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Subject: Re: Resampling data with irregular time base  
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Mon, 07 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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Karl Krieger wrote:

```
>
> I have data with an irregular time base, which I would like to resample
> in a regular spaced time base. How can I average over all original data
> points in each interval of the new time vector without resorting to a
> FOR loop?
> Currently I am using this horrible kludge:
>
> deltat = newtime[1] - newtime[0]
> FOR n=0, n_elements(newtime)-1 DO BEGIN
>   index = where((oldtime GT (newtime[n]-deltat/2.)) AND $
>               (oldtime LE (newtime[n]+deltat/2.)), $
>               count)
>   IF count GT 0 THEN newdata[n] = total(olddata[index]) / count
> ENDFOR
>
> Any idea how to transform this in vectorized IDL code? At the moment I
> see no way apart from writing the function in C and calling it by
> linkimage.
>
> Best
>
> Karl
>
> --
> To reply by email please replace domain .NOSPAM by .de in reply address
```

Hi Karl,

I would also do it with a for loop, but I wouldn't call WHERE. Rather I would go for the old "FORTRAN" approach and loop over each element, get the sum and count the number of time steps you pass, and compute the average as soon as you reach the next regular time step. As an example you could take a look at my attached run\_av.pro which computes running averages and can handle irregular series (just "regridding" is even easier). One further big advantage of this method is that you can easily exclude "missing" data on the fly. If you have large gaps in your data, you could think of testing for the next regular time step after each averaging step and then fill the gaps with one `fltarr()` command instead of looping through 1000 void steps.

One hint: make sure that you use LONG integers in your FOR loops! I just realized I didn't adhere to that in the attached version of run\_av.pro

...

Regards,  
Martin.

Never trust anyone less than yourself!

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|||||||\\-----// |||||  
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```
;----- --
; $Id: run_av.pro,v 1.10 1999/01/22 20:12:17 mgs Stab $
;+
; NAME:
;   RUN_AV (function)
;
; PURPOSE:
;   Compute running average or running total of a
;   data vector. Compared to the IDL function TS_SMOOTH,
;   this function takes into account missing values or
;   gaps in an optional x vector, and it allows for
;   even bandwidths. It can also be used to compute cumulative
;   totals.
;
; CATEGORY:
;   math
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
;   result = RUN_AV(Y [,X] [,keywords] )
;
; INPUTS:
;   Y -> the data vector (a 2-D array will be treated as a vector)
;
;   X -> an optional X vector defining e.g. the sample times.
;       This only has an effect when the DELTAX keyword is specified.
;       X must be monotonically increasing and have the same
;       number of elements as Y.
;
; KEYWORD PARAMETERS:
;   WIDTH -> The number of points to use for the average or total
;           Default is 1, i.e. Y is returned unchanged.
;
;   MINWIDTH -> The minimum number of points that must be valid
;               in order to return a average or total for the given point.
;               Default is MINWIDTH=WIDTH, i.e. all points must be valid
```

```

;      (and if X and DELTAX are specified, all points must lie
;      within WIDTH*DELTAX).
;
;
;
; MIN_VALID -> The minimum value for valid data. Data with less than
; MIN_VALID will be considered missing. MIN_VALID is also used
; to indicate invalid totals or averages (1% is subtracted).
;
;
; DELTAX -> The maximum gap between two consecutive x values.
; Only effective when X is given.
;
;
; COUNT -> A named variable will return the number of points used
; in each average or total.
;
;
; /TOTAL -> Set this keyword to compute running totals instead
; of running averages.
;
;
; OUTPUTS:
; The function returns a vector with running averages or totals.
; The number of elements in the result vector always equals the
; number of elements in Y (unless an error occurs).
;
;
; SUBROUTINES:
;
;
; REQUIREMENTS:
;
;
; NOTES:
; This function can also be used to compute accumulative totals.
; Simply set WIDTH to n_elements(Y) and MINWIDTH to 1 and use
; the /TOTAL keyword. However, this is very ineffective for large
; data vectors!
;
;
; EXAMPLE:
; y = findgen(20)
; print,run_av(y,width=4)
; ; IDL prints: -1E31 -1E31 -1E31 1.5 2.5 3.5 4.5 ...
;
;
; print,run_av(y,width=4,/TOTAL)
; ; IDL prints: -1E31 -1E31 -1E31 6 10 14 18 ...
;
;
; ; (cumulative total)
; print,run_av(y,width=n_elements(y),minwidth=1,/TOTAL)
; ; IDL prints: 0 1 3 ... 190
;
;
; x = [ 0, 2, 4, 6, 16, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33 ]
; y = fltarr(n_elements(x)) + 1.
; print,run_av(y,x,width=4,count=c)
; ; IDL prints: -1E31 -1E31 -1E31 1 1 1 1 ...
; print,c

```

```

;      ; IDL prints: 1 2 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
;
;
;      print,run_av(y,x,deltax=2,width=4,count=c)
;      ; IDL prints: -1E31 -1E31 -1E31 1 -1E31 -1E31 -1E31
;      ;      -1E31 -1E31 -1E31 1 1 1 1 1
;      print,c
;      ; IDL prints: 1 2 3 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 4 4 4 4
;
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;      mgs, 21 Oct 1998: VERSION 1.00
;
;
; -
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; Bugs and comments should be directed to mgs@io.harvard.edu
; with subject "IDL routine run_av"
;-----

```

```

function run_av,y,x,width=width,min_valid=min_valid,deltax=deltax, $
      minwidth=minwidth,count=rcount,total=ctotal

```

```

      result = 0.
      if (n_elements(y) eq 0) then return,result

```

```

;      =====
;      set up result array and temporary storage
;      =====

```

```

      average = not keyword_set(ctotal)

```

```

      if (n_elements(width) eq 0) then width = 1 $
      else width = fix(abs(width[0]))

```

```

      if (n_elements(minwidth) eq 0) then minwidth = width $
      else minwidth = minwidth < width ; no larger than width!

```

```

      if (width eq 0) then begin
        message,'WIDTH must be greater or equal 1!','Cont
        return,result
      endif

```

```

accu = fltarr(width)
count = intarr(width)
result = fltarr(n_elements(y))
rcount = intarr(n_elements(y))
ic = 0

if (n_elements(min_valid) eq 0) then min_valid = -9.99E30

; =====
; VERSION 1: no x array given
; =====

if (n_elements(x) eq 0) then begin
    ; loop through y vector and accumulate
    for i = 0,n_elements(y)-1 do begin

        if ( (i-ic) ge width ) then ic = ic + width

        ; add current y value to all buffer elements
        ; if greater min_valid
        ; and increment counter
        if (y[i] gt min_valid) then begin
            accu[*] = accu[*] + y[i]
            count[*] = count[*] + 1
        endif

        ; read out ith buffer value and reset ith buffer
        rcount[i] = count[i-ic]
        if (count[i-ic] ge minwidth) then begin
            result[i] = accu[i-ic]
            if (average) then result[i] = result[i]/rcount[i]
        endif else begin
            result[i] = min_valid
        endelse

        accu[i-ic] = 0.
        count[i-ic] = 0

    endfor

    return,result
endif

; =====
; VERSION 2: with x array
; same as above, but needs to take care of min x steps

```

```

; =====

if (n_elements(x) ne n_elements(y)) then begin
    message,'X and Y must have same number of elements!','Cont
    return,0.
endif

if (n_elements(deltax) eq 0) then begin
    xdiff = x - shift(x,1)
    deltax = max(xdiff[1: *])
endif

; loop through y vector and accumulate
for i = 0,n_elements(y)-1 do begin

    if ( (i-ic) ge width ) then ic = ic + width

    ; add current y value to all buffer elements
    ; if greater min_valid
    ; and increment counter
    if (y[i] gt min_valid and x[i]-x[(i-1)>0] le deltax) then begin
        accu[*] = accu[*] + y[i]
        count[*] = count[*] + 1
    endif

    ; read out ith buffer value and reset ith buffer
    rcount[i] = count[i-ic]
    if (count[i-ic] ge minwidth) then begin
        result[i] = accu[i-ic]
        if (average) then result[i] = result[i]/rcount[i]
    endif else begin
        result[i] = min_valid
    endelse

    accu[i-ic] = 0.
    count[i-ic] = 0

endfor

return,result

```

end

## File Attachments

1) [run\\_av.pro](#), downloaded 73 times