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Subject: Re: How to detect edge of an image in IDL?  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 30 Jun 2003 13:26:57 GMT  
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TIAN Yunfeng writes:

> I wonder if there are routines doing edge detection in IDL. I look  
> through the IDL Online Help, and only find two simple edge enhancement  
> functions (sobel & roberts). I want to use Gauss-Laplacian or Canny  
> edge operators to get binary edge images. Does someone have any ideas?

You can use the CONVOL function to implement Laplacian edge detection in IDL. You can find a very simple example of using Laplacian edge detection to sharpen an image in this article:

[http://www.dfanning.com/ip\\_tips/sharpen.html](http://www.dfanning.com/ip_tips/sharpen.html)

I've never used a Canny filter in IDL, but I think it could be created if you can't find someone who has already done it. I suspect both the Gauss-Laplacian and the Canny filters are two step processes in which a gaussian filter is applied, followed by the Laplacian. You ought to be able to do both with the CONVOL function.

Cheers,

David

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