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Subject: Re: random slice through a volume of catscan data  
Posted by [Sergey Kuposov](#) on Fri, 02 May 2003 18:36:19 GMT  
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Jeff ,  
the keyword ANISOTROPY allow to get the slice for GRID with different  
steps for X,Y & Z axes , but I talked about method ,which allow to get  
the slice for the more general situation - the situation with completely  
scattered points.

Cheers,  
Sergey

Jeff Nettles wrote:

```
> Sergey,  
>  
> Thanks so much for the reply. I did indeed learn about the EXTRACT_SLICE  
> function and am going through it now.  
> I think that you can actually use the ANISOTROPY keyword and use data that  
> isn't uniformly spaced (mine isn't). But if not, your strategy makes sense  
> to me.  
>  
> So again, thanks so much!  
> Jeff  
>  
> "Sergey Kuposov" <astro@mccme.ru> wrote in message  
> news:b8rp8h$skje$1@news.rol.ru...  
>  
>> Hello, Jeff,  
>> I think , if your data volume is presented as 3-dimensinal array (i.e.  
>> your data is uniformly spaced ), you can use the EXTRACT_SLICE function.  
>>  
>> Otherwise , (if your data is presented , for example, as 1-dimensional  
>> array with x,y & z coordinates ) you can  
>> 1) define the function distance(x,y,z) , which will compute the distance  
>> from the point to the plane  
>> function distance,x,y,z  
>> common plane ,A,B,C,D ; on the assumption that  $A*x+B*y+C*z+D=0$  return  
>>  $(A*x+B*y+C*z+D)/\sqrt{A^2+B^2+C^2}$  ;define the plane  
>> end  
>> 2) Select the points for the slice by using WHERE  
>> indices=WHERE(dist(X,Y,Z) lt 1) ;where X,Y,Z are 1-d arrays of x,y,z  
>> coordinates  
>> 3) Image the necessary characteristics for X[indices],Y[indices],Z[..]  
>> with some interpolation (if you need of image , not of plot of points)  
>> (for example the function GRID_TPS,and others (other functions are in  
>> the IDL Online Help , "gridding and interpolation"))  
>>
```

>> You can also make the interpolation for slicing in the beginning by  
>> means the GRID3 function (see also IDL Online Help , gridding and  
>> interpolation) . And after that , you will can directly perform the  
>> imaging.  
>>  
>> I hope my considerations will be useful. But I don't insist that my  
>> methods are optimal :)  
>> Cheers,  
>> Sergey  
>>  
>> Jeff Nettles wrote:  
>>  
>>> Hi All,  
>>>  
>>> I have some CT data that I would be able to take randomly-oriented  
>  
> slices  
>  
>>> through. (BTW, these are scans of meteorites, not people, in case  
>  
> you're  
>  
>>> thinking that it doesn't make any sense why i'd want to do this.) My  
>>> approach so far has been to randomly select 3 sets of x,y, & z  
>  
> coordinates  
>  
>>> so that i have three points that define a plane. Now I want to extract a  
>  
> 2D  
>  
>>> image that represents that plane from the 3D CT data volume. My  
>  
> priority  
>  
>>> here is to preserve the shapes of the objects in the random slice. I  
>  
> know  
>  
>>> i'm going to have to do some interpolating since the slice won't always  
>  
> go  
>  
>>> through entire pixels. What i'm hoping that i can get help with is:  
>>>  
>>> 1) Is there by any chance a program someone has written (or included  
>  
> with

```
>
>>> IDL) that can do this already? (I'm a relatively inexperienced IDL
>>> programmer)
>>>
>>> 2) If I'm going to have to code this myself, are there IDL functions
>
> that
>
>>> would make this easier? I've looked at the WHERE function, but haven't
>>> convinced myself that it will help. I know to try to avoid for loops as
>>> much as possible so I'm trying to do that.
>>>
>>> 3) Any suggestions about a general approach to the problem would be
>
> very
>
>>> helpful.
>>>
>>> Thanks for your time (and hopefully your help!),
>>> Jeff
>>>
>>>
>>
>
>
```

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