
Subject: Re: divide by zero problems

Posted by [edward.s.meinel](#) on Thu, 13 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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C'mon guys, this is IDL not C...

Mark Rehbein <mrehbein@aims.gov.au> wrote:

> Basically, my images have cloud pixels that I have changed to a zero
> value.

OK so far...

> I also have a mask of the image that has values 1 for good pixel
> and 0 for bad pixels (cloud).

So you have `new_image = image*mask`

> I then add all my images together to get
> a "sum image" and add all my masks together to get a "sum mask".

Oh, then its

```
FOR i = 0, number_of_images-1 DO BEGIN
  image_sum = image_sum + image[* , *, i]*mask[* , *, i]
  mask_sum  = mask_sum + mask[* , *, i]
END
```

> Now to composite or average the images I do the following:
>
> `composite=sum image/ sum mask.`

i.e., you want to normalize the result. The you should use something like:

```
composite = image_sum/(mask_sum + (mask_sum EQ 0))
```

> In fact I get whole image of
> NaN's in my composite even though my sum image and sum mask have
> decent values in them.

What is the TYPE of image? How many images? `image_sum` should be declared at least one TYPE higher than image (if image is BYTE then `image_sum` should be INTEGER; if image is INTEGER then `image_sum` should be LONG; etc.). If there are more than 256 images then `mask_sum` should be declared INTEGER.

Ed Meinel

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