
Subject: Re: STANDARD DEVIATON

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Tue, 01 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Ben Marriage wrote:

> I want to calculate the standard deviation of a 3x3 pixel area for each
> element of a satellite image (5000x2000 pixels). At the moment I use for
> loops to scan through the image and then use the built-in IDL standard
> deviation routines. I've tried to speed this up with the use of
> convolution and whatnot but never seemed to solve the problem. Does
> anyone know of a simple and elegant (read "quick") method of doing this
> without using loops?

Without loops yes, elegant, well yes of course, but quick I don't know?
Our fastest SUN takes 8.5 seconds for a dist(5000, 2000). How fast was
your routine using convolution, and how fast should it be?

For some 3x3 pixels x_i (and a mean of x_{mean}), the standard deviation
is

$s = 1/9 * \sqrt{\text{sum}((x_i - x_{\text{mean}})^2)}$. `img=img-smooth(img,3)` does the
inner subtraction of the x_{means} , `img=img^2` squares each element,
`convol( img, k )` sums them all up Then `qrt(img)/9` gives the result.

```
function foo, img, width
return, sqrt( convol( ( img - smooth( img, width ) )^2, $
                    fltarr( width, width ) + 1.0 ) ) / width^2
end
```

Alex

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PGP Key available