

---

Subject: Re: Satellite images and interpolation  
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Wed, 23 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Ben Marriage wrote:

>  
> Hey everybody,  
>  
> Was wondering if somebody could point me in the right direction (i.e.  
> which procedures/functions to use) for this subscript problem:  
>  
> I have a 2D array of values and a corresponding 2D array of Latitudes and  
> a 2D array of longitudes (Geo-registered Sea Surface Temperatures if  
> anybody is interested). I also have a 2D satellite image with 2D arrays  
> of latitude and longitude. How do I take the latitude/longitude pairs  
> from the satellite image and interpolate these positions into the Sea  
> Surface Temperatures?  
>  
> I would be extremely grateful for just a pointer to the correct  
> functions if they already exist in IDL.  
>

here's a list roughly ordered in successive complexity and with no  
guarantee of completeness:

- rebin : only works when dimensions are integer multiples  
and the grids perfectly aligned
- congrid : still needs the grids aligned  
(if you are most interested in displaying these images  
on the same scale, you can use tvimage.pro from  
David Fanning's website [www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com) which  
internally uses congrid)
- bilinear : "The BILINEAR function uses a bilinear interpolation  
algorithm to compute the value of a data array at each of a set of  
subscript values. The function returns a two-dimensional, floating-point  
interpolated array."
- interpolate : "The INTERPOLATE function returns an array of linear,  
bilinear or trilinear interpolates, depending on the dimensions of the  
input array P."
- krig2d : "The KRIG2D function interpolates a regularly- or  
irregularly-gridded set of points  $z = f(x, y)$  using kriging. It returns  
a two dimensional floating-point array containing the interpolated  
surface, sampled at the grid points."
- min\_curve\_surf : "The MIN\_CURVE\_SURF function interpolates a

regularly- or irregularly-gridded set of points with either a minimum curvature surface or a thin-plate-spline surface..."

- tri\_surf : "The TRI\_SURF function interpolates a regularly- or irregularly-gridded set of points with a smooth quintic surface. The result is a two-dimensional floating-point array containing the interpolated surface, sampled at the grid points. TRI\_SURF is similar to MIN\_CURVE\_SURF but the surface fitted is a smooth surface, not a minimum curvature surface. TRI\_SURF has the advantage of being much more efficient for larger numbers of points."

That's what IDL has to offer in terms of 2D interpolation. If you need a regridding routine that includes area weighting, you can contact me by email (but for SST that may not be necessary).

Regards,  
Martin

—

|||||\\\-----//\\\\\\ //|||||

Martin Schultz, DEAS, Harvard University, 29 Oxford St., Pierce 109,  
Cambridge, MA 02138 phone (617) 496 8318 fax (617) 495 4551  
e-mail mgs@io.harvard.edu web <http://www-as/people/staff/mgs/>