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Subject: Re: algorithm question. Can I get rid of the for loop?

Posted by [bobgstockwell](#) on Fri, 22 Mar 2013 17:29:31 GMT

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On Thursday, March 21, 2013 3:32:15 PM UTC-6, Søren Frimann wrote:

> Hi All.

>

>

>

> I have an implementation of a hampel filter (see e.g.

<http://exploringdatablog.blogspot.dk/2012/01/moving-window-filters-and-pracma.html>) in IDL.

>

>

>

> My implementation looks like this:

>

>

>

> #####

>

> FUNCTION hampel, x, y, dx, THRESHOLD=threshold

>

>

>

> Compile\_Opt idl2

>

>

>

> IF N\_Elements(threshold) EQ 0 THEN \$

>

>     threshold = 3

>

>

>

> ;initialize arrays

>

> s0 = FltArr(N\_Elements(y))

>

> y0 = FltArr(N\_Elements(y))

>

> yy = y

>

>

>

> FOR i=0,N\_Elements(y)-1 DO BEGIN

>

>     index = Where((x GE x[i] - dx) AND (x LE x[i] + dx))

>

```

> y0[i] = Median(y[index]) ; Median filtering
>
> s0[i] = 1.4826*Median(Abs(y[index] - y0[i])) ;estimating uncertainty
>
> ENDFOR
>
>
>
> ol = Where(Abs(y - y0) GE threshold*s0) ;Index of outliers
>
> yy[ol] = y0[ol]
>
>
>
> result = Create_Struct('y',yy, $
>
>         'sigma',s0)
>
>
>
> RETURN, result
>
>
>
> END
>
> #####
>
>
>
> the filter runs a moving window of width 2*dx measured in the same units as x.
>
> x is generally not uniformly spaced (so there's not a constant number of points inside the
window as it moves).
>
> x and y can be quite long vectors so the filter takes a long time to run.
>
> Can anyone see any method for speeding the code up?
>
> Any help would be much appreciated!
>
>
>
> Cheers,
>
> Søren

```

Using histogram and reverse indices would be much faster than looping and whereing. (i.e. get all

of your "index" arrays in one call, rather than `n_elements(y)` calls of `where()`).

but, a major point, you must check to see if your `where()` finds any matches, before using the index and calculating the median.

cheers,  
bob

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