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Subject: Re: Finding the Top Two Most Common Coordinates in a Multi-Dimensional Array

Posted by [Juggernaut](#) on Wed, 30 Jul 2008 12:35:43 GMT

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On Jul 30, 7:54 am, Bennett <juggernau...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Jul 29, 11:50 am, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>

>> On Jul 29, 2:32 am, Brian Larsen <balar...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>> We do need some more information but this is just screaming for  
>>> histogram. Have a read through [http://www.dfanning.com/tips/histogram\\_tutorial.html](http://www.dfanning.com/tips/histogram_tutorial.html)  
>>> . Using histogram to see which x's are common you can step through  
>>> the reverse\_indices and see which y's are then common. There is  
>>> probably a more graceful way however.

>

>>> Cheers,

>

>>> Brian

>

>>> -----

>>> Brian Larsen

>>> Boston University

>>> Center for Space Physics <http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL>

>

>> In particular, if you're dealing with integers that don't span too big  
>> a range, use HIST\_2D and find the maximum element. If you've got  
>> floats or a wide range, use UNIQ to turn each into an integer on a  
>> small range first.

>

>> -Jeremy.

>

> I think if I were to be working with small datasets....ie not in the  
> millions of points I would use something like this

>

> coords = [[10,1],[20,32],[5,7],[6,8],[20,32],[2,14],[20,32],[10,10],  
> [3,1],[21,14]]

>

> counter = intarr(9)

>

> FOR i = 0, 8 DO BEGIN

> FOR j = 0, 8 DO BEGIN

>

> IF array\_equal(coords[\*],i,coords[\*],j) THEN counter[i]++

>

> ENDFOR

```

> ENDFOR
>
> ;- Histogram to find the max bins (no need to measure anything below 2
> ;- because that would just be a single hit and if all of your pairs
> ;- only occur once then who cares, right?
> hist = histogram(counter, min=2, reverse_indices=ri)
> maxHist = max(hist, mxpos)
> IF maxHist EQ 1 THEN print, 'Each pair occurs no more than once'
>
> ;- Use the reverse indices given by histogram to find out exactly
> ;- where in your counter these maxes are occurring
> array_index = (counter[ri[1]:ri[2]-1]][0]
>
> ;- Find where counter is equal to the array index determined by
> ;- reverse indices
> max_index = where(counter EQ array_index)
>
> ;- Voila with your max pair
> print, coords[*,max_index[0]]
>
> Which spits out....
> 20    32
>
> This could be tweaked to find the top two or three or whatever as
> well.
> Hope this helps.

```

By the way....you shouldn't hard code these things as you can see that I've confused everyone by saying there are 9 pairs but there are actually 10. So replace those hard coded with `n_elements(coords[0,*])` or `size(coords, /dimensions)` to get the correct loop numbers and array sizes. Still works though.

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