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Subject: Re: vector layer comparison in IDL  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 25 Feb 2005 23:16:03 GMT  
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yp wrote:

> Thanks for your suggestion. I did think of the same; to bring both  
> layers to same grid. But I am stuck here... How should I go about  
> interpolating the (x,y) pairs (No attributes are taken into account at  
> the moment)? Here I have to interpolate the co-ordinate rather than  
> data. If I go like interpolating all y's f(x) and all x's f(y) I'll end  
> up with wrong interpolated data when there are more than one parallel  
> lines.

So it's a problem of interpolating from one spatially irregular grid to another, or perhaps of interpolating from both to a common grid. I have posted on this in the past (to everybody's confusion) & will have a think about it over the rest of the weekend. But first...

What is the shape of the grid elements in your vector layers? Triangles, polygons? Or do your vector layers even have "grid elements". Are they just lists of (x,y,data) with no implied spatial organization of x and y? In this case it is normal to use Delaunay triangulation to create a triangular grid linking the points.

Generally, the key to interpolating from one grid to another (say grid A to grid B) is to locate the points in grid B relative to those in grid A. In doing so you want to take advantage of regularity in the geometry of the grids.

I \*think\* I understand your last point about parallel lines. Generally, unless the grids are very simple, you'll have to consider x and y at the same time.

IDL does have several functions, the most general one being GRIDDATA, for interpolating from scattered data values. You may want to look at the documentation.

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