

Re: Spherical distribution visualization?

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From: R. Martin (russell.martin_at_wdn.com)

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bill wrote:

>
> *What are good ways to visualize a probability density over S^2 (the
> surface of a sphere)?*
>
> *Many thanks,*
>
> *bill*

Interesting question. "Good" is often relative to the desired purpose. I don't know if it is "good", but there was an article in *_Journal of Applied Meteorology_* back in the 1970s, IIRC, that presents a map transformation of the globe (of course, it would work for any sphere :-)) onto a square. The transformation is equal area. Of course, the continental outlines look funny, but they're recognizable, and if you're just interested in the distribution without reference to anything but the poles, equator, etc., it might serve your purpose. I have a couple copies of the paper in my files (since I figured someday it might be useful), so I can dig up the reference if you're interested.

Cheers,
Russell

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All too often the study of data requires care.