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Subject: Re: Following a ridgeline  
Posted by [karo03de](#) on Mon, 23 Jun 2008 07:50:23 GMT  
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Have a look at <http://picasaweb.google.de/karo03de/Idl>

Left you see a distance transformed binary image a with the result of `thin(a)` in red, unluckily not exact and not connected, an error existant since the beginnings of idl. In fact `thin` is working on the binary image. The skeleton should correspond with the ridge lines of the distance transformed binary image!

```
tvsc1,a,0  
tvsc1,thin(a),0,chan=1
```

Right a possible result performed by my program, which is not easily to be transfered (dll and a bunch of software). `mm_skeleton` is a "real" grey scale skeleton, performed by succeeding hit-or-miss transformations.

```
tvsc1,a,1  
tvsc1,mm_skelton(a),0,chan=1,1
```

Mathematical morphology is the keyword for this! Watershed delivers just the contrary of what you are looking for! watershed borders are some sort of saddle points in the distance map.

Regards  
Karsten

Am Mon, 16 Jun 2008 22:34:20 +0200 schrieb [mzagursk@gmail.com](mailto:mzagursk@gmail.com)  
<[mzagursk@gmail.com](mailto:mzagursk@gmail.com)>:

```
> On Jun 16, 1:15 pm, "mzagu...@gmail.com" <mzagu...@gmail.com> wrote:  
>> On Jun 16, 12:49 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>> mzagu...@gmail.com writes:  
>>>> I've got a 2d map (let's say it's a contour map of a mountain). I  
>>>> need to be able to 'detect' and 'follow' the ridgeline across the  
>>>> whole mountain (which does about a 180 degree turn as well, it's U  
>>>> shaped). Anyone know any way to accomplish this?  
>>  
>>>> So far, i've attempted to start at the maximum point, and then look  
>>>> for surrounding points that minimizes the downward slope, this  
>>>> process, however, creates switchbacks at peaks and doesnt follow the  
>>>> peak down along a ridge. Any ideas?  
>>  
>>> The obvious idea is the WATERSHED function. Have you  
>>> tried that?
```

>>  
>>> Cheers,  
>>  
>>> David  
>>> --  
>>> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
>>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
>>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
>>> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")  
>>  
>> Yes, but I'm not sure how to implement it in such a way to output the  
>> ridge. This 'image' is simply a background of 0's with a single  
>> ridgeline rising out of it. When I use watershed, it give me bogus  
>> answers, lines that make no sense at all.  
>  
> Here's an image of what I'm talking about:  
> [http://www.mattzag.com/mountain\\_example.tiff](http://www.mattzag.com/mountain_example.tiff)  
> I need to follow the long ridgeline and output those points. Thanks a  
> bunch.

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Erstellt mit Operas revolutionärem E-Mail-Modul: <http://www.opera.com/m2/>

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