Present-day Plate Boundary Digital Data Compilation

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The **PLATES** Project has compiled digital data representing the Present-Day plate boundaries. The data were digitized from a number of sources. The data are stored in three separate files (`ridge.gmt, trench.gmt,` and `transform.gmt`) in GMT format (longitude, latitude pairs with end of line segments indicated by ">"). The first line of each particular plate boundary also contains a geographic description and reference number (in parantheses), keyed to the reference list below. The data may be plotted using the GMT command `psxy` with the `-M` option (for multiple line segments) (Figure 1).

An example of the data (from `ridge.gmt`) is shown below:

```
 -32.2971   37.4118 NORTH & CENTRAL ATLANTIC RIDGE AXIS   (92 1)
 -32.3909   37.1394
 -32.6448   37.1760
 -32.7066   37.0349
 -32.9468   37.0643
 -33.0039   36.9175
 -33.2235   36.9432
>
-115.7158   33.3408 GULF OF CALIFORNIA PLATE BOUNDARY  (20 8)
-115.6279   33.2626
-115.5949   33.2355
-115.6865   33.1515
-115.7180   33.1307
-115.5941   33.0397
-115.5085   32.9593
>
 -11.2648   -6.0221 SOUTH ATLANTIC RIDGE  (9318)
 -11.1800   -6.7562
 -13.6200   -7.3623
 -13.3600   -8.4125
 -13.1933   -8.3727
 -13.0200   -9.2215
 -13.2533   -9.2745
 -13.1667   -9.7973
>
```

This data set is an on-going endeavour and will be updated when new data becomes available to the **PLATES** Project.

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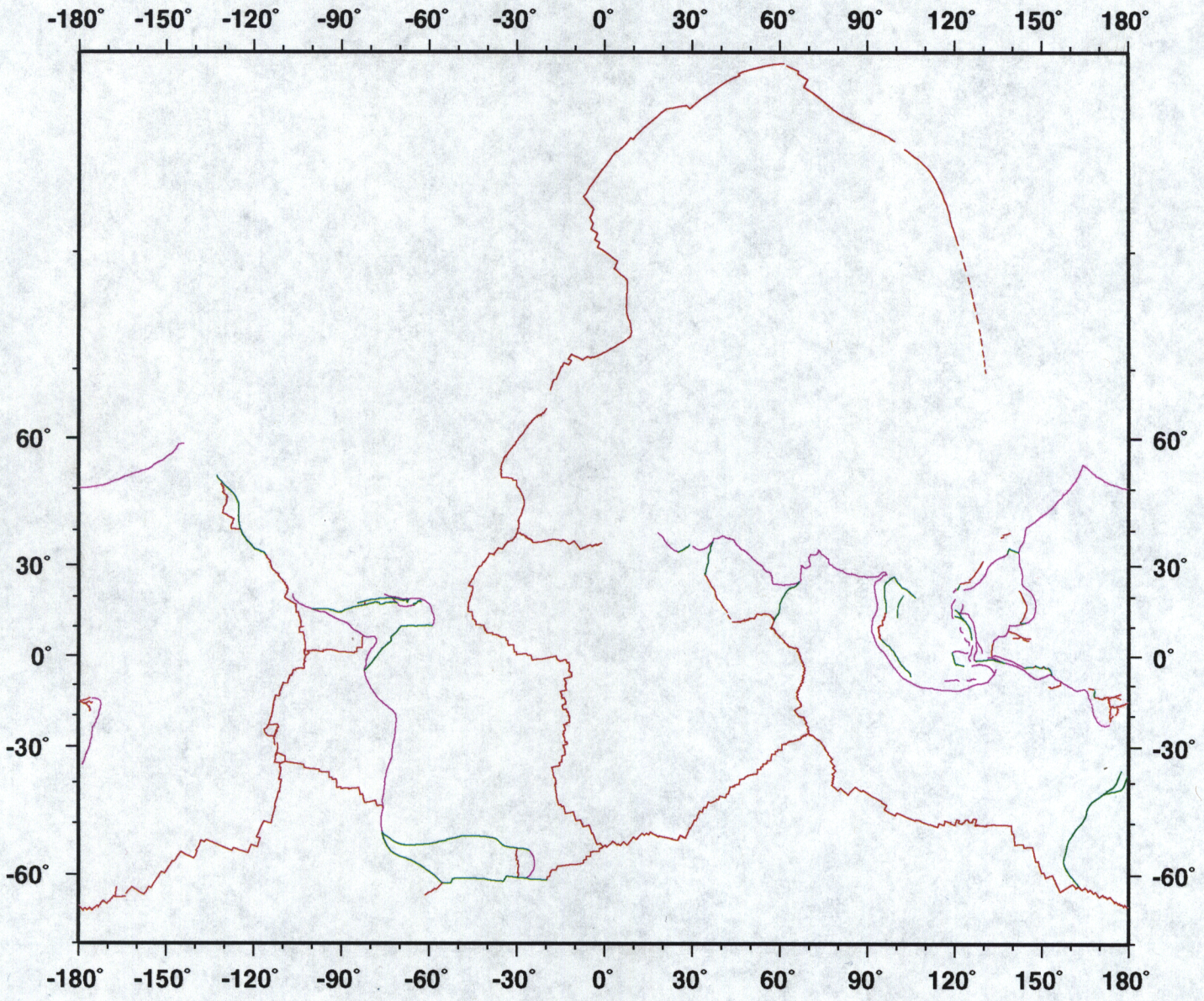

Figure 1. Present-Day plate boundaries. Red = spreading ridges; purple = trenches and areas of underthrusting; green = transform faults.