
Subject: Re: point inside polygon

Posted by [Philippe Peeters](#) on Wed, 01 Apr 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Alex Schuster wrote:

>

> William Connolley wrote:

>

>> In article C0684CDB@oma.be, Philippe Peeters <philp@oma.be> writes:

>>> Does anybody knows of an IDL function to test whether a given point is

>>> inside a polygon?

>>

>> I needed to solve this recently (in a mapping context). The solution I came up
>> with works but its not elegant: use poly_fill to actually draw your polygon
>> (in a pixmap not the screen window if you prefer), then read off the pixel value
>> of your point to see if its in or out.

>>

>> This is grotesquely inelegant, but its very simple and it works. I can
>> post the code if you're interested. A better solution
>> would be to look at polyfill and see how it does the fill... but sadly
>> polyfill seems to be one of the few routines not written in IDL.

>

> POLYFILLV works similar, but does not need a pixmap. It just returns the
> subscripts of all points inside the polygon.

> This worked okay for me, but for floating point coordinates it might not
> be too accurate.

This is precisely my problem. POLYFILLV is ok to check regular grid points within a given polygon. In my case I have a polygon with real coordinates (a satellite pixel) and I want to check if a ground station (lat,lon) is within the pixel.

I have tried to adapt a C code from Graphic Gems

<http://www.acm.org/tog/GraphicsGems/>

which is the CrossingMultiply from Haines

in C:

```
/* ===== Crossings Multiply algorithm
```

```
===== */
```

```
/*
```

```
 * This version is usually somewhat faster than the original published  
in
```

```
 * Graphics Gems IV; by turning the division for testing the X axis  
crossing
```

```
 * into a tricky multiplication test this part of the test became  
faster,
```

```
 * which had the additional effect of making the test for "both to left
```

or

- * both to right" a bit slower for triangles than simply computing the
- * intersection each time. The main increase is in triangle testing

speed,

- * which was about 15% faster; all other polygon complexities were

pretty much

- * the same as before. On machines where division is very expensive

(not the

- * case on the HP 9000 series on which I tested) this test should be

much

- * faster overall than the old code. Your mileage may (in fact, will)

vary,

- * depending on the machine and the test data, but in general I believe

this

- * code is both shorter and faster. This test was inspired by

unpublished

- * Graphics Gems submitted by Joseph Samosky and Mark Haigh-Hutchinson.
- * Related work by Samosky is in:
- *
- * Samosky, Joseph, "SectionView: A system for interactively specifying

and

- * visualizing sections through three-dimensional medical image data",
- * M.S. Thesis, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer

Science,

- * Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1993.
- *
- */

```
/* Shoot a test ray along +X axis. The strategy is to compare vertex Y
values
* to the testing point's Y and quickly discard edges which are entirely
to one
* side of the test ray. Note that CONVEX and WINDING code can be added
as
* for the CrossingsTest() code; it is left out here for clarity.
*
* Input 2D polygon _pgon_ with _numverts_ number of vertices and test
point
* _point_, returns 1 if inside, 0 if outside.
*/
```

```
int CrossingsMultiplyTest( pgon, numverts, point )
double pgon[][2] ;
int numverts ;
double point[2] ;
{
register int j, yflag0, yflag1, inside_flag ;
register double ty, tx, *vtx0, *vtx1 ;
```

```

tx = point[X] ;
ty = point[Y] ;

vtx0 = pgon[numverts-1] ;
/* get test bit for above/below X axis */
yflag0 = ( vtx0[Y] >= ty ) ;
vtx1 = pgon[0] ;

inside_flag = 0 ;
for ( j = numverts+1 ; --j ; ) {

yflag1 = ( vtx1[Y] >= ty ) ;
/* Check if endpoints straddle (are on opposite sides) of X axis
* (i.e. the Y's differ); if so, +X ray could intersect this edge.
* The old test also checked whether the endpoints are both to the
* right or to the left of the test point. However, given the faster
* intersection point computation used below, this test was found to
* be a break-even proposition for most polygons and a loser for
* triangles (where 50% or more of the edges which survive this test
* will cross quadrants and so have to have the X intersection computed
* anyway). I credit Joseph Samosky with inspiring me to try dropping
* the "both left or both right" part of my code.
*/
if ( yflag0 != yflag1 ) {
/* Check intersection of pgon segment with +X ray.
* Note if >= point's X; if so, the ray hits it.
* The division operation is avoided for the ">=" test by checking
* the sign of the first vertex wrto the test point; idea inspired
* by Joseph Samosky's and Mark Haigh-Hutchinson's different
* polygon inclusion tests.
*/
if ( ((vtx1[Y]-ty) * (vtx0[X]-vtx1[X]) >=
(vtx1[X]-tx) * (vtx0[Y]-vtx1[Y])) == yflag1 ) {
inside_flag = !inside_flag ;
}
}

/* Move to the next pair of vertices, retaining info as possible. */
yflag0 = yflag1 ;
vtx0 = vtx1 ;
vtx1 += 2 ;
}

return( inside_flag ) ;
}

```

I code it in IDL as

```

function ptpoly,pgonx,pgony,x,y

numverts=n_elements(pgonx)
if numverts ne n_elements(pgony) then message,'X & Y must have same
size'
if numverts lt 3 then message,'At least 3 vertex'

    tx = x
    ty = y

    vtx0x = pgonx[numverts-1]
    vtx0y = pgony[numverts-1]
    ; get test bit for above/below X axis
    yflag0 = ( vtx0y ge ty ) ;
    vtx1x = pgonx[0]
    vtx1y = pgony[0]

    inside_flag = 0
    for j = 1,numverts-1 do begin

yflag1 = ( vtx1y ge ty ) ;

if yflag0 ne yflag1 then begin

    if ( ((vtx1y-ty) * (vtx0x-vtx1x) ge $
        (vtx1x-tx) * (vtx0y-vtx1y)) eq yflag1 ) then $
        inside_flag = not(inside_flag)

endif

    yflag0 = yflag1
    vtx0x = vtx1x
    vtx0y = vtx1y
    vtx1x = pgonx[j]
    vtx1y = pgony[j]
    endfor

    return,inside_flag
end

```

I tried it with a square $px=[0,1,1,0]$ and $py=[0,0,1,1]$ and random points with $0 < x < 2$ and $0 < y < 2$. It works quite well with that polygon but fail if I rotate the polygon vertices using $\text{shift}(px,1)$ and $\text{shift}(px,2)$. The polygon is the same, only the vertices ordering has changed.

But...

Now I have tried Crossing algorithm. this one seems to work. The only thing is that it can gives a "divide by zero" when two vertices have the same Y coordinates. In my case of satellite pixels, align vertices are very improbable.

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