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Subject: Multidimensional Histograms re-visited  
Posted by [jjb](#) on Sat, 05 Sep 1992 21:30:45 GMT  
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In article <27AUG199209562770@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov> you write:  
> In article <1992Aug27.075540@highwire.gsfc.nasa.gov>,  
> burel@highwire.gsfc.nasa.gov (Jonathan Burelbach) writes...  
>  
>> Help! I am trying to create a scatterplot of 2 Landsat Image bands (ie  
>> band 4 vs band 5) for clustering purposes and I need to be able to determine  
>> the density of points on the plot. I have tried to create a 256x256 z array  
>> by looping through the images, but this takes forever with images of any  
>> size. Does anyone have any suggestions?  
>  
> This may do what you want. It uses HISTOGRAM to cut down on some of the  
> looping.  
>  
> Bill Thompson  
> -----  
> PRO FORM\_HISTO2,X,Y,HISTO,XSTEPS,YSTEPS,XDELTA,YDELTA

(code here left out)

If I understand the intent of the question and the response, I think there is a cleaner and simpler way to do this. I have imbedded this technique in several codes so I don't have a stand alone routine to offer, but what follows is an outline of the technique:

```
x = array of x values
y = array of y values
minx = minimum x value for x histogram axis
maxx = maximum x value for x histogram axis
miny = ditto for y etc.
maxy = ditto for y etc.
nx = number of histogram bins on the x axis
ny = number of histogram bins on the y axis
```

IDL code in outline form:

(Note: I usually deal with integer data for this problem so you might want to pay attention to rounding issues here more than I have....)

```
ix=long(nx*(x-minx)/(maxx-minx))
iy=long(ny*(y-miny)/(maxy-miny))
good=where((ix ge 0) and (ix lt nx) and (iy ge 0) and (iy lt ny))
```

(If good(0) eq -1 quit at this point....)

```
ixy=ix(good)+(iy(good)*nx)
```

```
hist=histogram(ixy,min=0l,max=nx*ny-1,binsize=1)
```

```
hist=reform(hist,nx,ny)
```

And we are done. Note that there is no looping at all!!!  
Hope this helps.

Jeff Bloch  
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