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Subject: autocorrelation help

Posted by [Oana Coman](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2013 21:52:50 GMT

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Hey guys,

I'm trying to run an autocorrelation on a 2D plot and it is giving me way crazy/bad results. Seems simple enough, but it doesn't seem to be giving me what I should be expecting. I ran the following simple example below:

```
a=indgen(100)*.2-2
b=sin(a)
lag=[-7,-6,-5,-4,-3,-2,-1, 1.0,2,3,4,5,6,7]
autocorr=a_correlate([a,b], lag)
```

Here are the values in column form for easy viewing:

```
ENVI> print, transpose(lag)
```

```
-7.00000
-6.00000
-5.00000
-4.00000
-3.00000
-2.00000
-1.00000
 1.00000
 2.00000
 3.00000
 4.00000
 5.00000
 6.00000
 7.00000
```

```
ENVI> print, transpose(autocorr)
```

```
0.777030
0.808242
0.839966
0.872025
0.904238
0.936422
0.968397
0.968397
0.936422
0.904238
0.872025
0.839966
0.808242
0.777030
```

I may be mistaken, but in this instance I have three "sin" type curves which repeat roughly every 6 units. So for lag 6ish, the autocorrelation value should be going back up close to 1-ish. Yet this doesn't seem to be the case in my code.

Can someone help explain to me why this is not working? And hopefully suggest some way to make it work?

Thanks guys!

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