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Subject: Re: Finding the mean of a set of images  
Posted by [Jaco van Gorkom](#) on Tue, 22 Oct 2002 16:33:36 GMT  
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"Craig Markwardt" <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message  
news:onznt6k38x.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu...

> David Oesch <oesch@giub.unibe.ch> writes:

>> ...

>> Does anyone have an algorithm for finding the mean/standard deviation etc  
>> at each pixel position for a set of equal size 2-D images? Currently the  
>> only way I have to do this is to extract all the values for a given  
>> pixel position into a 1-D array and find the mean/standard deviation etc  
>> on that. Doing it pixel by pixel like this is inefficient in IDL so I am  
>> looking for an \*array\* based algorithm that would find all  
>> the mean/standard deviation etc in parallel. ...

>

> Sure, if you stack your image into a 3D image cube, then you would  
> have something like `IMAGE = FLTARR(NX, NY, NIMAGES)`

>

> Then the mean image is:

>

> `mean = total(image,3)/nimages`

>

> The standard deviation is:

>

> `meancube = rebin(reform(mean,nx,ny,1),nx,ny,nimages)`

> `std = sqrt(total((image - meancube)^2,3)/(nimages-1))`

>

> Now, what you meant by "etc" can get a little hairier. If you want to  
> do median you are probably in trouble, but min and max are easy too:

>

> `minimage = image(*,*,0)`

> `maximage = minimage`

> `for i = 1, nimages-1 do begin`

> `minimage = minimage < image(*,*,i)`

> `maximage = maximage > image(*,*,i)`

> `endfor`

I believe that IDL 5.5 offers the luxury of

`maximage = MAX(image, MIN=minimage, DIMENSION=3)`

As for median, well, there was a thread on "Finding the median of a set  
of images" back in '96. Should be valid still, I guess. Improvising with  
`transpose()`, `reform()`, `median(image, Nimages)` and `rebin()` should be fun, but  
not be very fast.

Jaco

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