Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...

Posted by davidf on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 16:08:24 GMT

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Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

> I've lurked for a while and now it's time to ask for help...

Uh, oh. Trouble here. Newbies and de-cloaked lurkers always ask the most difficult questions. :-(

- > I have some satellite data that I need to a) display a portion of on the
- > globe and b) extract the data at various positions.

>

- > Towards that end, I've snarfed up image\_map.pro from Liam Gumley's site
- > and regrid.pro and tvim.pro from ESRG. They both do sort of what I want
- > but neither gets me "all the way there".

>

- > Liam's does a nice job of displaying the image and letting me plop a
- > grid and continent map on top but he's got this big fat caveat in the
- > code that says "This procedure was designed for display purposes \*only\*"
- > (emphasis his) and some bits about dire consequences if used otherwise.

- > regrid does a good job of "regularizing" the data and tvim makes a nice
- > plot with scales and color bars and all that nice stuff (without the
- > "dire consequences" :-) but when I try and slap a grid or continental
- > blobs on the image, they puke complaining that "the current device must
- > have mapping coordinates"...

>

- > In either case, I'm left with the problem of mapping a lat/lon that the
- > user inputs to a pixel on the screen (or an element in an array, as the
- > case may be).

What you want to do--slap a lat/lon grid on top of an image--is reasonable. It's just that IDL is not the software you should be using to do it. :-)

IDL works the other way around. It allows you to slap an image on top of a lat/lon grid. Sometimes the result is similar, but if you hold pixel values to be sacrosanct, then you are almost always disappointed in what you can do with IDL.

Liam offers his big fat caveat with good reason. He figured out a clever way of making the image display \*look\* right, but he is rightfully offering no guarantees about the numbers.

Liam can fill you in on the details of this better than

I can, but if you persist I can recommend "getting used to disappointment" as the appropriate spiritual practice.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

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Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...

Posted by Bruce Bowler on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 16:33:41 GMT

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## David Fanning wrote:

>

> Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

>

>> I've lurked for a while and now it's time to ask for help...

>

- > Uh, oh. Trouble here. Newbies and de-cloaked lurkers
- > always ask the most difficult questions. :-(

It get's worse :-) I've been programming in THE classical programming language (FORTRAN roolz!) for more the 2/3's of my life (I'm 45 now, you do the math :-). The first machine I ever wrote a program for was the size of a small bus and had a whopping 16K (yes, that's a K) of memory. But let's not start swapping war stories here...

- >> I have some satellite data that I need to a) display a portion of on the
- >> globe and b) extract the data at various positions.

>

- > What you want to do--slap a lat/lon grid on top of
- > an image--is reasonable. It's just that IDL is not
- > the software you should be using to do it. :-)

>

- > IDL works the other way around. It allows you to
- > slap an image on top of a lat/lon grid. Sometimes
- > the result is similar, but if you hold pixel values
- > to be sacrosanct, then you are almost always disappointed
- > in what you can do with IDL.

I prefer to hold pixels are arm's length (remember, I'm 45 and I've been staring at CRT's for a good number of those years, my eyesight ain't

what it used to be :-)

I'm willing to try this "thinking outside the box" thing for a while, but I can't see the box.

Now that I have my image mapped on to a lat/lon grid (see, I'm learning already :-), how to I access the data by lat/lon?

- > if you persist I can recommend "getting used
- > to disappointment" as the appropriate spiritual practice.

>

> Cheers.

Those two sentiments don't seem to go together :-(

Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...
Posted by davidf on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 17:25:40 GMT
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Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

- > I'm willing to try this "thinking outside the box" thing for a while,
- > but I can't see the box.

There is no box. (But see more on spiritual development, below.)

- > Now that I have my image mapped on to a lat/lon grid (see, I'm learning
- > already :-), how to I access the data by lat/lon?

You are going to love this! :-)

You have set up the map coordinate space with Map\_Set. You have placed your image on the map with Map\_Image (or something similar). You put your map grid and continental boundary on your map with Map\_Grid and Map\_Continents.

Now, you get lat/lon value from the user by just having them click on the map! Too easy!

Cursor, Ion, lat, /Data

Now, what you do next depends on you. If you have an image data set in which each pixel has an associated lat/lon coordinate, you can go pull out the closest pixel value from that data set.

If you don't have such a data set, you might have to get the value from the warped image. That value, of course, was created by smushing (technical term) several real values together in the warping process. It may not be what you want. (How this is done is fairly complicated. I'd explain it, but I'm pretty sure it's not what you want to do anyway.)

- >> if you persist I can recommend "getting used
- >> to disappointment" as the appropriate spiritual practice.

>>

>> Cheers.

>

> Those two sentiments don't seem to go together :-(

Oh, I don't know. I find it an easier spiritual practice than "do the dishes, again", which is what I usually do in my search for enlightenment. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...
Posted by Bruce Bowler on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 19:44:03 GMT
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karmic confusion reigns supreme...

```
David Fanning wrote:
```

>

> Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

>

- >> I'm willing to try this "thinking outside the box" thing for a while,
- >> but I can't see the box.

>

> There is no box. (But see more on spiritual development, below.)

>

>> Now that I have my image mapped on to a lat/lon grid (see, I'm learning

>> already :-), how to I access the data by lat/lon?

>

> You are going to love this! :-)

>

- > You have set up the map coordinate space with Map\_Set.
- > You have placed your image on the map with Map\_Image
- > (or something similar). You put your map grid and
- > continental boundary on your map with Map\_Grid
- > and Map\_Continents.

now we maybe be getting somewhere... I have this big huge array (here after referred to as a BHA) of data (BHAd) an equally sized BHA of latitudes (BHAlat) of each point in BHAd and another BHA of longitudes (BHAlon) of each point in BHAd. NB, row x of BHAlat is not constant, neither is column y of BHAlon

I understand map\_set, I understand map\_grid, I understand map\_continents (well, not in the tao-ist sense of the word). map\_image is where I'm getting confused... how does map\_image know about BHAlat and BHAlon when they are not inputs to the process?

To add a little to the confusion, and to give some scope to the problem, BHAd is an array [1354,2030] and covers lat/lon [34.9,-78.33,56.58,-41.68]. I'm only interested in lat/lon [41,-71,45,-66] (it's a MODIS swath but the data's an experimental product so none of my "normal" MODIS tools work), we're doing sea-truth work for this product in the Gulf of Maine.

- > Now, you get lat/lon value from the user by just
- > having them click on the map! Too easy!
- > Cursor, Ion, lat, /Data

no, they're going to tell me the lat and lon from a data file, but that part I can handle.

- > Now, what you do next depends on you. If you
- > have an image data set in which each pixel
- > has an associated lat/lon coordinate, you can
- > go pull out the closest pixel value from that
- > data set.

I suspect once I figure out the map\_image part, this part MIGHT fall out on it's own...

- > If you don't have such a data set, you might
- > have to get the value from the warped image.
- > That value, of course, was created by smushing

- > (technical term) several real values together
- > in the warping process. It may not be what you
- > want. (How this is done is fairly complicated.
- > I'd explain it, but I'm pretty sure it's not
- > what you want to do anyway.)

Ah shucks, go ahead, explain it. It can't make my head hurt anymore than it already does...

Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...
Posted by davidf on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 20:18:25 GMT
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Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

> karmic confusion reigns supreme...

Now we \*are\* getting somewhere...:-)

- > I have this big huge array (here
- > after referred to as a BHA) of data (BHAd) an equally sized BHA of
- > latitudes (BHAlat) of each point in BHAd and another BHA of longitudes
- > (BHAlon) of each point in BHAd. NB, row x of BHAlat is not constant,
- > neither is column y of BHAlon

>

- > I understand map\_set, I understand map\_grid, I understand map\_continents
- > (well, not in the tao-ist sense of the word). map\_image is where I'm
- > getting confused... how does map\_image know about BHAlat and BHAlon
- > when they are not inputs to the process?

Ah, this is what IDL doesn't do. Liam does this by taking each one of your pixels (I'm paraphrasing here) and putting it over on your map one by one. Then he sees that he has a very holey map (pun intended in this case), so he "fills it in" with some kind of dilation thing, if I remember correctly. (Where \*is\* Liam, anyway!?) That's why he doesn't want you to trust the numbers. He has had to fudge them a bit. But they look great!

I guess if I were in your shoes, I might try to reformat the part of the image I was interested in onto a regular lat/lon grid. I'd probably try to use TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID first, to see if that would work. You will jimmy the numbers, of course, but no way around that if you want to use IDL. Then, I would put the regular lat/lon image

on the map using Map\_Image.

There are probably other ways to warp the image onto the map, but there is no getting around the need to do it. What you would prefer, I'm sure, is to have a map warped to the image. But this is NOT possible in IDL.

Then, I would get the specified value from the regular lat/lon grid, if I couldn't figure out a way to get a better number from my original array. Remember that the display \*IS\* only a display. You are not really looking at your data. All you want to do is have the display \*represent\* your data in a more or less faithful way. I think Liam's solution is as good as you are likely to get for actually displaying your data.

Once you have the display, getting the actual value out of your data set shouldn't be terribly hard. You might need some kind of look-up table for indexing, but this should be fairly straightforward.

Cheers.

David

P.S. Let's just say I really wish Liam would step in here. :-(

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...

Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 20:49:08 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> (Where \*is\* Liam, anyway!?)

I'm right here, trying to get my semi-annual research report written...

> I guess if I were in your shoes, I might try to

- > reformat the part of the image I was interested
- > in onto a regular lat/lon grid. I'd probably try
- > to use TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID first, to see if
- > that would work.

In my experience, TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID work just fine when the input arrays are small (say a few hundred rows and columns). But when you have satellite images with thousands of rows and columns, TRIANGULATE and TRIGRID just don't work.

- > There are probably other ways to warp the image
- > onto the map, but there is no getting around the
- > need to do it. What you would prefer, I'm sure, is
- > to have a map warped to the image. But this is NOT
- > possible in IDL.

Displaying a satellite image on a map projection is one problem, and my imagemap procedure provides one solution.

However resampling a satellite image to a regular lat/lon grid in such a way that data values are preserved is a different problem, and there is no easy solution in IDL. Typically, the approach is to define your lat/lon grid (in some map projection) and then for each map grid cell, find the closest matching location in the satellite image (nearest neighbor). Refinements include bilinear or cubic spline interpolation. However this algorithm is not easy to implement efficiently in IDL, because of the penaly associated with loops. Most people implement a resampling algorithm in some other language (e.g. C or FORTRAN), and then read the results in IDL.

You mentioned that you are using MODIS data at 1 km resolution (1354 x 2030 pixels pre granule). One approach we use is to define a global equal area grid; we happen to use 25 km x 25 km grid cells. We loop over each 1 km pixel, and based on it's lat/lon, we accumulate the following statistics in each grid cell:

Number of observations, Sum of observations, Minimum observation, Maximum observation.

From these, we can compute mean and standard deviation. it is quite straightforward to then resample the equal area grid to an equal angle grid which can be visualized in IDL.

If you are interested in more details, contact me directly.

Now back to my semi-annual report (sigh).

Cheers, Liam. http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley

PS: Here's a couple of MODIS images created in IDL: http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.p hp3?img\_id=4549 http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.p hp3?img\_id=4383

Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 22:46:33 GMT
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"Liam E. Gumley" <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> writes:

- > You mentioned that you are using MODIS data at 1 km resolution (1354 x
- > 2030 pixels pre granule). One approach we use is to define a global
- > equal area grid; we happen to use 25 km x 25 km grid cells. We loop over
- > each 1 km pixel, and based on it's lat/lon, we accumulate the following
- > statistics in each grid cell:

>

- > Number of observations,
- > Sum of observations,
- > Minimum observation,
- > Maximum observation.

>

- > From these, we can compute mean and standard deviation. it is quite
- > straightforward to then resample the equal area grid to an equal angle
- > grid which can be visualized in IDL.

Generally speaking I am a scientist who looks \*away\* from the earth not towards it, but with satellite-based astronomy there are still times where one has to worry about where the satellite is.

I am occassionally charged with constructing various instrument housekeeping data. Typically we receive multiple measurements at the same geographic point and I needed to average them. I wrote this little routine which constructed the mean and variance of the data. It's called GEOSPLAT, but there's really nothing "GEO" about it. It simply constructs a histogram of LAT/LON data points, weighted by the measurement values. Thankfully our satellite is in a low inclination orbit, so I never really deal with the poles. This routine just makes a 2-d histogram regularly sampled in LON/LAT space.

This routine requires a specially modified version of HIST\_2D called HIST\_2DR, but don't worry, all I did was add the REVERSE\_INDICES keyword to HIST\_2D. I can forward that if needed.

This application of REVERSE\_INDICES is actually not the most efficient, since it loops through every cell in the output array. There is another way to do it with far fewer iterations. If you have very large image, then one should shift to that.

## Craig

```
function geosplat, lon, lat, val, expo, xrange=xrange0, yrange=yrange0, $
           xbinsize=xbinsize, ybinsize=ybinsize, minsamp=minsamp, $
           variance=hh2, exposure=ee
 forward function arg present, hist 2dr
 if n_{elements}(xrange0) LT 2 then xrange0 = [0,359.9999]
 if n_{elements}(yrange0) LT 2 then yrange0 = [-90,89.9999]
 xrange = xrange0(0:1)
 vrange = vrange0(0:1)
 if n_elements(xbinsize) LT 1 then xbinsize = 1
 if n elements(ybinsize) LT 1 then ybinsize = 1
 if n_elements(minsamp) LT 1 then minsamp = 1
 if n elements(expo) LT n elements(val) then expo = val*0 + 1.
 if arg present(hh2) then dohh2 = 1 else dohh2 = 0
 hh = hist_2dr(lon, lat, reverse=rr0, $
         min1=xrange(0), max1=xrange(1), bin1=xbinsize(0), $
         min2=yrange(0), max2=yrange(1), bin2=ybinsize(0))
 hh = hh * (val(0)*0)
 ee = hh
 if dohh2 then hh2 = hh
 for i = 0, n elements(hh)-1 do begin
   if rr0(i+1) - rr0(i) GT minsamp(0) then begin
      ex = expo(rrO(rrO(i):rrO(i+1)-1))
      vv = val(rr0(rr0(i):rr0(i+1)-1))
      hh(i) = total(vv*ex)
      ee(i) = total(ex)
      if dohh2 then hh2(i) = total(vv^2*ex)
   endif
 endfor
 hh = hh / (ee > 1e - 20)
 hh2 = hh2 / (ee > 1e - 20)
 hh2 = hh2-hh^2
 return, hh
end
```

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

-----

Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...
Posted by James Kuyper on Wed, 10 Jan 2001 22:55:02 GMT
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## "Liam E. Gumley" wrote:

..

- > You mentioned that you are using MODIS data at 1 km resolution (1354 x
- > 2030 pixels pre granule). One approach we use is to define a global
- > equal area grid; we happen to use 25 km x 25 km grid cells. We loop over
- > each 1 km pixel, and based on it's lat/lon, we accumulate the following
- > statistics in each grid cell:

>

- > Number of observations,
- > Sum of observations,
- > Minimum observation.
- > Maximum observation.

>

- > From these, we can compute mean and standard deviation. it is quite
- > straightforward to then resample the equal area grid to an equal angle
- > grid which can be visualized in IDL.

One thing to keep in mind about MODIS data is that you don't need to grid it yourself. For most data sets, if MODIS has a pixel-oriented product, it also has one or more corresponding products which are gridded by latitude and longitude. For instance, the MOD10\_L2 product reports on snow coverage for each pixel, with 500m resolution at nadir; each file covering 5 minutes of data. MOD10L2G, on the other hand, summarizes an entire day's worth of data gridded according to one of several possible different map projections, with each file covering a tile that is nominally 10 deg by 10 degrees, with a nominal grid resolution of 500m.

Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...

Posted by Bruce Bowler on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 13:29:36 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>

> Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

>

>> I'm willing to try this "thinking outside the box" thing for a while,

>> but I can't see the box.

>

> There is no box. (But see more on spiritual development, below.)

Then what did I trip over last night on my way to the toil<del><del><del>reading room?

Fortunately, I think I landed on the outside, and I didn't hurt myself...

As I hit the ground, I realized that displaying the data and extracting the data value at some lat/lon are 2 entirely different processes. I can use Liam's image\_map to display it and came up with clever (but as yet untested) way to extract the data.

Given a target lat/lon and BHAlat and BHAlon, how about (in pseudo-code)

```
possiblelats = where(BHAlat eq lat{+/- some epsilon})
possiblelons = where(BHAlon eq lon{+/- some epsilon})
possiblevalues = intersection(possiblelats,possiblelons)
```

if number of possiblevalues is between 1 and 10, printout the data otherwise adjust epsilon either up or down and try again.

Does that sound like it ought to work (and in some time less than a glacial epoch)?

**Bruce** 

Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...
Posted by Paul van Delst on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 14:45:04 GMT
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Bruce Bowler wrote:

>

> David Fanning wrote:

>>

>> Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

>>

>>> I'm willing to try this "thinking outside the box" thing for a while,

>>> but I can't see the box.

>>

>> There is no box. (But see more on spiritual development, below.)

>

> Then what did I trip over last night on my way to the

```
> toil<del><del><del>reading room?
>
> Fortunately, I think I landed on the outside, and I didn't hurt
> myself...
>
> As I hit the ground, I realized that displaying the data and extracting
> the data value at some lat/lon are 2 entirely different processes. I
> can use Liam's image_map to display it and came up with clever (but as
> yet untested) way to extract the data.
>
  Given a target lat/lon and BHAlat and BHAlon, how about (in pseudo-code)
>
>
       possiblelats = where(BHAlat eq lat{+/- some epsilon})
>
       possiblelons = where(BHAlon eq lon{+/- some epsilon})
>
       possiblevalues = intersection(possiblelats,possiblelons)
>
>
       if number of possible values is between 1 and 10, printout the data
>
            otherwise adjust epsilon either up or down and try again.
>
>
  Does that sound like it ought to work (and in some time less than a
  glacial epoch)?
> Bruce
```

It seems to me that the problem is one where the transformation from array lat/lon to map lat/lon (for viewing as a contiguous eye-candy type of image) is linear, but the reverse is decidedly non-linear. Your nearest neighbour search above seems like a workable solution since your referencing the original lat/lon array.

paulv

\_

Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;

CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring; Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,

Fax: (301) 763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again. Email: pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov Alexander Pope.

Subject: Re: Newbie needs help...

Posted by davidf on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 14:59:39 GMT

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Bruce Bowler (bbowler@bigelow.org) writes:

- > As I hit the ground, I realized that displaying the data and extracting
- > the data value at some lat/lon are 2 entirely different processes. I
- > can use Liam's image\_map to display it and came up with clever (but as

> yet untested) way to extract the data.

\*Now\* you are on the path! :-)

Too many people, I think, fail to make the distinction between the \*display\* of their data, and the data itself. They are almost never the same thing. If you can keep the distinction clear, and always have a way to get to the real data in your program, then you have a chance at doing real science. The rest is just MSNBC graphics. :-)

Cheers.

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Newbie needs help... Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Thu, 11 Jan 2001 15:53:17 GMT

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## Bruce Bowler wrote:

- > As I hit the ground, I realized that displaying the data and extracting
- > the data value at some lat/lon are 2 entirely different processes. I
- > can use Liam's image\_map to display it and came up with clever (but as
- > yet untested) way to extract the data.

>

- > Given a target lat/lon and BHAlat and BHAlon, how about (in pseudo-code)
- > possiblelats = where(BHAlat eq lat{+/- some epsilon})
- > possiblelons = where(BHAlon eq lon{+/- some epsilon})
- > possiblevalues = intersection(possiblelats,possiblelons)

>

- > if number of possiblevalues is between 1 and 10, printout the data
- > otherwise adjust epsilon either up or down and try again.

I've written something similar for the MODIS Airborne Simulator (MAS), which you could probably adapt for MODIS by tuning the epsilon values. It works reasonably efficiently for small numbers of pixels. A couple of other routines are required:

setintersection.pro from RSI:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/set\_operations.html

compass.pro from ESRG:

http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch-bin/idllibsrch?keywo rd=compass

This routine is appropriate for finding a few lat/lon locations at a time. However it would not be very effective for overlaying coastline lat/lon vectors on an image.

```
Cheers.
Liam.
http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley
PRO MAS_LOCATE, SLAT, SLON, LAT, LON, X, Y
PURPOSE:
   Locate a given lat/lon in a MAS image.
 INPUT:
  SLAT Latitude to locate (deg)
  SLON Longitude to locate (deg)
  LAT
         Array of MAS latitude values (deg)
  LON
          Array of MAS longitude values (deg)
 OUTPUT:
  Χ
        Pixel number closest to the given lat/lon (-1 if not found)
  Υ
        Line number closest to the given lat/lon (-1 if not found)
REVISED:
Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu
$Id: mas_locate.pro,v 1.2 1999/10/29 16:26:49 gumley Exp $
:- Check arguments
if n params() ne 6 then message, 'Usage: MAS LOCATE, SLAT, SLON, LAT,
LON, X, Y'
if n_elements(slat) eq 0 then message, 'SLAT is undefined'
if n elements(slon) eq 0 then message, 'SLON is undefined'
if n_elements(lat) eq 0 then message, 'LAT is undefined'
if n_elements(lat) eq 0 then message, 'LON is undefined'
if size(lat, /n_dim) ne 2 then message, 'LAT is not a 2D array'
if size(lon, /n dim) ne 2 then message, 'LON is not a 2D array'
if arg_present(x) eq 0 then message, 'X cannot be modified'
if arg present(y) eg 0 then message, 'Y cannot be modified'
```

;- Set default return values
x = -1L $y = -1L$
;- Check that lat/lon lies within the array min/max
latmin = min(lat, max=latmax) lonmin = min(lon, max=lonmax) if (slat lt latmin) or (slat gt latmax) or \$   (slon lt lonmin) or (slon gt lonmax) then return
;- Find array elements close to the lat/lon
latindex = where(abs(lat - slat) lt 0.001, latcount) lonindex = where(abs(lon - slon) lt 0.001, loncount) if (latcount lt 1) or (loncount lt 1) then return
;- Find the intersecting elements of the arrays
result = setintersection(latindex, lonindex) if (result[0] eq -1) then return
;- Compute the distance from the lat/lon to the array elements
compass, slat, slon, lat[result], lon[result], range, azimuth
;- Find the array element closest to the lat/lon
minrange = min(range, minindex)
;- Convert the 1D array element index to x/y
dims = size(lat, /dim) x = result[minindex] mod dims[0] y = result[minindex] / dims[0]
END ;