The Mathematics of Maps – Lecture 3



(A map hanging in my son's kindergarten class a few years ago.)

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What about Africa? It's enormous...
The True Size of Africa

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- Conformal: $\lambda_m = \lambda_p$: indicatrices are circles
- Equi-areal: $\lambda_m \lambda_p = 1$: indicatrices have same area

Equi-areal maps

Lambert azimuthal projection



Lambert cylindrical (Archimedes) projection



Gall–Peters projection



Sinusoidal projection



Mollweide projection



Areas on the sphere

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Full sphere: take $\theta_1 = -\pi$, $\theta_2 = \pi$, $\phi_1 = -\frac{\pi}{2}$, $\phi_2 = \frac{\pi}{2} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{A = 4\pi}$.

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$$-\frac{1}{2}f(\phi)^2 = \sin(\phi) + C \quad \Rightarrow \quad C = -1.$$

$$f(\phi) = \sqrt{2(1 - \sin(\phi))} = \sqrt{2\left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \phi\right)\right)}$$
$$= \sqrt{2\left(2\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{\phi}{2}\right)\right)} = 2\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{\phi}{2}\right)$$

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Projection recipe: Follow circular arcs with centre N through P to the tangent plane at N.



Lambert / Archimedes projection

Lambert cylindrical (Archimedes) projection





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Gall-Peters projection

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Solve it to get: $f(\phi) = \sin(\phi) \sec(\phi_0)$.

Gall–Peters - 2

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Instead of dXdY, think of area element instead as $dX \wedge dY$.

 $dX \wedge dY = (-\theta \sin \phi d\phi + \cos(\phi)d\theta) \wedge d\phi = \cos(\phi)d\theta \wedge d\phi,$

i.e. area element for the plane becomes area element for S^2 .

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{X} \\ \tilde{Y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix}.$$
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A: det = 1 matrices!





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But what does the map function look like?





On C, we have $X_0 = \sqrt{2}\cos(\tau(\phi))$ and $Y_0 = h(\phi) = \sqrt{2}\sin(\tau(\phi))$.



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On S^2 , the area btw Equator and parallel at latitude ϕ is $2\pi \sin \phi$.



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On S^2 , the area btw Equator and parallel at latitude ϕ is $2\pi \sin \phi$. \therefore Strip btw Y = 0 and $Y = h(\phi)$ has area $2\pi \sin \phi$. \therefore Strip inside C has area $\pi \sin \phi = \sqrt{2} \cos(\tau) h + 2\frac{\tau}{2\pi} \pi(\sqrt{2})^2 = \sin(2\tau) + 2\tau$. This defines $\tau(\phi)$ implicitly.

Mollweide - 4

Check: $dX \wedge dY = \cos \phi \, d\theta \wedge d\phi$. (Identity $\pi \cos \phi = 4 \cos^2(\tau) \tau'$ follows from differentiating $\boxed{\pi \sin \phi = \sin(2\tau) + 2\tau}$ (*))

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Fix ϕ_0 . Define $f(\tau) = \sin(2\tau) + 2\tau - \pi \sin \phi_0$, $-\frac{\pi}{2} \le \tau \le \frac{\pi}{2}$, and

$$\tau_0=0, \quad \tau_{n+1}=\tau_n-\frac{f(\tau_n)}{f'(\tau_n)}.$$

Iterates will converge to a root of $f(\tau) = 0$.

- Conformal mappings
- Stereographic projection
- Mercator projection
- What does ${\mathbb C}$ have to do with it?