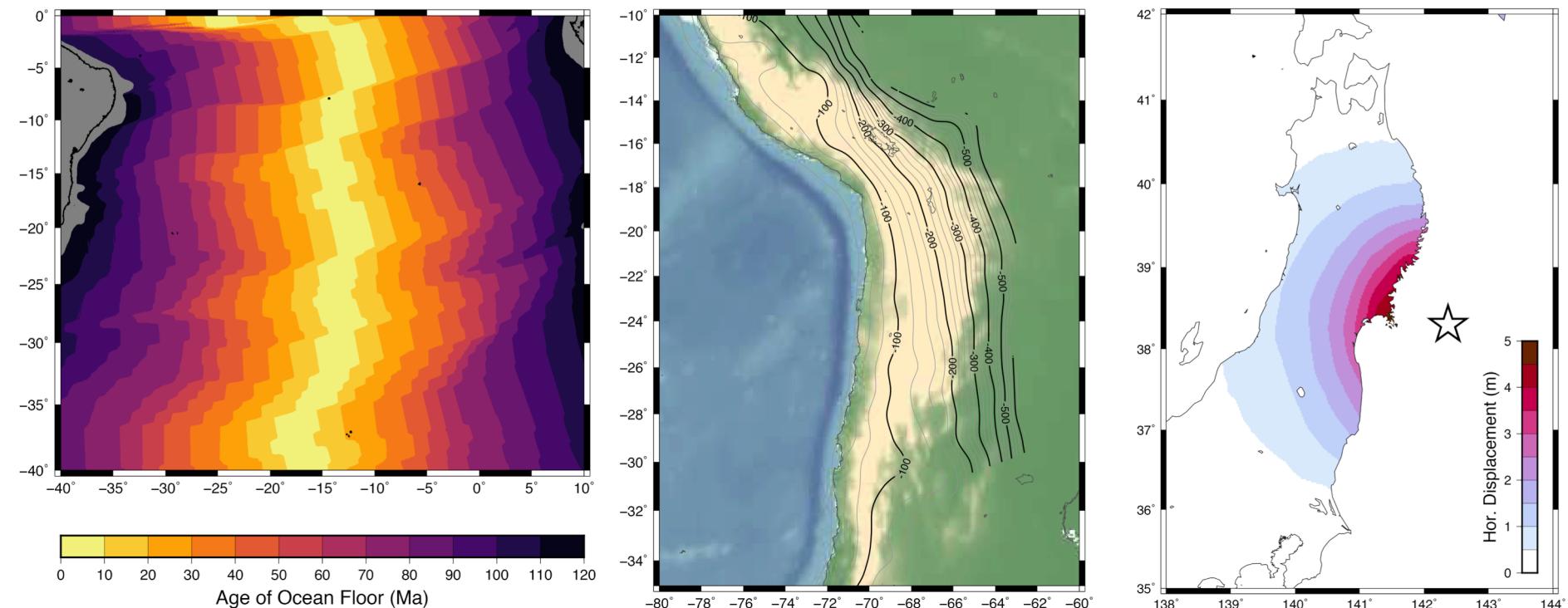


Introduction to GMT (Part 2)



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Tutorial Objectives

- Learn the following new GMT commands
 - grdimage
 - makecpt
 - psscale
 - grdcontour
 - surface

Note: This tutorial assumes knowledge from Part 1. If you are a new user, you may want to go back and complete Part 1 first!

Outline of Tutorial Activities

- **grdimage**: topography
- **grdimage + makecpt + psscale**: ocean floor age
- **grdcontour**: subduction interface depth
- **surface**: interpolate GPS data

Raster Files

- In the first installment, we plotted point data, like coastlines and earthquakes
- Some datasets are collected over large areas, so it is better to treat them as swath observations rather than point data
- GMT uses a standard format for these datasets called NetCDF
- These files often (but not always!) have the extension *.grd

Introduction to grdimage

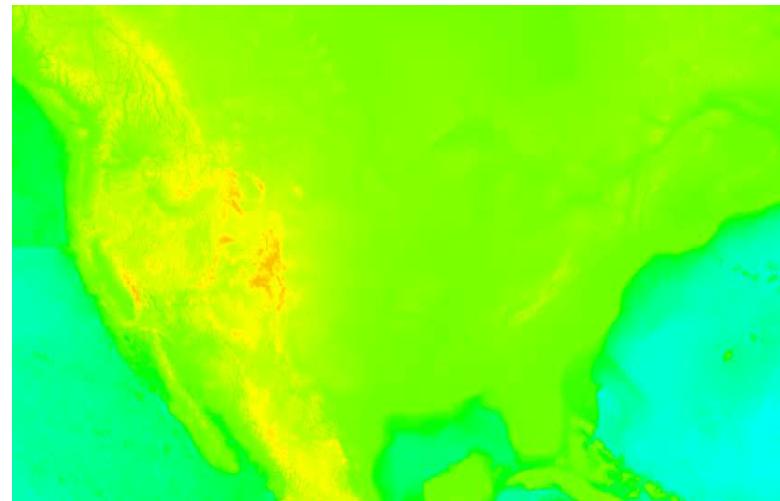
```
gmt grdimage ETOPO5.grd -JM5i -R-130/-60/20/55 > topo_0.ps
```

gmt grdimage

The command **grdimage** produces an image on your map from a NetCDF file.

ETOPO5.grd

The first argument must be the name of a NetCDF file. In this case, we are plotting topography, so the file is ETOPO5, a global topography/bathymetry dataset at 5 arc-minute (1/12 degree) resolution.



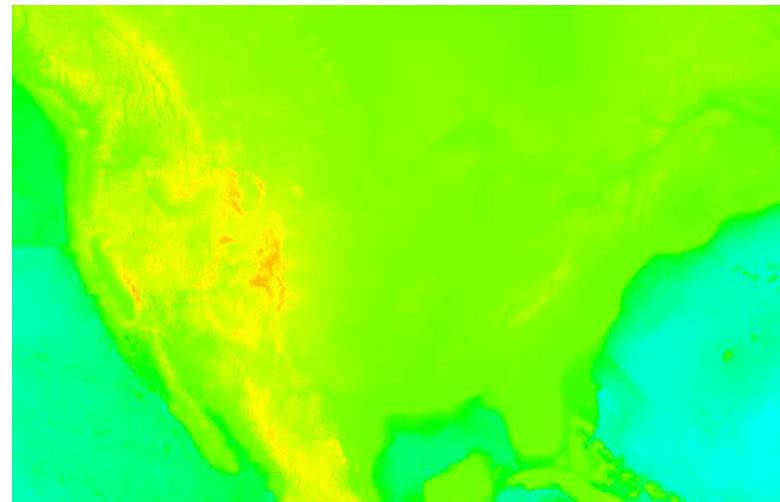
You can download the ETOPO5 file from my [Tutorials page](#) or directly from NOAA (<https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/etopo5.HTML>)

Introduction to grdimage

```
gmt grdimage ETOPO5.grd -JM5i -R-130/-60/20/55 > topo_0.ps
```

Although you may be able to tell from this figure that the map contains the topography of the United States, it is difficult to see details. By default, **grdimage** will use the rainbow color palette (objectively terrible) and stretch it to the limits of the dataset.

Next, we will apply a different pre-installed color palette that makes the topography look better.



Introduction to grdimage

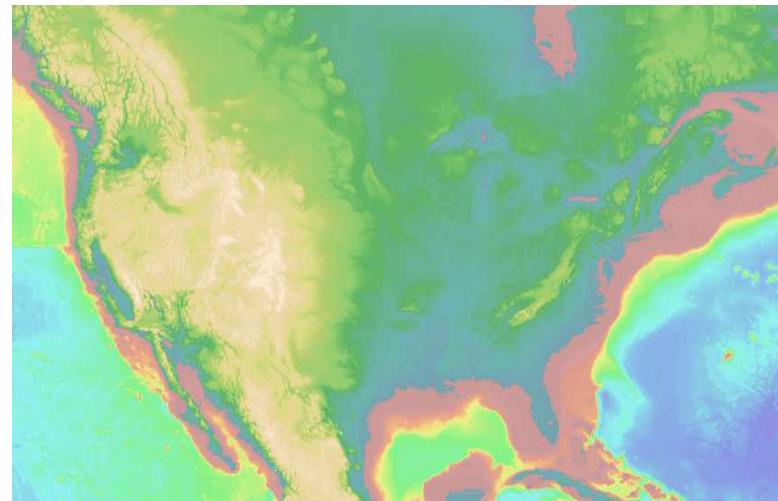
```
gmt grdimage ETOPO5.grd -JM5i -R-130/-60/20/55 -Ctopo  
    > topo_1.ps
```

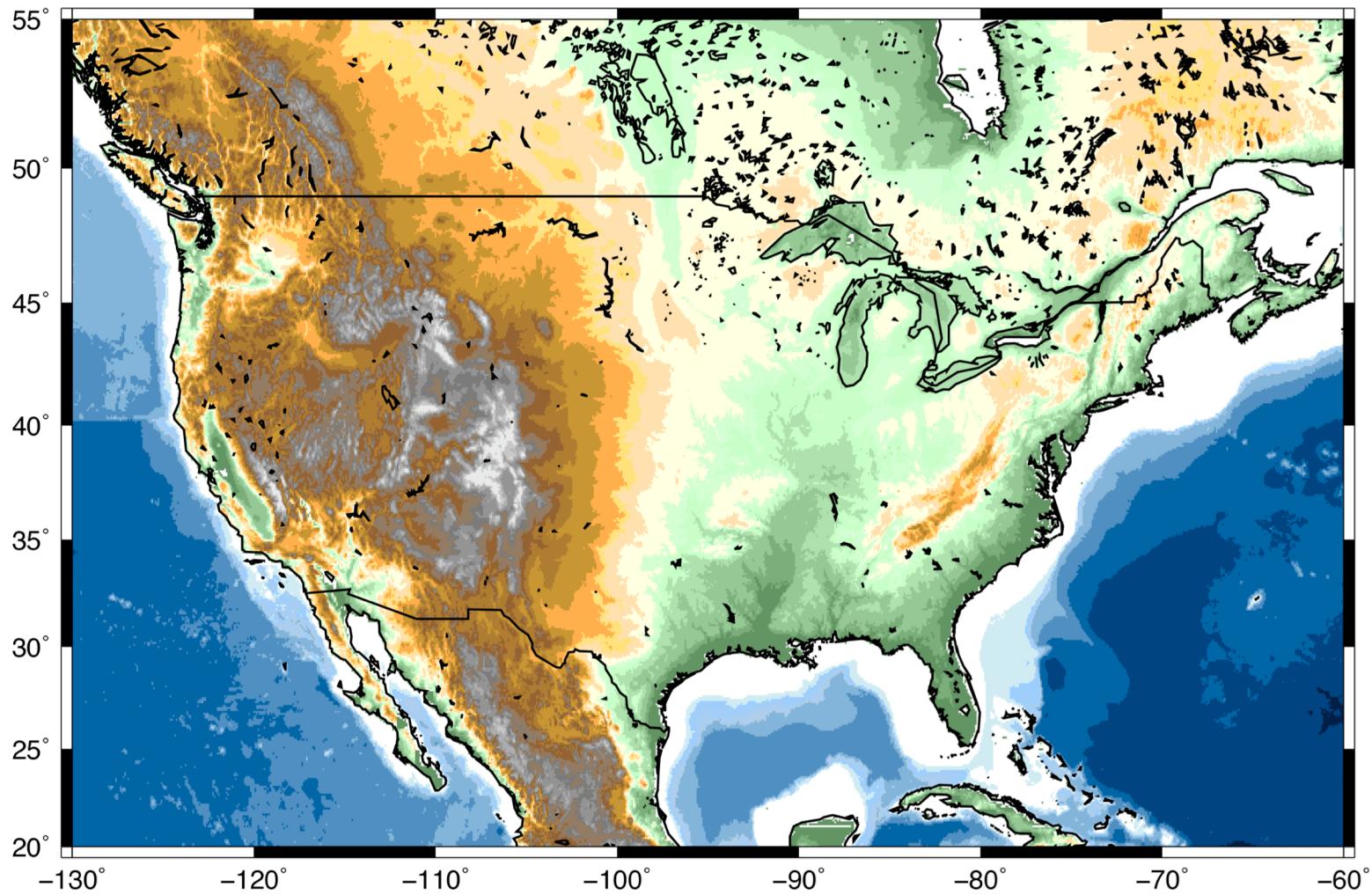
-Ctopo

The option **-C** tells **grdimage** to use a different color palette. GMT has several built-in options, including this topography palette designed by David Sandwell.

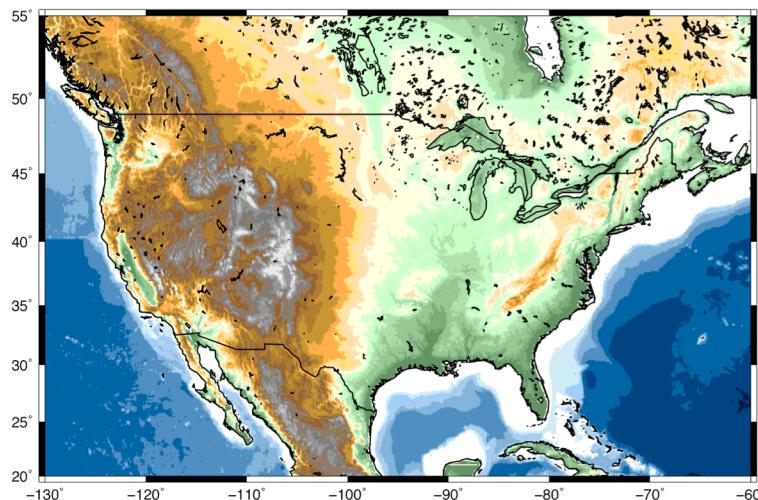
This approach can be great for quick looks at datasets, but for nicer productions you will typically want to use a color palette that fits the specific needs of your figure.

Add the -C option to the command



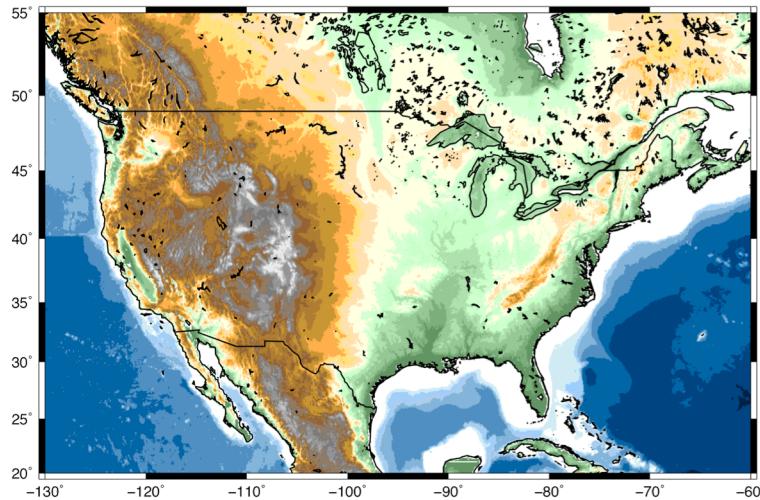


Using `grdimage`, we will make this figure with a custom topography color palette.



1. Put this text into a file named “topo2.cpt”. This is a color palette I borrowed from Dr. Charles Ammon at Penn State.

-27000 0/28/74 -6000 0/28/74
-6000 0/68/129 -5000 0/68/129
-5000 0/102/166 -4000 0/102/166
-4000 80/143/193 -3000 80/143/193
-3000 130/181/217 -2000 130/181/217
-2000 178/207/231 -1000 153/204/255
-1000 208/236/243 -500 208/236/243
-500 255/255/255 0 255/255/255
0 100/150/100 30 100/150/100
30 125/175/125 60 125/175/125
60 150/200/150 122 150/200/150
122 175/225/175 183 175/225/175
183 200/255/200 244 200/255/200
244 212/255/212 305 212/255/212
305 255/255/225 457 255/255/225
457 255/225/175 610 255/225/175
610 255/225/125 702 255/225/125
702 255/175/75 914 255/175/75
914 200/150/50 1219 200/150/50
1219 175/125/50 1450 175/125/50
1450 150/100/50 1700 150/100/50
1700 150/125/100 1981 150/125/100
1981 125/125/125 2134 125/125/125
2134 150/150/150 2438 150/150/150
2438 175/175/175 2743 175/175/175
2743 200/200/200 3048 200/200/200
3048 233/233/233 3250 233/233/233



1. Put this text into a file named “topo2.cpt”. This is a color palette I borrowed from Dr. Charles Ammon at Penn State.

Each line in a GMT color palette file is a color slice and must contain:

starting value

starting color (red/green/blue)

ending value

ending color (red/green/blue)

The values must be continuous from line to line.

```

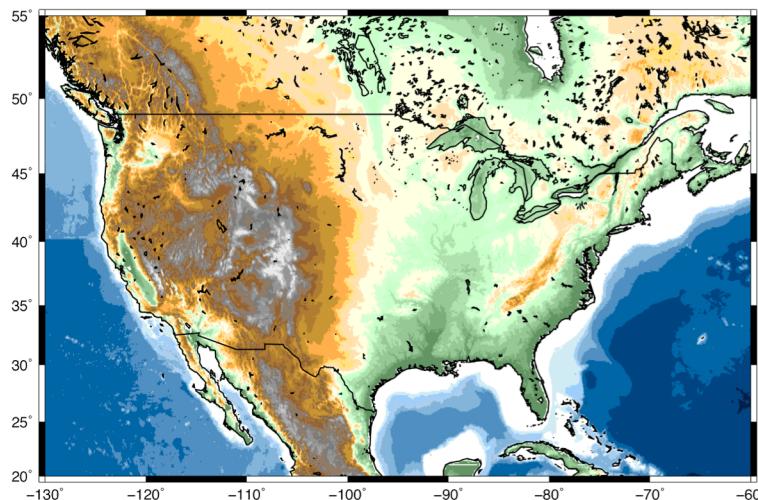
-27000 0/28/74      -6000 0/28/74
-6000 0/68/129     -5000 0/68/129
-5000 0/102/166    -4000 0/102/166
-4000 80/143/193   -3000 80/143/193
-3000 130/181/217  -2000 130/181/217
-2000 178/207/231  -1000 153/204/255
-1000 208/236/243  -500 208/236/243
-500 255/255/255   0 255/255/255
      0 100/150/100   30 100/150/100
      30 125/175/125  60 125/175/125
      60 150/200/150  122 150/200/150
     122 175/225/175 183 175/225/175
     183 200/255/200  244 200/255/200
     244 212/255/212  305 212/255/212
     305 255/255/225  457 255/255/225
     457 255/225/175 610 255/225/175
     610 255/225/125 702 255/225/125
     702 255/175/75   914 255/175/75
     914 200/150/50   1219 200/150/50
    1219 175/125/50   1450 175/125/50
    1450 150/100/50   1700 150/100/50
    1700 150/125/100  1981 150/125/100
    1981 125/125/125 2134 125/125/125
    2134 150/150/150  2438 150/150/150
    2438 175/175/175  2743 175/175/175
    2743 200/200/200  3048 200/200/200
    3048 233/233/233 3250 233/233/233
  
```

Starting
Elevation

Starting
Color

Ending
Elevation

Ending
Color



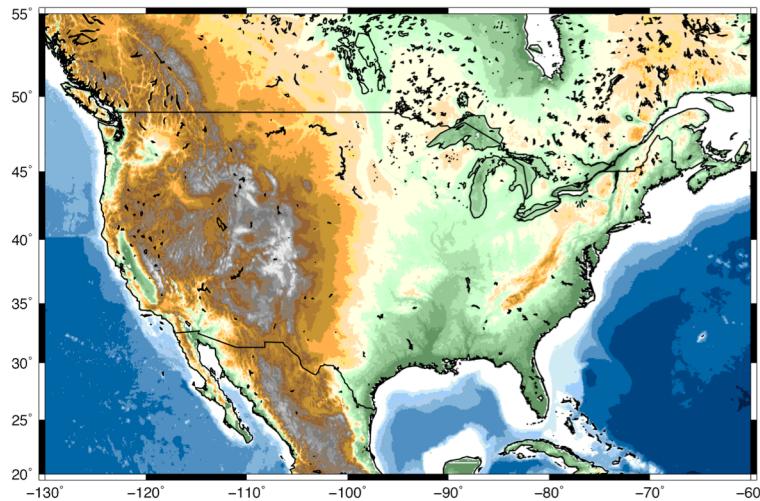
1. Put this text into a file named “topo2.cpt”. This is a color palette I borrowed from Dr. Charles Ammon at Penn State.

-27000 0/28/74 -6000 0/28/74
 -6000 0/68/129 -5000 0/68/129
 -5000 0/102/166 -4000 0/102/166
 -4000 80/143/193 -3000 80/143/193
 -3000 130/181/217 -2000 130/181/217
 -2000 178/207/231 -1000 153/204/255
 -1000 208/236/243 -500 208/236/243
 -500 255/255/255 0 255/255/255
 0 100/150/100 30 100/150/100
 30 125/175/125 60 125/175/125
 60 150/200/150 122 150/200/150
 122 175/225/175 183 175/225/175
 183 200/255/200 244 200/255/200
 244 212/255/212 305 212/255/212
 305 255/255/225 457 255/255/225
 457 255/225/175 610 255/225/175
 610 255/225/125 702 255/225/125
 702 255/175/75 914 255/175/75
 914 200/150/50 1219 200/150/50
 1219 175/125/50 1450 175/125/50
 1450 150/100/50 1700 150/100/50
 1700 150/125/100 1981 150/125/100
 1981 125/125/125 2134 125/125/125
 2134 150/150/150 2438 150/150/150
 2438 175/175/175 2743 175/175/175
 2743 200/200/200 3048 200/200/200
 3048 233/233/233 3250 233/233/233

2. Make a script with the grdimage command and add a coastline and basemap (using pscoast and psbasemap from the previous tutorial).

```
PSFILE="topo_2.ps"
PROJ="-JM8i"
LIMS="-R-130/-60/20/55"
```

```
gmt grdimage ETOPO5.grd $PROJ $LIMS -Ctopo2.cpt -K > $PSFILE
gmt pscoast $PROJ $LIMS -Dl -W1p -N1/1p -K -O >> $PSFILE
gmt psbasemap $PROJ $LIMS -Bxa10 -Bya10 -BWeSn -O >> $PSFILE
```



1. Put this text into a file named “topo2.cpt”. This is a color palette I borrowed from Dr. Charles Ammon at Penn State.

```

-27000 0/28/74      -6000 0/28/74
-6000 0/68/129     -5000 0/68/129
-5000 0/102/166    -4000 0/102/166
-4000 80/143/193   -3000 80/143/193
-3000 130/181/217  -2000 130/181/217
-2000 178/207/231  -1000 153/204/255
-1000 208/236/243  -500 208/236/243
-500 255/255/255   0 255/255/255
      0 100/150/100   30 100/150/100
      30 125/175/125   60 125/175/125
      60 150/200/150  122 150/200/150
     122 175/225/175  183 175/225/175
     183 200/255/200  244 200/255/200
     244 212/255/212  305 212/255/212
     305 255/255/225  457 255/255/225
     457 255/225/175  610 255/225/175
     610 255/225/125  702 255/225/125
     702 255/175/75   914 255/175/75
     914 200/150/50  1219 200/150/50
    1219 175/125/50  1450 175/125/50
    1450 150/100/50  1700 150/100/50
    1700 150/125/100 1981 150/125/100
    1981 125/125/125 2134 125/125/125
    2134 150/150/150 2438 150/150/150
    2438 175/175/175 2743 175/175/175
    2743 200/200/200 3048 200/200/200
    3048 233/233/233 3250 233/233/233
  
```

2. Make a script with the grdimage command and add a coastline and basemap (using pscoast and psbasemap from the previous tutorial).

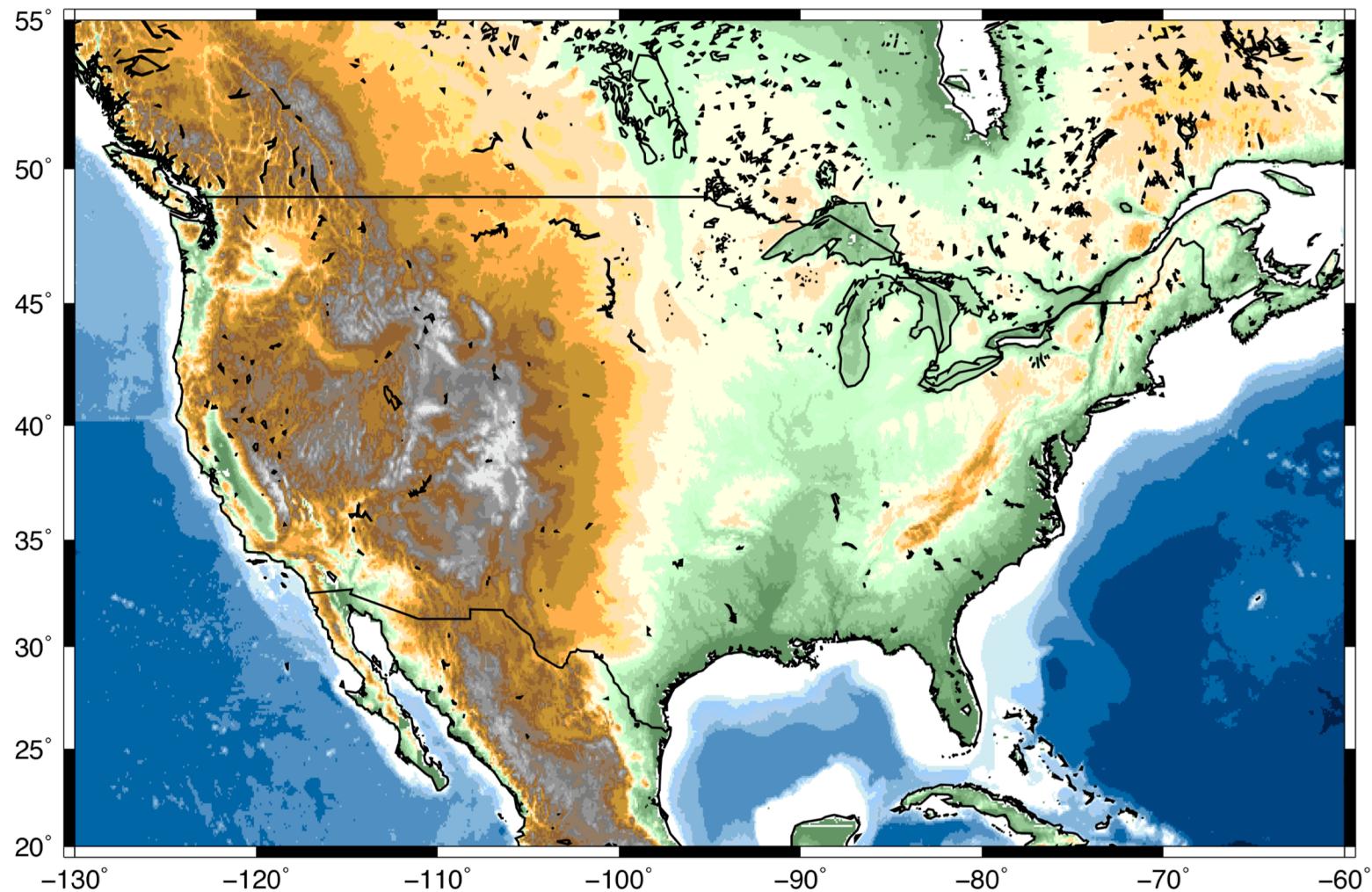
```

$PSFILE="topo_2.ps"
$PROJ="-JM8i"
$LIMS="-R-130/-60/20/55"
  
```

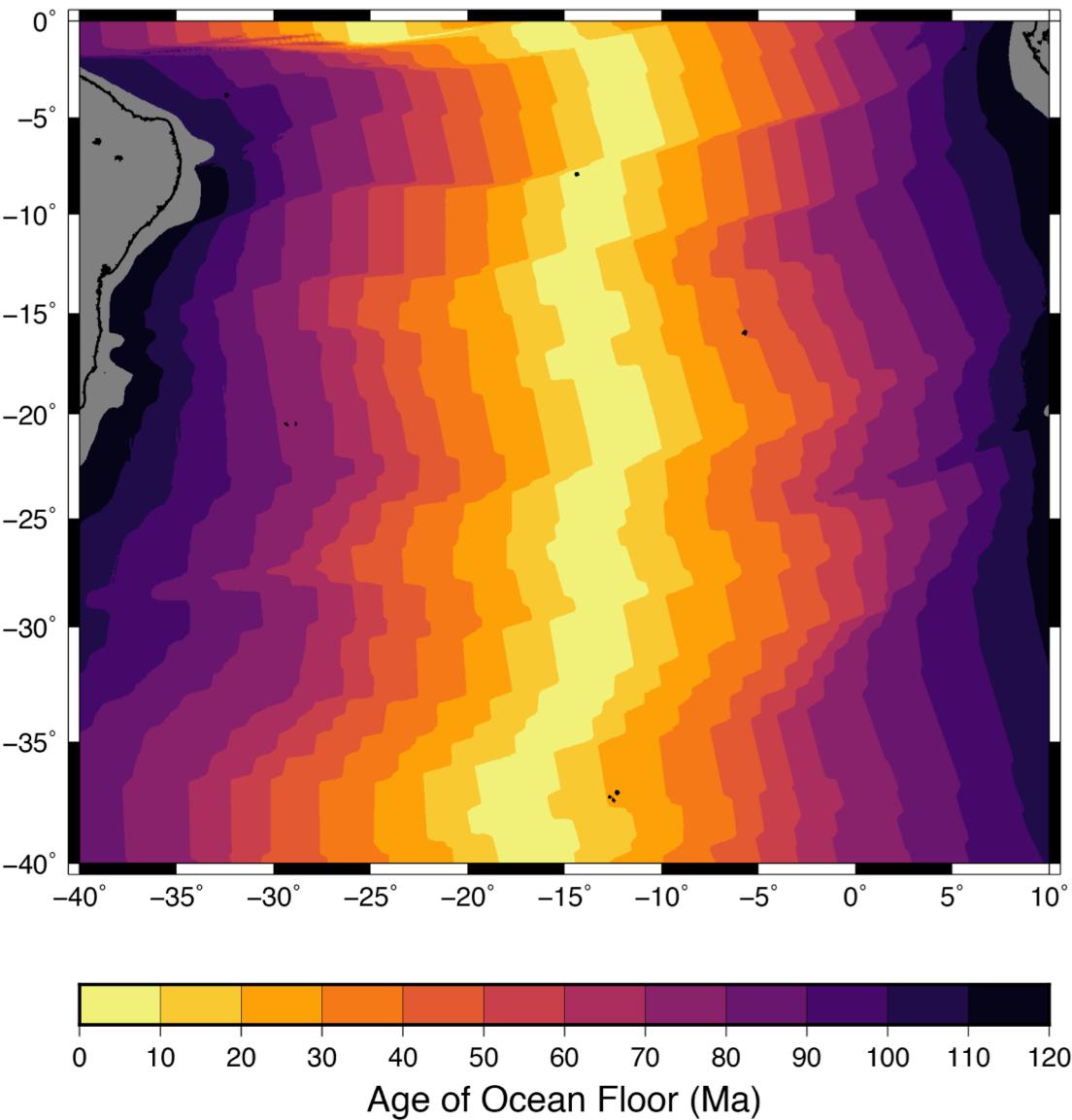
```

gmt grdimage ETOPO5.grd $PROJ $LIMS -Ctopo2.cpt -K > $PSFILE
gmt pscoast $PROJ $LIMS -Dl -W1p -N1/1p -K -O >> $PSFILE
gmt psbasemap $PROJ $LIMS -Bxa10 -Bya10 -BWeSn -O >> $PSFILE
  
```

3. Use the new color palette for the topography



Excellent! You can now make a nice
topography/bathymetry map.



Next we will practice using **grdimage** on a different dataset (ocean floor age), while we also learn to use the commands **makecpt** and **psscale**.

Introduction to makecpt

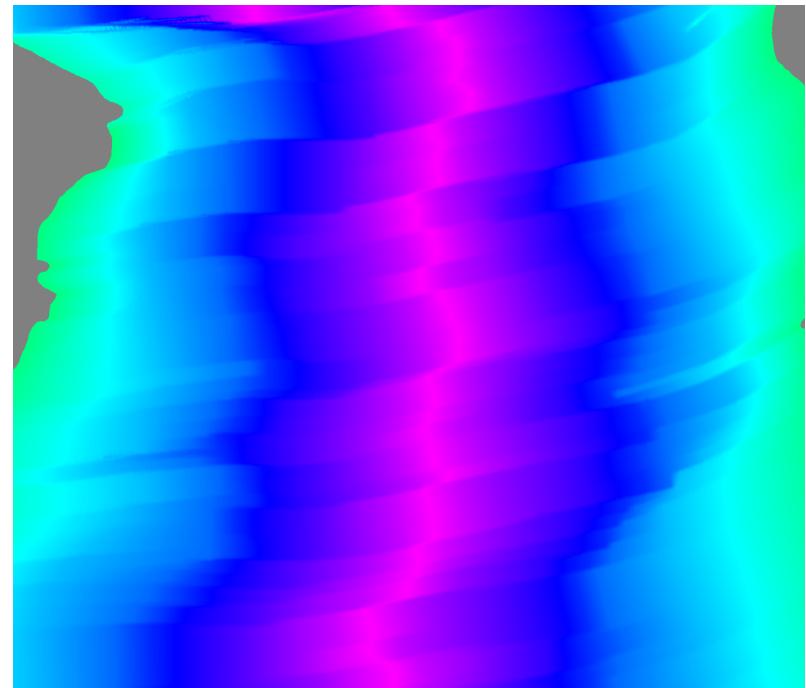
This NetCDF file ends in .nc instead of .grd like the topography dataset

```
gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc -JM6i -R-40/10/-40/0 > age_1.ps
```

First, plot the ocean floor age dataset for the South Atlantic Ocean using the default colors. You can find the data clipped to the region shown in the map at [this link](#), or the full data from the source (NOAA again):

https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/ocean_age/data/2008/grids/age

As you might expect, this is not a useful figure because if we do not already know, the figure does not tell us anything about what is on it!



Introduction to makecpt

```
gmt makecpt -T0/120/10 > age.cpt
```

```
gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc -JM6i -R-40/10/-40/0 -Cage.cpt > age_2.ps
```

gmt makecpt

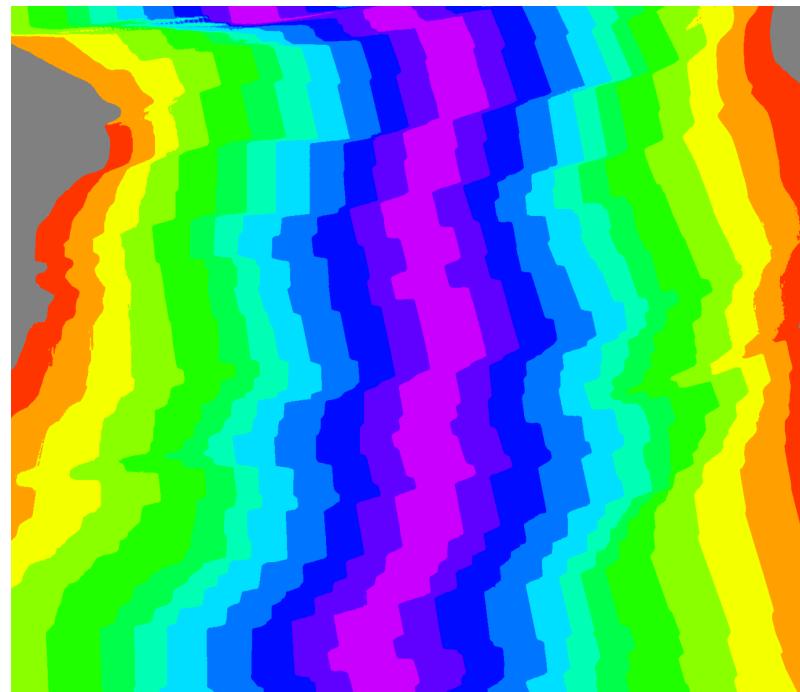
If we want more control over our color schemes but do not want to create a palette from scratch, we can use **makecpt**. It takes an existing color palette (either a GMT built-in or a file) and stretches it to fit a new range.

-T0/120/10

The range and increment of the new, output color palette is defined by the **-T** option. It is followed by the minimum value, maximum value, and increment.

This age of the ocean in the South Atlantic spans 0 to \sim 120 million years, so this is an appropriate range for the color palette.

Now we need to define
the new color palette in
the grdimage options

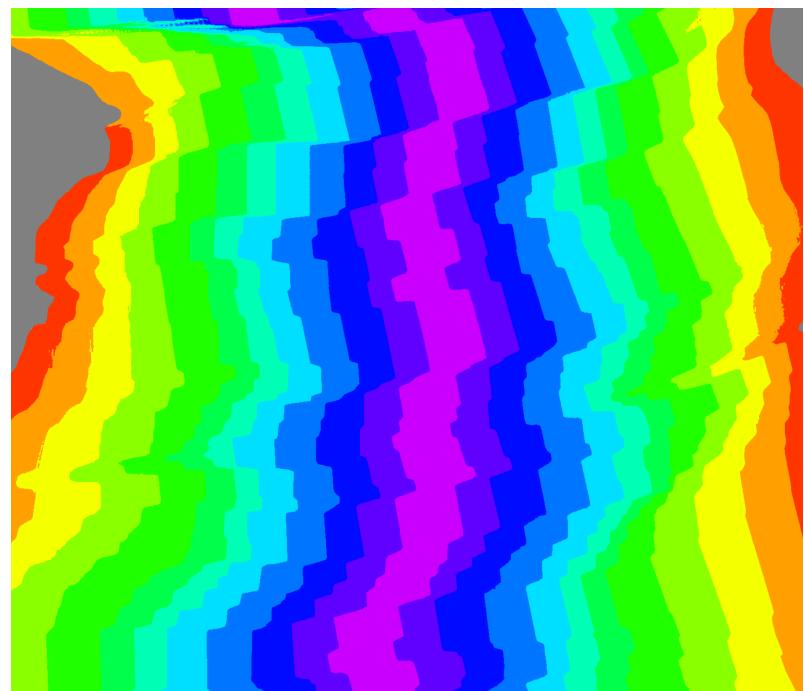


Introduction to makecpt

```
gmt makecpt -T0/120/10 > age.cpt
```

```
gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc -JM6i -R-40/10/-40/0 -Cage.cpt > age_2.ps
```

As I said earlier, the rainbow color palette is crappy. Look at the green areas. Are those wider because spreading increased in velocity during that time period? Let us use a better color map to tell for sure.



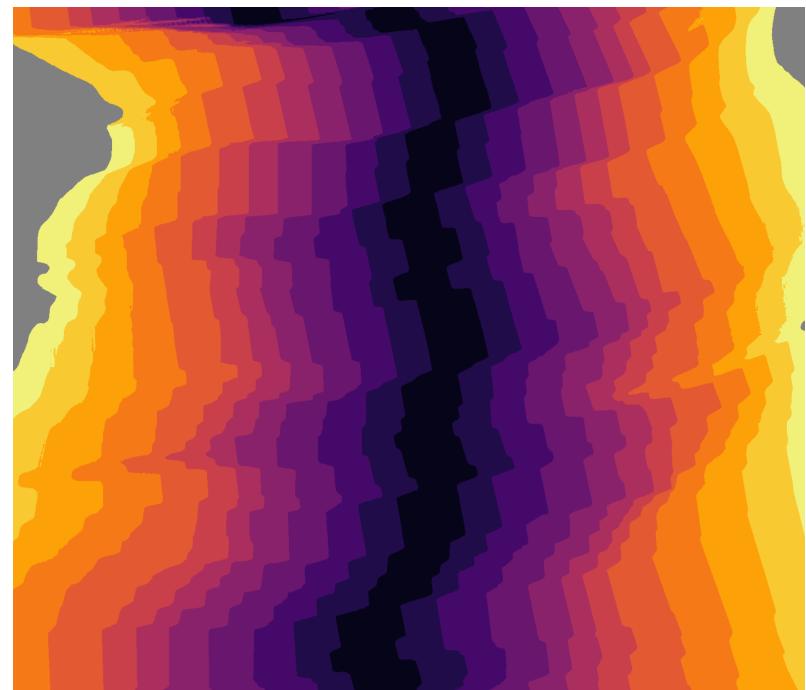
Introduction to makecpt

```
gmt makecpt -Cinferno -T0/120/10 > age.cpt  
gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc -JM6i -R-40/10/-40/0 -Cage.cpt > age_3.ps
```

-Cinferno

GMT has many built-in color palettes available, including 4 perceptually linear (good!) schemes called Viridis, Inferno, Magma, and Plasma. You can see the names of all of the built-in color maps by running “**makecpt**” with no options.

Using this perceptually linear color map, we can see that the spreading rate has not changed as much as the wide green regions from the previous figure might suggest.



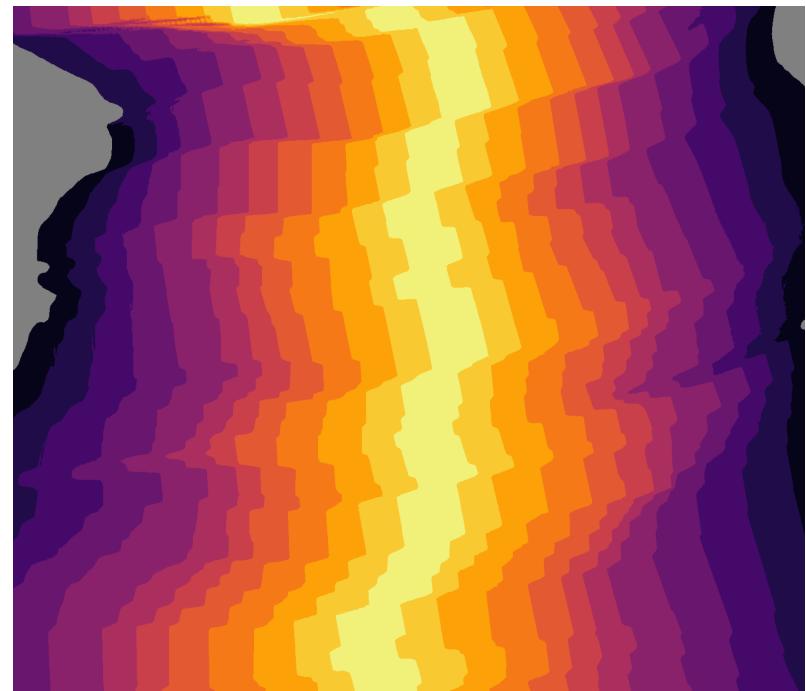
Introduction to makecpt

```
gmt makecpt -Cinferno -T0/120/10 -I > age.cpt  
gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc -JM6i -R-40/10/-40/0 -Cage.cpt > age_4.ps
```

In this case, it makes more sense to have younger, warmer ocean near ridges be a brighter color than the colder, older ocean near Africa and South America.

-I

To invert the color scheme, use the **-I** option.



Introduction to psscale

```
gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc -JM6i -R-40/10/-40/0 -Cage.cpt \
    -K > age_5.ps
gmt psscale -D0/-3+w10/0.5+h -Cage.cpt -Ba10+1"Age" -O >> age_5.ps
```

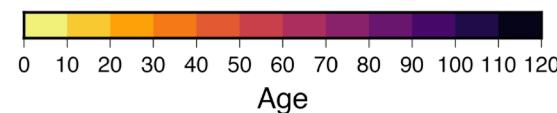
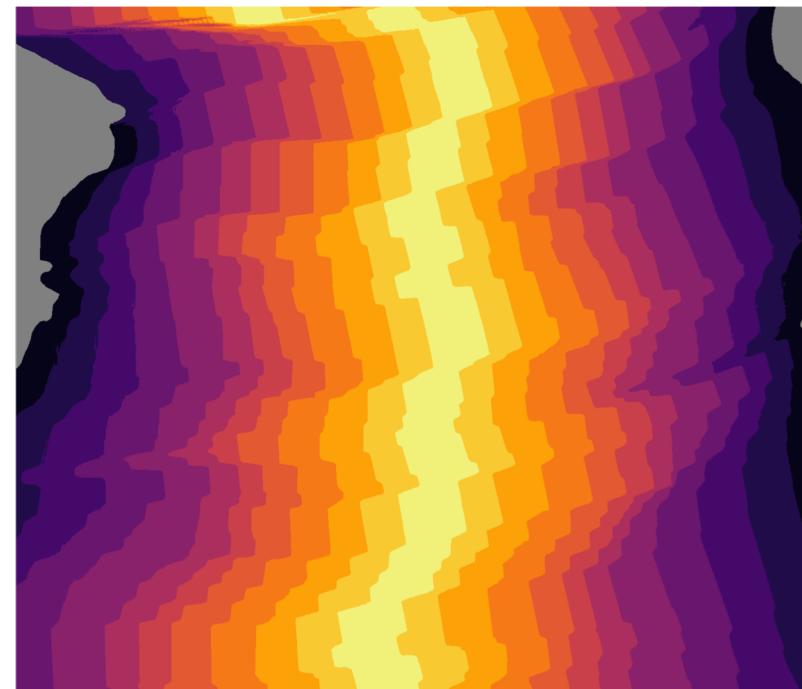
gmt psscale

A color palette is most useful when the viewer knows what the color represent. It is common to provide this information in a scale bar of some kind. Plot a scale bar on the figure with **psscale**.

-D0/-3+w10/0.5+h

Define the location and dimensions of the scale bar with **-D**. The position of the bottom left of the scale bar (in cm) relative to the bottom left of your map region is the first two coordinates (**0/-3**) and the size of the scale bar is the two values after **+w** (**10/0.5**). By default, the bar is vertical. To turn it horizontal, we add **+h**.

New command to make a scale bar.



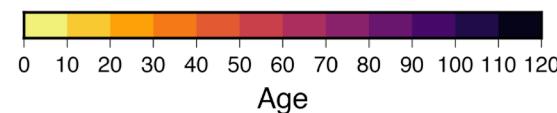
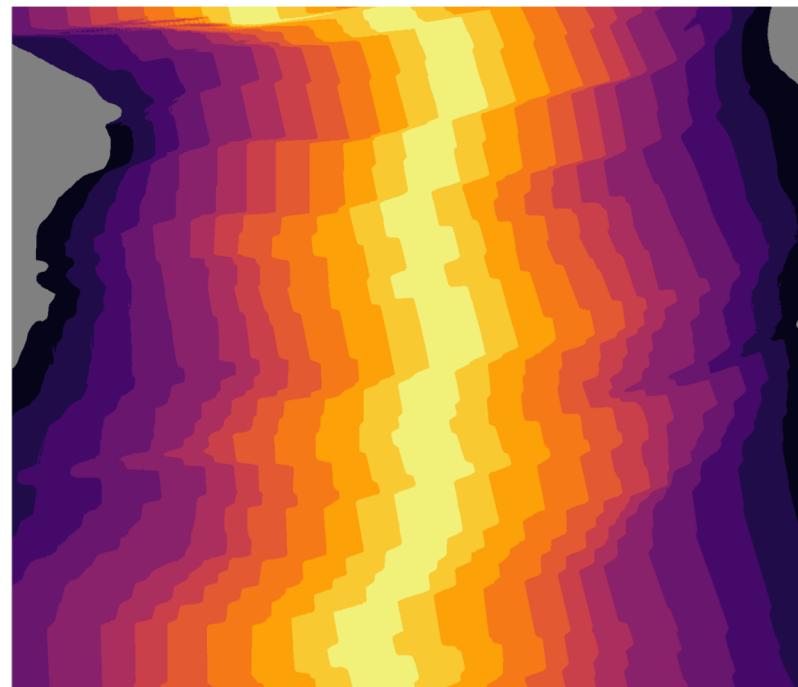
Introduction to psscale

```
gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc -JM6i -R-40/10/-40/0 -Cage.cpt \
    -K > age_5.ps
gmt psscale -D0/-3+w10/0.5+h -Cage.cpt -Ba10+1"Age" -O >> age_5.ps
-Cage.cpt
```

The scale bar will use the color palette defined with the `-C` option, just like `grdimage`.

`-Ba10+1"Age"`

The syntax for annotating the scale bar is very similar to that of `psbasemap`, and uses the same `-B` option. Here, we are annotating the scale bar every 10 increments (million years) and labeling it with the string “Age.”



```

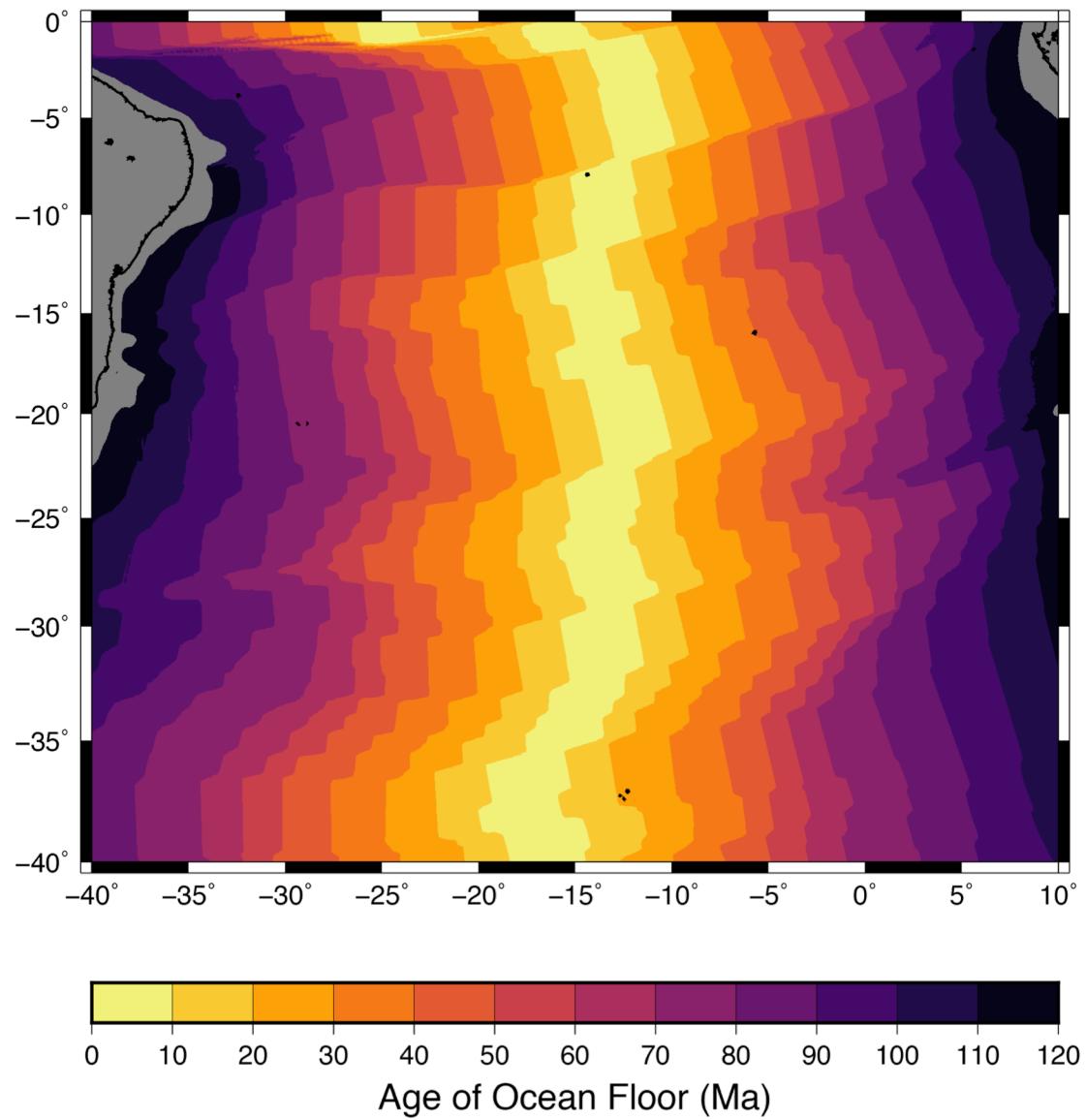
PSFILE="ocean_age.ps"
PROJ="-JM6i"          Plotting variables
LIMS="-R-40/10/-40/0"

# Age in millions of years Color palette range
AGE_MIN="0"           Make color palette
AGE_MAX="120"
gmt makecpt -Cinferno -T$AGE_MIN/$AGE_MAX/10 -D -I > age.cpt

gmt grdimage ocean_age.nc $PROJ $LIMS -Cage.cpt \
    -Y2i -K > $PSFILE
gmt pscoast $PROJ $LIMS -Di -W1p -K -O >> $PSFILE Plot coastlines
gmt psbasemap $PROJ $LIMS -Bxa5 -Bya5 -BWeSn -K -O >> $PSFILE
gmt psscale -D0i/-1i+w6i/0.25i+h -Cage.cpt \
    -Bg10a10+l"Age of Ocean Floor (Ma)" -O >> $PSFILE
Plot scale bar

```

*A basic shell script for
plotting ocean age*

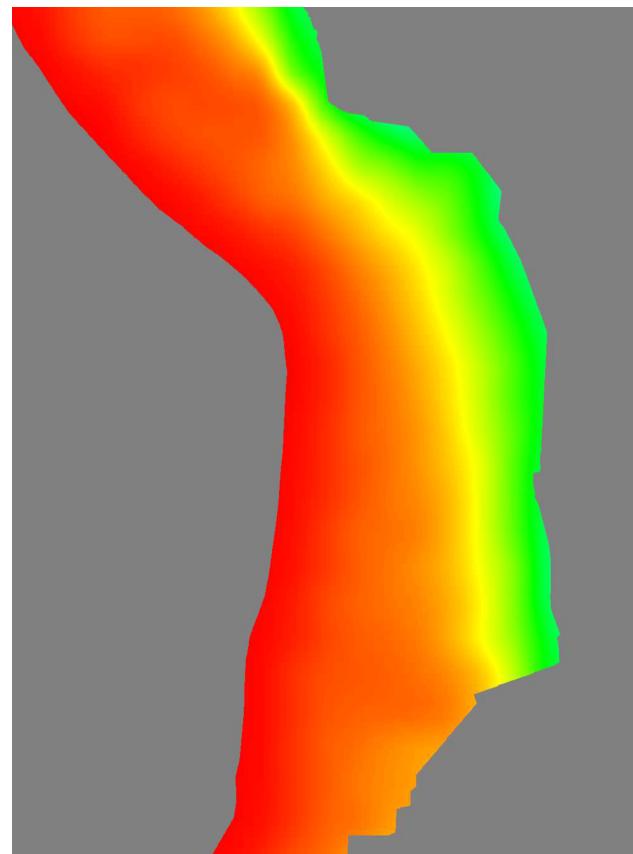


Introduction to grdcontour

```
gmt grdimage sam_slab.grd -JM5i -R280/300/-35/-10 > slab_0.ps
```

Next, we will plot the depth of the subduction plate interface beneath the western coast of South America. Start by using **grdimage** with the default coloring option. Again, this gives us very little actual information...

The data come from Slab1.0 (Hayes et al., 2012). You can download the clipped grid file from my [Tutorials page](#) or the full dataset (along with other subduction zones) directly from the U.S. Geological Survey (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/data/slab>)



Introduction to grdcontour

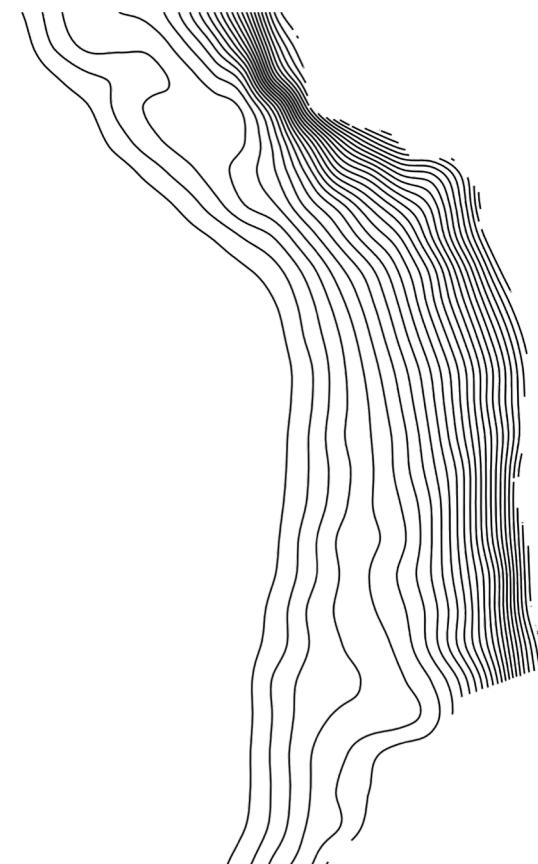
```
gmt grdcontour sam_slab.grd -JM5i -R280/300/-35/-10 -C25 -W1p \
> slab_1.ps
```

gmt grdcontour

Another common way to show 3D raster data is with contour lines. GMT can do this for NetCDF files with the command **grdcontour**.

-C25

The contour interval is specified using the **-C** option. The value you choose depends on the range of the dataset you want to plot. Here, the interface extends from 0 km to over 400 km, so I chose to use an interval of 25 m, which shows the shallow dip near the trench and the much steeper angle at depth.

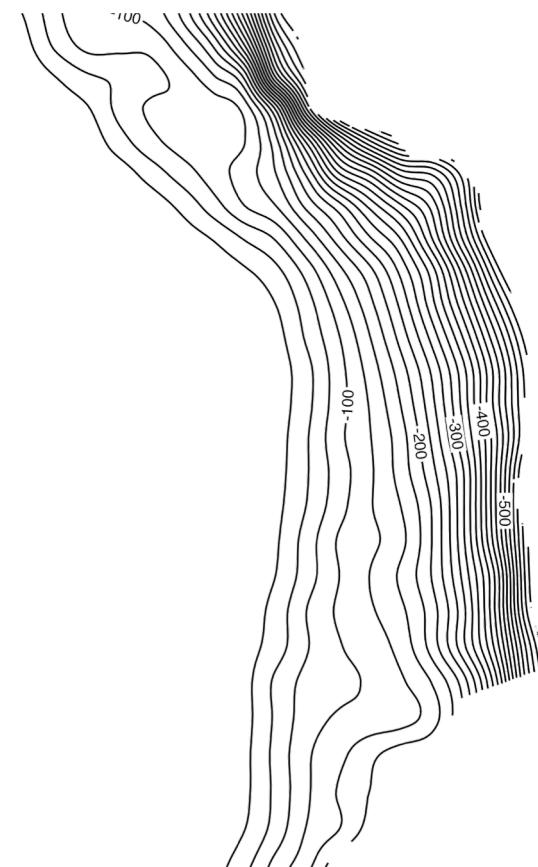


Introduction to grdcontour

```
gmt grdcontour sam_slab.grd -JM5i -R280/300/-35/-10 -C25 -W1p \
-A100 > slab_2.ps
```

-A100

It is important to label the contour lines. The **-A** option allows you to define a constant annotation interval, here 100 m.

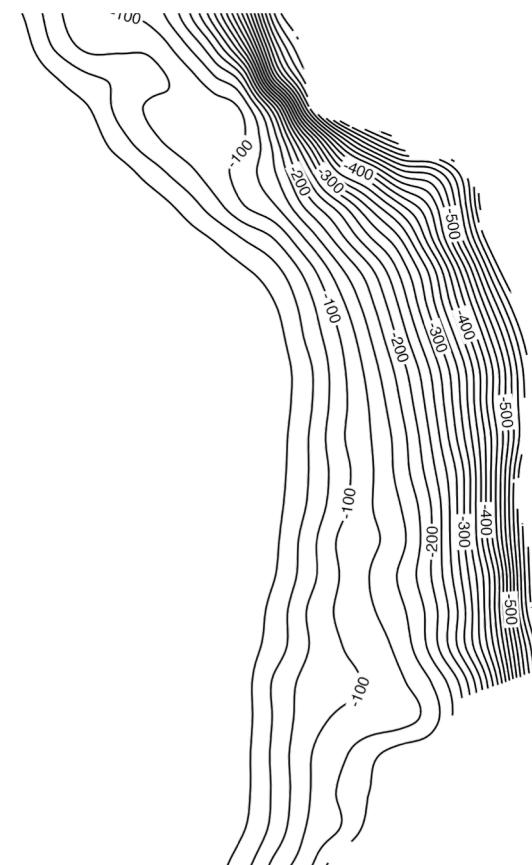


Introduction to grdcontour

```
gmt grdcontour sam_slab.grd -JM5i -R280/300/-35/-10 -C25 -W1p \
-A100 -Gd4c > slab_3.ps
```

-Gd4c

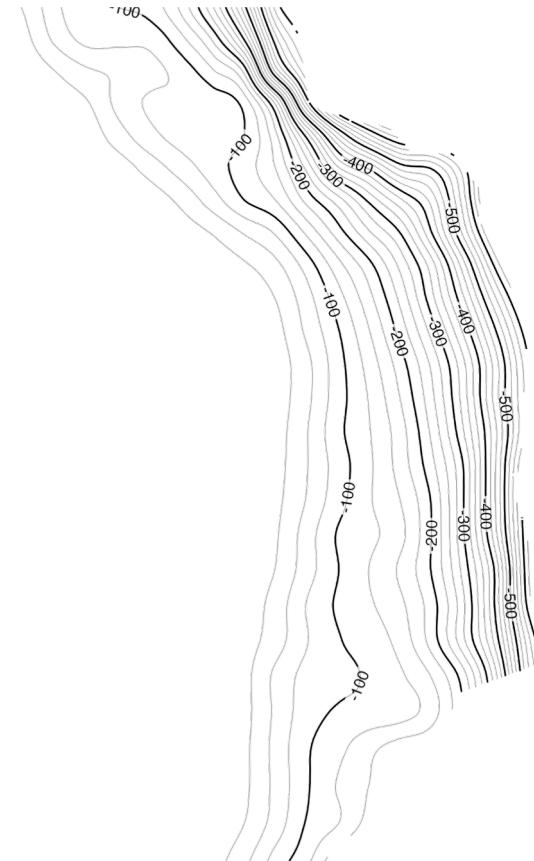
Maybe you found it difficult to trace the labeled contours in the previous figure, like I did. To adjust the labeling, you can use the **-G** option. There are many variations (see the **grdcontour** man page for details), but by using **d4c** I have told the program to plot a label every 4 cm, making it easier to trace the contours along the entire length.

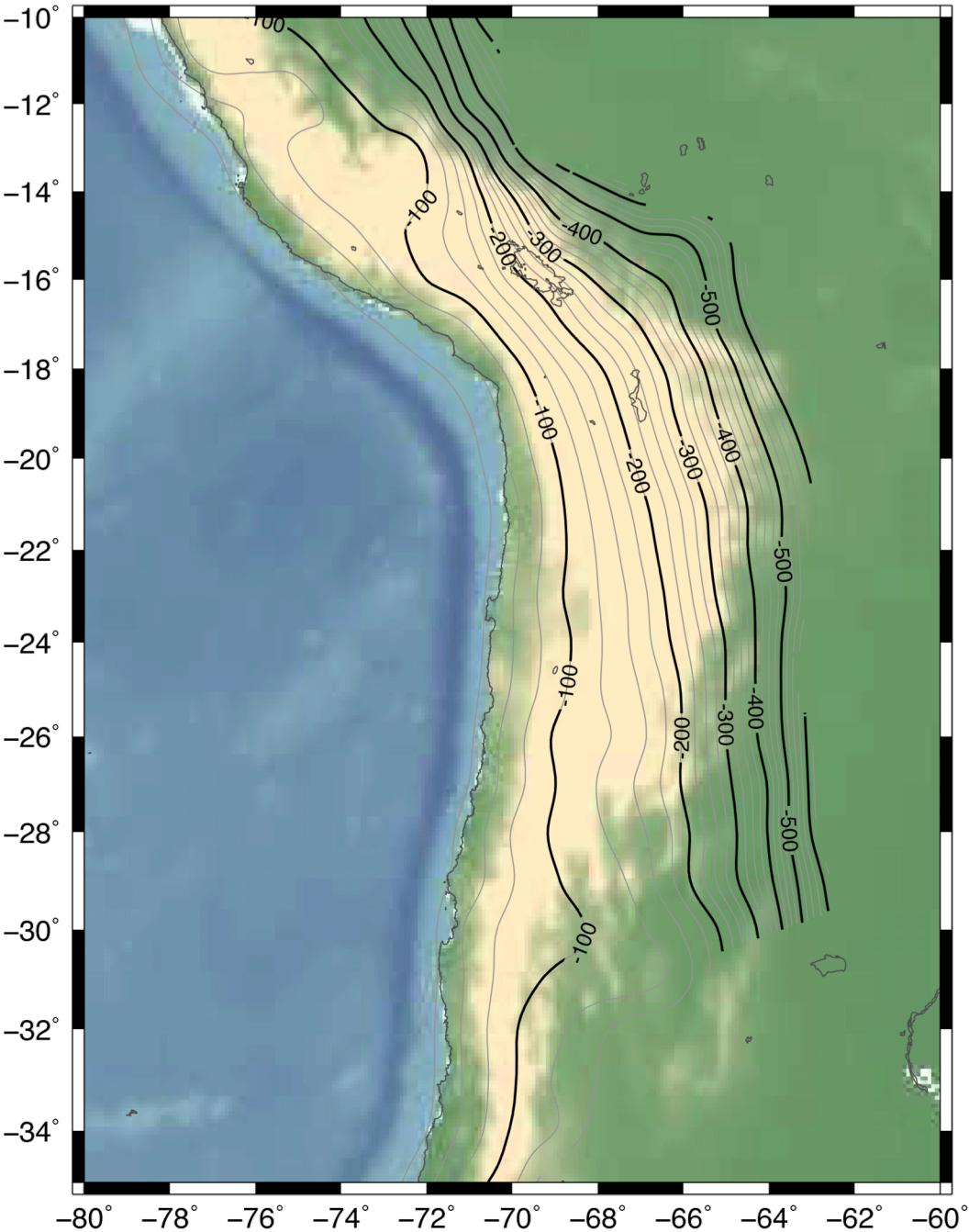


Introduction to grdcontour

```
gmt grdcontour sam_slab.grd -JM5i -R280/300/-35/-10 -C25 -W0.5p,grey50 \
-K > slab_4.ps
gmt grdcontour sam_slab.grd -J -R -C100 -W2p -A100 -Gd4c -O >> slab_4.ps
```

I find that using **grdcontour** multiple times with different options gives me the most control over the appearance of the map. Here, I used **grdcontour** twice: once to draw the 25 m contours in a light grey pen and another time to boldly draw the 100 m labeled contours.





Combining contour lines with colors allow you to put multiple datasets on the same figure. Here, I have plotted topography and bathymetry with **grdimage** and the depth of the subduction interface with **grdcontour**.

The script for producing this map is on the following slide.

*A new color palette for topography
with more muted colors. Borrowed
from Dr. Gavin Hayes at the USGS.*

-7500	81/101/153	-6750	88/112/157
-6750	88/112/157	-5000	96/129/163
-5000	96/129/163	-3750	118/157/179
-3750	118/157/179	-2500	131/173/189
-2500	131/173/189	-100	137/181/193
-100	137/181/193	0	255/255/255
0	105/155/105	50	100/150/100
50	100/150/100	3250	255/235/193
B	60/70/135		
F	255/235/193		

```
PSFILE="south_america.ps"
PROJ="-JM5i"
LIMS="-R280/300/-35/-10"
```

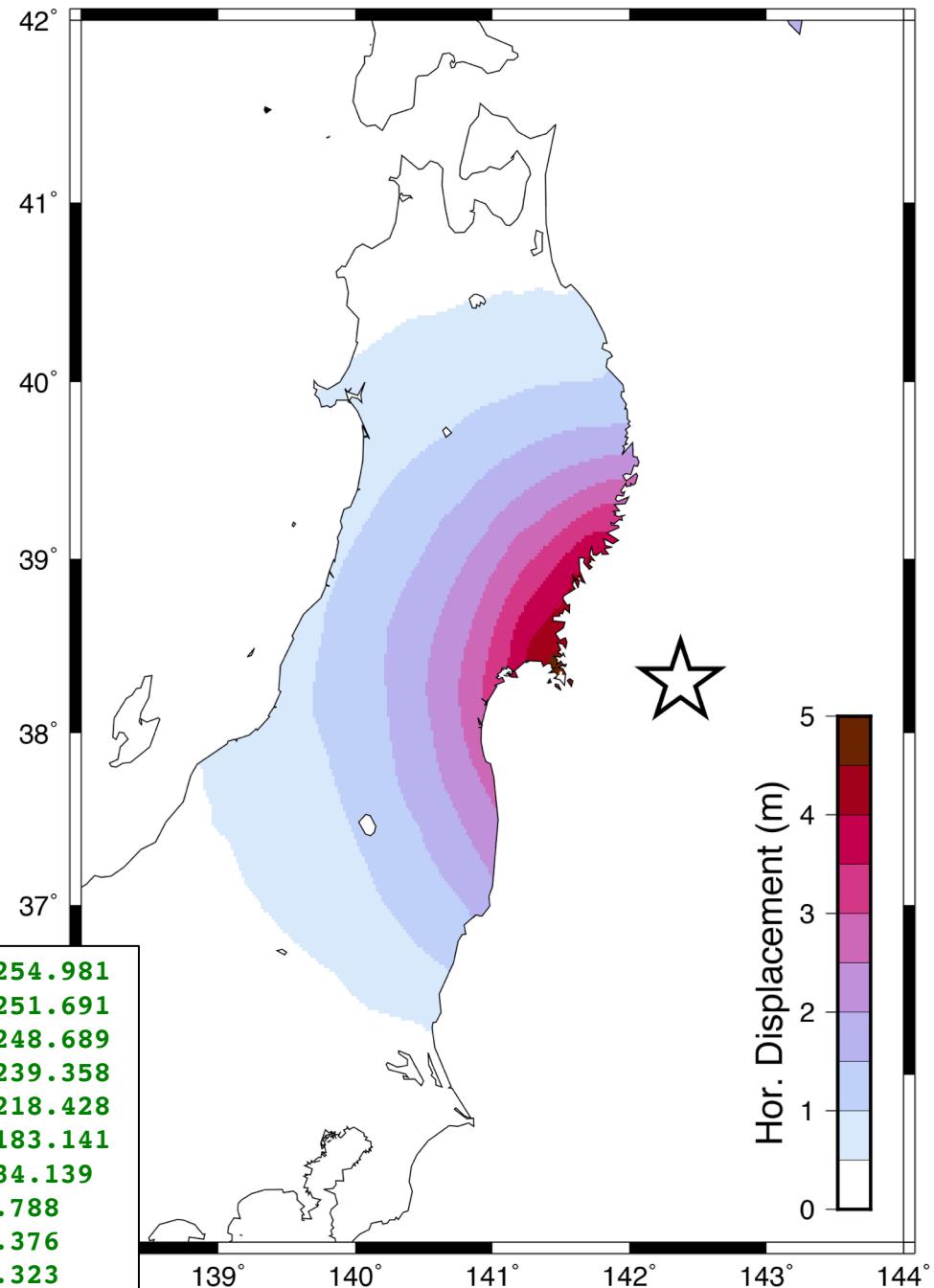
```
gmt grdimage ETOPO5.grd $PROJ $LIMS -Ctopo2.cpt -K > $PSFILE
gmt grdcontour sam_slab.grd $PROJ $LIMS -C25 -W0.5p,grey50 \
-K -O >> $PSFILE
gmt grdcontour sam_slab.grd $PROJ $LIMS -C100 -A100 -Gd4c \
-W1p -K -O >> $PSFILE
gmt pscoast $PROJ $LIMS -W0.5p,55/55/55 -Dh -K -O >> $PSFILE
gmt psbasemap $PROJ $LIMS -Bxa2 -Bya2 -BWeSn -O >> $PSFILE
```

In the last activity for this tutorial, we will make this colored map of displacements observed during the 2011 moment magnitude Mw 9.1 Tohoku earthquake offshore of Japan.

You can use this color palette or make your own! (Name it “disp.cpt”)



0.0	255.000/255.000/254.981	0.5	255.000/255.000/254.981
0.5	215.708/233.215/251.691	1.0	215.708/233.215/251.691
1.0	190.815/207.612/248.689	1.5	190.815/207.612/248.689
1.5	184.130/177.949/239.358	2.0	184.130/177.949/239.358
2.0	192.174/143.781/218.428	2.5	192.174/143.781/218.428
2.5	204.929/104.100/183.141	3.0	204.929/104.100/183.141
3.0	211.927/54.746/134.139	3.5	211.927/54.746/134.139
3.5	195.963/0.397/77.788	4.0	195.963/0.397/77.788
4.0	161.146/0.899/27.376	4.5	161.146/0.899/27.376
4.5	107.176/36.272/0.323	5.0	107.176/36.272/0.323

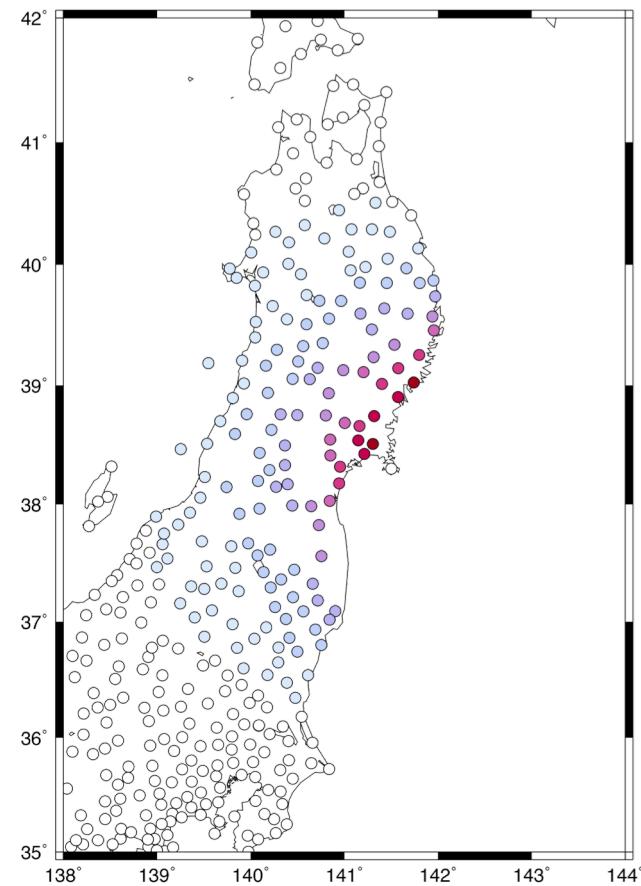


Introduction to surface

```
gmt psxy eq_gps.dat -JM5i -R138/144/35/42 -Sc0.1i -w0.5p \
-Cdisp.cpt > gps_0.ps
```

To do this activity, you will need a file with the coordinates of GPS stations in Japan and the magnitude of the horizontal displacement at each station observed immediately after the earthquake in 2011. This file is available for download on the [tutorial page](#) and comes from the Japan Geospatial Information Authority.

First, we plot the displacements at each individual station. We made a similar figure for earthquake depth in the first exercise. In this map, each dot represents the horizontal displacement at a GPS station. It looks like the displacements change smoothly, so next we will interpolate to plot the displacements everywhere on the island of Honshu.



Introduction to surface

```
gmt surface eq_gps.dat -R138/144/35/42 -I0.02 -Gdisp.grd
```

gmt surface

To interpolate an irregularly spaced point dataset into a raster file, use **surface**.

-R138/144/35/42

The limits of the output raster file are defined using the same **-R** option and syntax as the limits for maps.

Introduction to surface

```
gmt surface eq_gps.dat -R138/144/35/42 -I0.02 -Gdisp.grd
```

-I0.02

The sampling for the output raster file is specified using the **-I** option. Be careful about sampling too coarsely, in order to avoid aliasing the dataset. If you want to be sure to avoid aliasing, you will need to use a GMT tool like **blockmean** or **blockmedian**, which are beyond the scope of this tutorial.

-Gdisp.grd

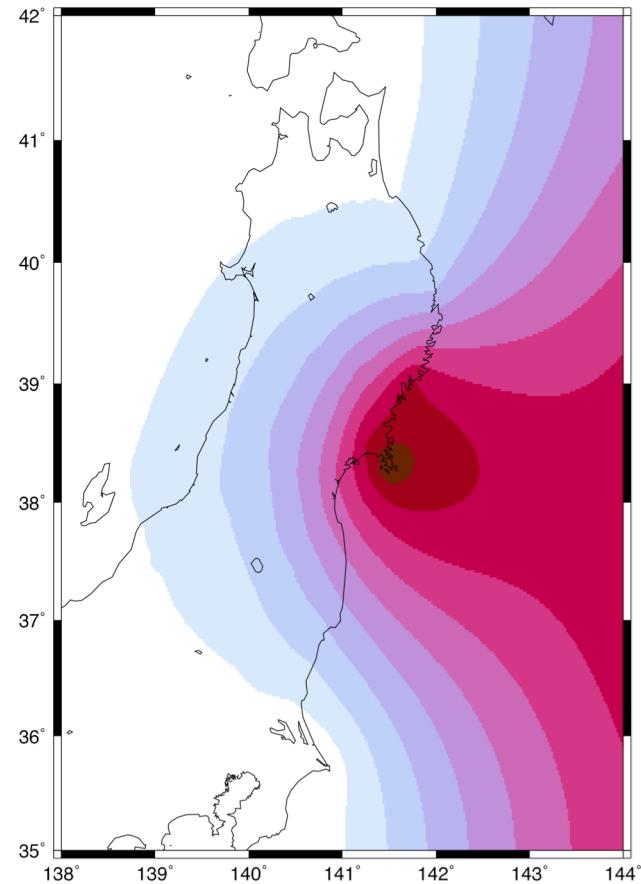
The name of the output file is specified with the **-G** flag.

Introduction to surface

```
gmt surface eq_gps.dat -R138/144/35/42 -I0.02 -Gdisp.grd  
gmt grdimage disp.grd -JM5i -R138/144/35/42 -Cdisp.cpt > gps_1.ps
```

Now, you can plot the new raster file **disp.grd** using **grdimage**.

Unfortunately, **surface** does not care about the distribution of data or geography, coastlines, etc. So even though the GPS data in this activity are confined to being onshore, **surface** extrapolates the raster everywhere within the defined limits.



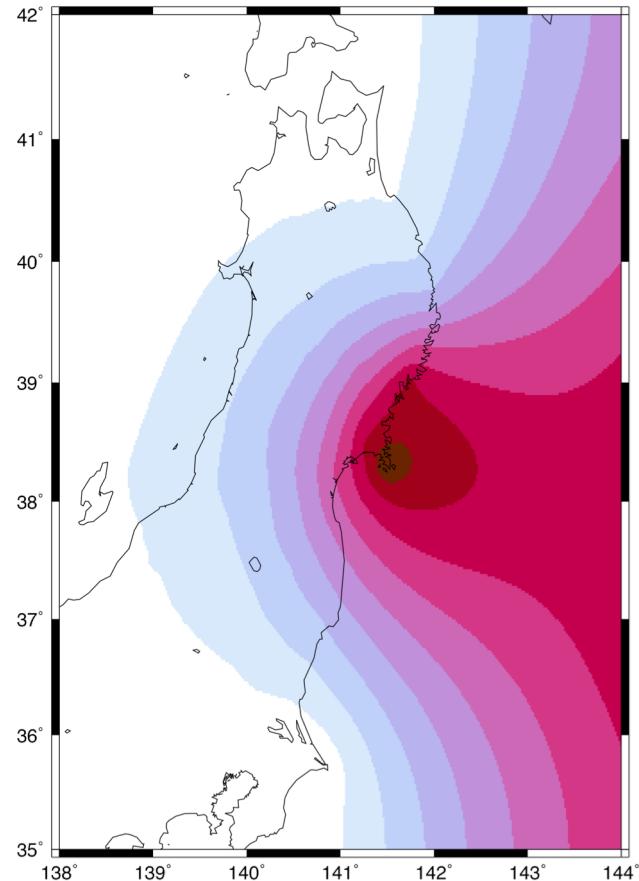
Introduction to surface

```
gmt surface eq_gps.dat -R138/144/35/42 -I0.02 -Gdisp.grd  
gmt grdimage disp.grd -JM5i -R138/144/35/42 -Cdisp.cpt > gps_1.ps
```

To clip the contents of the map to inside the coastlines, you can use:

```
gmt pscoast ... -Gc
```

Instead of coloring “dry” areas, **-Gc** makes a clipping mask from these regions.



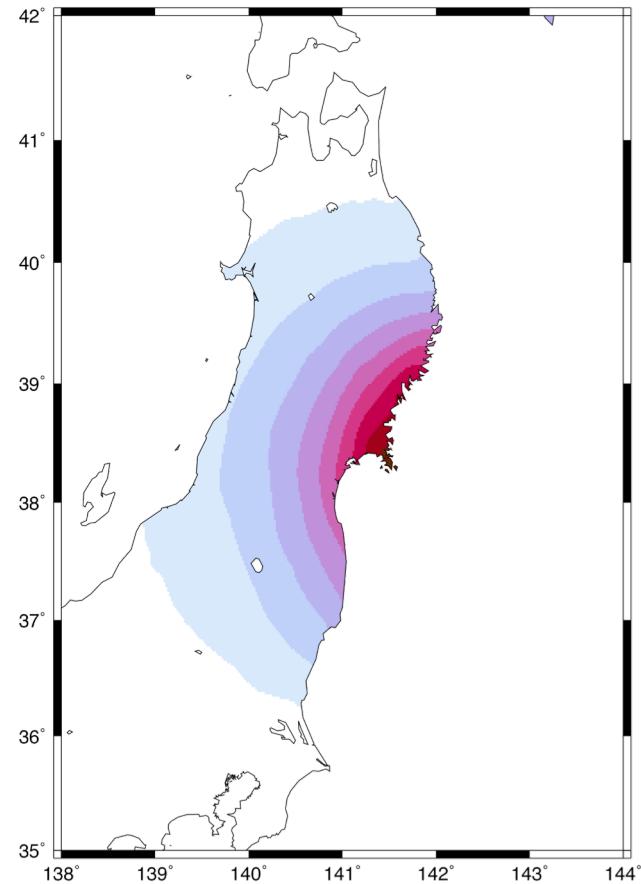
Introduction to surface

```
gmt surface eq_gps.dat -R138/144/35/42 -I0.02 -Gdisp.grd  
gmt grdimage disp.grd -JM5i -R138/144/35/42 -Cdisp.cpt > gps_1.ps
```

So your new script will look like this:

```
gmt pscoast -JM5i -R138/144/35/42 -Gc \  
-K > gps_2.ps  
gmt grdimage disp.grd -J -R -Cdisp.cpt \  
-K -O >> gps_2.ps  
gmt pscoast -Q -K -O >> gps_2.ps
```

The **-Q** flag ends the clipping.

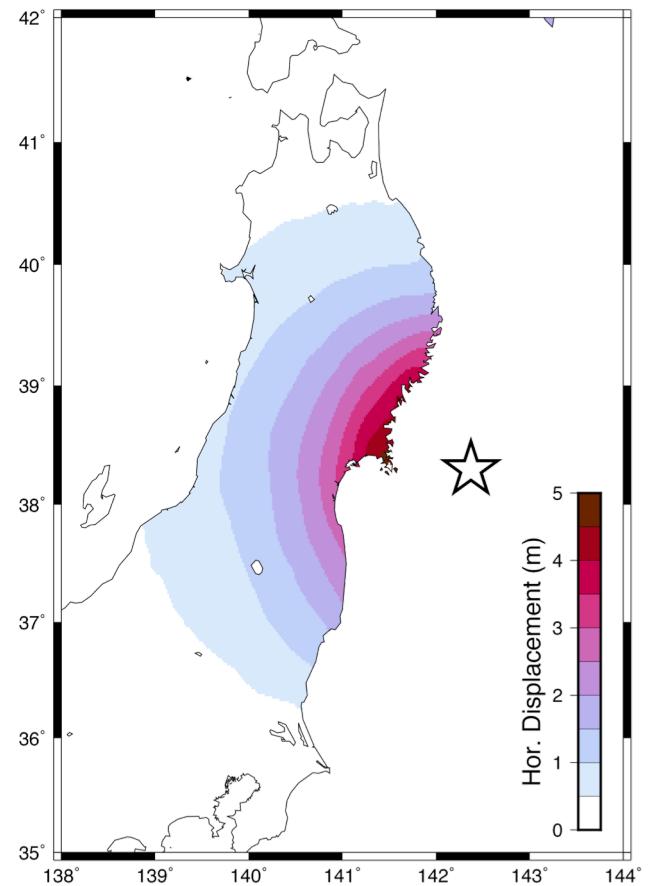


Introduction to surface

```
gmt surface eq_gps.dat -R138/144/35/42 -I0.02 -Gdisp.grd  
gmt grdimage disp.grd -JM5i -R138/144/35/42 -Cdisp.cpt > gps_1.ps
```

The last things to do is to are (1) add a scale bar and (2) show the location of the earthquake epicenter (142.37°E , 38.30°N). This exercise is left to the student.

Hint: use **psscale** and **psxy**, respectively.



Introduction to GMT (Part 2)

- Complete!
- Next up:
 - Writing text (**pstext**)
 - Plotting vectors (**psxy -Sv**)
 - Plotting earthquake focal mechanisms (**psmeca**)