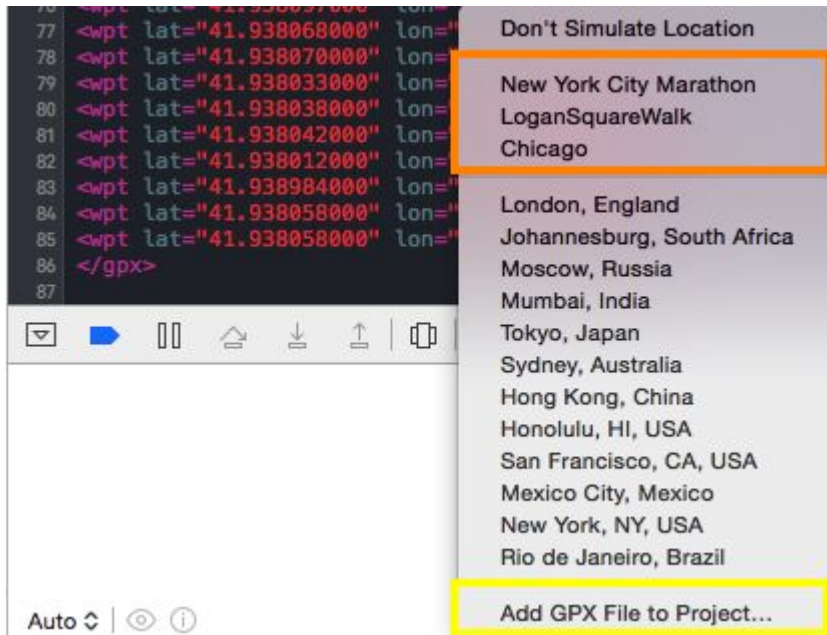
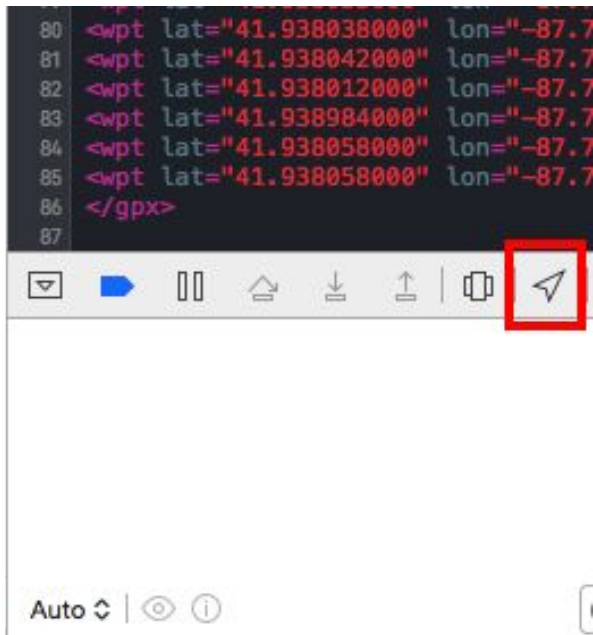


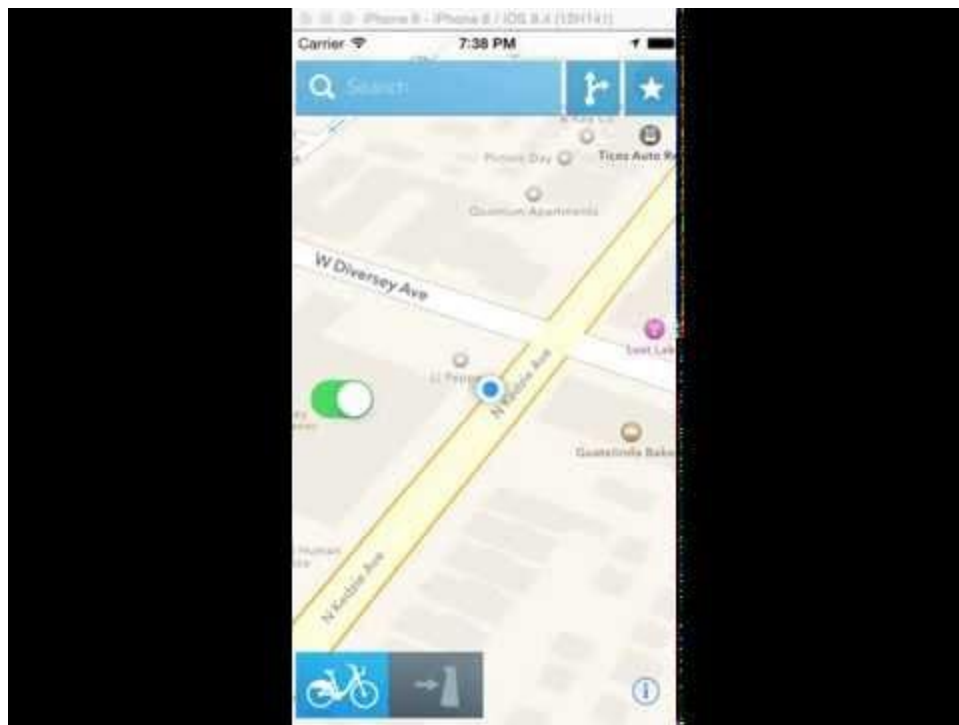
```
<gpx>
<wpt lat="41.961236000" lon="-87.747535000">
<ele>182.8</ele>
<time>2014-09-26T12:59:15Z</time>
</wpt>
.
.
.
</gpx>
```

```
<gpx>
<wpt lat="41.968236000" lon="-87.742535000"><ele>182.8</ele>
<time>2014-09-26T12:59:15Z</time></wpt>
<wpt lat="41.968369000" lon="-87.742150000"><ele>182.9</ele>
<time>2014-09-26T12:59:16Z</time></wpt>
<wpt lat="41.968494000" lon="-87.742259000"><ele>182.9</ele>
<time>2014-09-26T12:59:17Z</time></wpt>
<wpt lat="41.968573000" lon="-87.742325000"><ele>182.9</ele>
<time>2014-09-26T12:59:24Z</time></wpt>
<wpt lat="41.968668000" lon="-87.742344000"><ele>182.9</ele>
<time>2014-09-26T12:59:33Z</time></wpt>
<wpt lat="41.968759000" lon="-87.742372000"><ele>182.9</ele>
<time>2014-09-26T12:59:41Z</time></wpt>
</gpx>
```


Record in Runkeeper and export data

The screenshot displays the Runkeeper web interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links for FEED, ME, LOG, and an UPGRADE button. Below this is a sidebar with various settings: Profile, Picture, Apps, Sharing, Preferences, Email, Notifications, Password, Promotions & Privacy, Purchase History, **Export Data** (circled in red with an arrow), and Redeem Code. The main content area is titled 'Export Data' and features a large download icon and the heading 'Get your export on.' followed by the text 'Download all your profile, activity, and health data in one easy .zip file'. Below this, there are two date range selectors. The first selector shows 'From: 10/01/2015' and 'To: 10/31/2015' with a 'Download Now!' button and a note: 'All set! Your data export from 9/1/14 to 10/1/14 will be available for 24 hours.' The second selector shows 'From: 10/1/2015' and 'To: 10/14/2015' with a 'Download Now!' button and a note: 'All set! Your data export from 10/1/15 to 11/1/15 will be available for 24 hours.'





**6. MKMapCamera.heading !=
CLLocation.heading,
necessarily.**



MKMapCamera

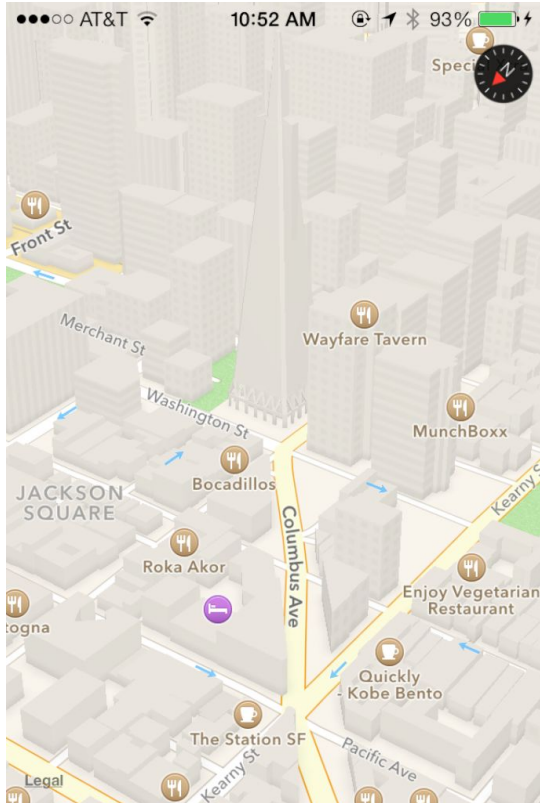
`@property (nonatomic) CLLocationDirection heading;`

The value 0 means that the top edge of the map view corresponds to true north. The value 90 means the top of the map is pointing due east. The value 180 means the top of the map points due south, and so on.

[Documentation](#)



MKMapCamera heading



CLLocation

Property	Uses	Represents	Use case
heading	magnetometer	Direction the device is pointing--the actual orientation of the device relative to true north/magnetic north	Walking speeds
course	GPS hardware	Direction of travel	Driving speeds

[Documentation](#)



7. Extrapolate heading info when there is none.



CLLocation:

```
<+41.87851095,-87.62944450> +/- 10.00m (speed 1.93 mps / course 22.15)
```

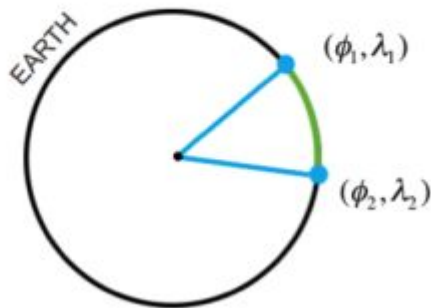
.gpx file:

```
<wpt lat="41.968236000" lon="-87.742535000">  
<ele>182.8</ele><time>2014-09-26T12:59:15Z</time></wpt>
```

Haversine formula

Used to calculate great-circle distances and initial bearing between two points on a sphere from their latitudes and longitudes ([Wikipedia](#)).

$$\text{haversine}\left(\frac{d}{r}\right) = \text{haversine}(\phi_2 - \phi_1) + \cos(\phi_1) \cos(\phi_2) \text{haversine}(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)$$



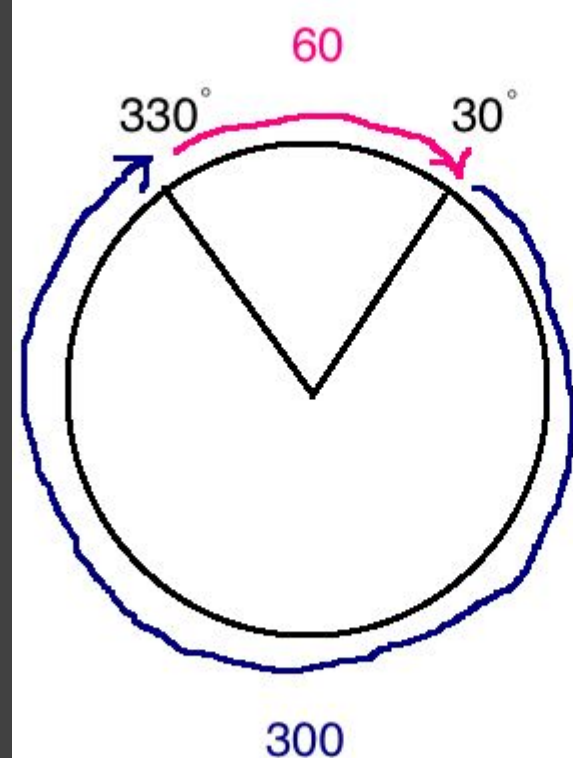
[Code Sample](#)

**8. Smooth out big differences
in estimated headings.**



```
double sum = 0;
double lastHeading = 0;
int count = 0;

for (NSNumber *heading in array) {
    double headingDifference =
    fmin((360 - heading.doubleValue - lastHeading),
    fabs(lastHeading - heading.doubleValue));
    if (headingDifference > 20) {
        continue;
    }
    sum += heading.doubleValue;
    count++;
    lastHeading = heading.doubleValue;
}
double normalizedHeading = sum/count;
```



Map coordinate



screen coordinate

APIs

**9. Check if a map annotation
has gone offscreen.**

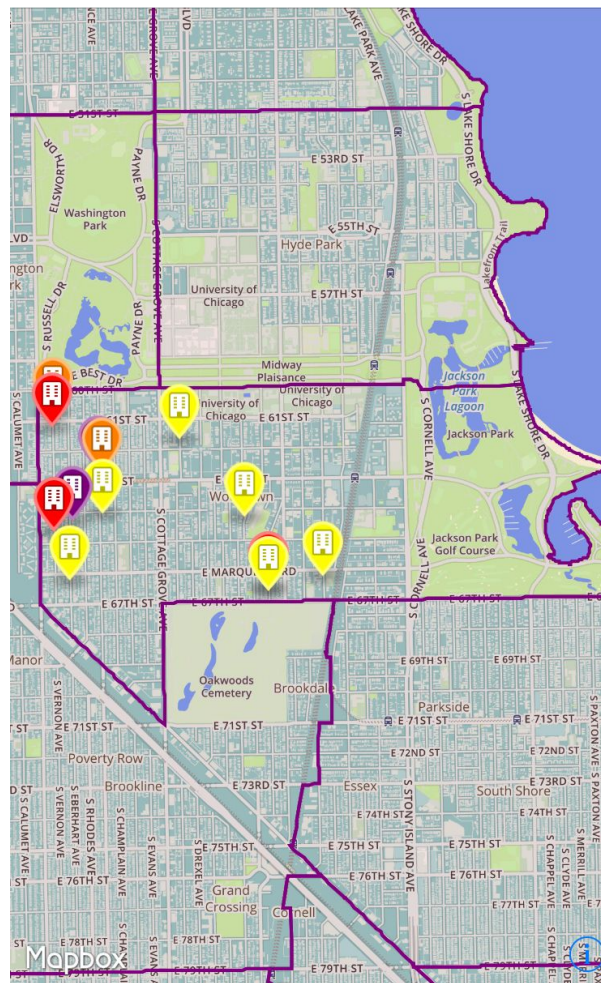


```
- (void)removeOffscreenAnnotations
{
    for (REHMapAnnotation *annotation in self.mapAnnotations) {
        CGPoint annotationScreenPoint = [self.mapView
convertCoordinate:annotation.coordinate toPointToView:self.mapView];

        if (!CGRectContainsPoint(self.mapView.bounds,
annotationScreenPoint)) {
            [self.mapView removeAnnotation:annotation];
        }
    }
}
```

10. Convert an MKPolygon to a CGPath to do point-in-polygon operations.





```
MKMapPoint *polygonPoints = polygon.points;
```

```
CGMutablePathRef path = CGPathCreateMutable();
```

```
//Loop thru polygon points creating a path:
```

```
CGPathAddLineToPoint(path, NULL, polygonPoint.x,  
polygonPoint.y);
```

```
CGPoint screenPointToCheck = [self.mapView  
convertCoordinate:coordinate toPointToView:self.mapView];
```

```
BOOL containsPoint = CGPathContainsPoint(path, NULL,  
screenPointToCheck, FALSE);
```

Happy mapping!

github.com/rachelhyman/nsscotland

rachel.hyman@vokal.io
@COMETHRUGIRL