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Subject: Re: Is it possible to speed up the Interpolate command?  
Posted by [Stephen Messenger](#) on Fri, 08 Aug 2014 23:18:44 GMT  
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On Thursday, August 7, 2014 8:42:44 PM UTC-4, Mike Galloy wrote:

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> On 8/7/14, 4:11 pm, sjm7w6@gmail.com wrote:
>
>> I've been stuck on figuring out how to speed up an interpolation
>
>> calculation and wondered if anyone has any suggestions?
>
>>
>
>> Here's the situation:
>
>>
>
>> I have a bunch (about 450,000) of 2d matrices that I need to
>
>> interpolate within. Within each of the matrices, I'm looking to
>
>> interpolate for 100 x/y combinations where I want values at points
>
>> (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), etc. (I am not looking to regrid the data,
>
>> i.e., I don't need x_1,y_2). The matrices are currently stacked in a
>
>> datacube (dimensions are 14 x 28 x 450000). Each of the matrices has
>
>> the same x/y locations for the points to be interpolated. I thereby
>
>> use "interpolate" to interpolate each matrix for the 100 values and
>
>> then loop over the 3rd dimension. This utilizes the bilinear
>
>> interpolation. Though, I have the matrices stacked in the data cube,
>
>> I do not want a trilinear interpolation as the 3 dimension is
>
>> independent. Here's the current code:
>
>>
>
>> for i=0, numlines-1 do begin
>
>> Values(*,i)=interpolate(datacube(*,*,i),x_loc,y_loc) endfor
>
>>
```

```
>
>> Numlines is the n_elements(3rd dimension), which is the 450,000
>
>> referenced above. The x and y dimensions of the data cube are 14 and
>
>> 28, respectively..
>
>>
>
>> The interpolation is taking about 2 seconds to run. I'm looking to
>
>> find a way to trim it as much as possible...hopefully less than 0.1
>
>> seconds. This may be difficult given that the interpolation is
>
>> calculating 45,000,000 values.
>
>>
>
>> Things I've tried: 1) I first removed the interpolation from the for
>
>> loop. However, the combination of that interpolation with reforming
>
>> the output result into the matrix I need requires this process to
>
>> actually take longer than the for loop above...this provides evidence
>
>> the existence of the for loop is not the rate limiting step.
>
>>
>
>> 2) I rearranged the datacube into a very large 2d matrix (basically
>
>> stacking in the 2nd dimension as opposed to creating the 3rd
>
>> dimension). This lead to the same calculation time as the original
>
>> way above, so no gains there..
>
>>
>
>> I need a bilinear interpolation due to the first two dimensions being
>
>> linked so interpol will not work. I do not need regridded data, so I
>
>> don't think that Krig2d or bilinear offer any help.
>
>>
```

>  
>> I know that I can speed up the code by simply decreasing the size of  
>  
>> the 3rd dimension and/or by interpolating for less than 100 values  
>  
>> per matrix, but I'm trying to avoid this.  
>  
>>  
>  
>> Any suggestions on how to calculate this faster?  
>  
>>  
>  
>> Thank you for your time.  
>  
>>  
>  
>  
>  
> You could try GPULib; it has a GPU accelerated interpolation routine.  
>  
> Demo at: <http://www.txcorp.com/home/gpulib>. (Full disclosure: I am the  
> product manager for GPULib.) It only does bilinear interpolation, but it  
> sounds like you just want to do a stack of bilinear interpolations.  
>  
>  
>  
> Mike  
>  
> --  
>  
> Michael Galloy  
>  
> [www.michaelgalloy.com](http://www.michaelgalloy.com)  
>  
> Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)  
>  
> Research Mathematician  
>  
> Tech-X Corporation

Hi Mike,

I'm going to check if that will work for me. Thank you for that suggestion.

Thanks!

Stephen

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