
Subject: Re: IDL's built-in function DILATE and ERODE doesn't work as described in help

Posted by [Jo Klein](#) on Thu, 12 Oct 2006 13:27:31 GMT

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The same applies to LABEL_REGION, which has caused me quite some headache. IDL help doesn't even mention that restriction for label_region, and it's not available in source code to figure out. Try:

```
a=shift(dist(20),10)
```

```
b=a lt 7
```

```
tvimage,bytsc1(b),/noint
```

Then:

```
c=label_region(b)
```

```
tvimage,bytsc1(c),/noint
```

The voxels on the border are mistakenly incorporated into the background component, which is *really* dangerous when you use this to extract features (e.g. a histogram each) from different objects in an image.

I would go as far as to say this is an error in IDL.

Cheers,

Jo

Karsten Rodenacker wrote:

```
> Don't use IDL's dilate and erode without embedding your data into a
> sufficiently large array. Border handling is not coherently
> implemented. That is a large disadvantage, not to say an error, for the
> application of math. morph. operations in sequences. Ask for
> improvement, possibly ITTVIS can be convinced!
```

```
> Regards
```

```
> Karsten
```

```
>
```

```
> Am Thu, 12 Oct 2006 04:33:59 +0200 schrieb Gongqin Shen
```

```
> <gqshen2008@gmail.com>:
```

```
>
```

```
>> For example, if you have the data as a = [0, 1, 1, 0] and kernel as k
>> = [1, 1], according to the help provided by IDL, the result of running
>> the code:
```

```
>> result = DILATE(a, k)
```

```
>> will be [0, 1, 1, 0], however, IDL's output is [1, 1, 1, 0].
```

```
>> ERODE performs in a similar way. Does that mean the help is actually
>> broken?
```

```
>>
```

```
>
```

```
>
```
