
Subject: Re: autocorrelation help

Posted by [Oana Coman](#) on Fri, 25 Jan 2013 23:38:23 GMT

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On Friday, January 25, 2013 5:03:54 PM UTC-6, Mats Löfdahl wrote:

> On Friday, January 25, 2013 10:52:50 PM UTC+1, Kat wrote:

>

>> 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]

>

>>

>

>>

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>

>> 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!
>
>
>

```

```

> Several issues here.
>
>
>
> First, I don't know what [a,b] is doing in that call. I assume you meant to calculate the
autocorrelation of b:
>
>
>
> autocorr=a_correlate(b, lag)
>
>
>
> Second, sure a sine repeats after  $2*\pi = 6$  but your sampling is in steps of 0.2, so the sine
repeats after  $5*2*\pi = 31$  array elements so your lag vector is too short for you to see the second
peak.
>
>
>
> Third, that second peak will be rather attenuated because 31 is a significant part of 100 (the
number of elements in your array), so you may want to try this instead:
>
>
>
> a=indgen(1000)*.2-2
>
> b=sin(a)
>
> lag=indgen(40)
>
> autocorr=a_correlate(b, lag)
>
> print,autocorr
>
>
>
> The result is:
>
> 1.00000  0.979339  0.919713  0.823575  0.694829  0.538665
>
> 0.361360  0.170019 -0.0277101 -0.223938 -0.410852 -0.581026
>
> -0.727717 -0.845127 -0.928641 -0.975000 -0.982433 -0.950722
>
> -0.881211 -0.776744 -0.641553 -0.481085 -0.301784 -0.110828
>
> 0.0841515  0.275381  0.455253  0.616624  0.753107  0.859314
>

```

```
> 0.931081 0.965615 0.961622 0.919338 0.840526 0.728402
>
> 0.587498 0.423488 0.242950 0.0531106
>
>
>
```

> And you can see the second peak at a lag of about 30 elements. Plot autocorr vs the 0.2 sampling and the peak will show up at $2*\pi$ as it should.

Oh! I was confused about what lag actually was.
That makes more sense. Thanks!
