
Subject: Re: histogram, how to trasfer from linear bins to logarithmic bin?

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Thu, 01 Oct 2009 18:53:31 GMT

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On Sep 30, 3:29 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> JD writes:

>> Very good point. The sort is over the bin vector, which can be (and
>> usually is) much shorter than the data vector. And you will likely
>> setup your bin boundary vector sorted to begin with. That said, for
>> me HISTOGRAM(ALOG10) is still faster than HISTOGRAM(VALUE_LOCATE) (see
>> below). You'll also note some "sky is falling" razors-edge
>> differences between bins if you look closely.

>

>> Hist(log)) 1.9417701

>> Hist(value_locate) 3.7843559

>

> By the way, when I ran your example on my (aging) Windows
> machine, I got these results:

>

> Hist(log)) 6.6090002

> Hist(value_locate) 5.1719999

>

> Hard to say what *that* means. :-)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

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> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>

> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

It should also depend on the number of bins... for M bins and an N element data vector, the hist(log) version should work in $O(N)$ while the hist(value_locate) version should work in $O(N \log M + M)$ (the final +M is for setting up the bin cutoffs, but in most cases $N \gg M$ and it doesn't matter). So it depends how well-optimized log is vs. the log of the number of bins... which I can imagine could vary between architectures and C libraries!

-Jeremy.
