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Subject: Re: efficient kernel or masking algorithm ? UPDATE  
Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Mon, 26 Feb 2001 03:00:04 GMT  
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Martin Downing wrote:

>  
> From thread: <http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/archive/msg03957.htm> I  
> a.. Date: Wed, 29 Nov 2000 16:30:54 -0500  
> Richard Tyc wrote:  
>>  
>> I need to apply a smoothing type kernel across an image, and calculate the  
>> standard deviation of the pixels masked by this kernel.  
>>  
>> ie. lets say I have a 128x128 image. I apply a 3x3 kernel (or simply a  
>> mask) starting at [0:2,0:2] and use these pixels to find the standard  
>> deviation for the center pixel [1,1] based on its surrounding pixels, then  
>> advance the kernel etc deriving a std deviation image essentially.  
>> I can see myself doing this 'C' like with for loops but does something  
> exist  
>> for IDL to do it better or more efficiently ?  
>>  
>> Rich  
>  
> I was wandering through new Craig's IDL archive site (which is brilliant by  
> the way) and came across this question asking for an efficient way of  
> calculating the loacal standard deviation in an array. It seemed to me that  
> the thread had not reached a full solution so perhaps some of you might be  
> interested in this method which is very fast. It is based on the crafty  
> formula for variance:  
> variance = (sum of the squares)/n + (square of the sums)/n\*n

Righto. I knew I was fishing for something like this. Except I think you mean:

(population) variance = (sum of the squares)/n - (square of the sums)/n\*n

Luckily, that's how you've coded it too. Sample variance (=population variance\*n/(n-1)) is of course the more common case in science (as opposed to gambling).

JD

P.S. I think I originally got the idea from `sigma_filter.pro`, a NASA library routine, dating back to 1991. It's chock-full of other good tidbits too.  
Thanks Frank and Wayne!

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