
Subject: A distracting puzzle

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2001 20:58:37 GMT

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Given a polygon defined by the vertex coordinate vectors x & y , we've seen that we can compute the indices of pixels roughly within that polygon using `polyfillv()`. You can run the code attached to set-up a framework for visualizing this. It shows a 10x10 pixel grid with an overlain polygon by default, with pixels returned from `polyfillv()` shaded.

You'll notice that `polyfillv()` considers only integer pixels, basically truncating any fractional part of the input polygon vertices (you can see this by plotting `fix([x,x[0]])`, etc.). For polygons on a fractional grid, this error can be significant.

The problem posed consists of the following:

Expand on the idea of the `polyfillv` algorithm to calculate and return those pixels for which *any* part of the pixel is contained within the polygon, along with the fraction so enclosed.

For instance, the default polygon shown (invoked simply as "poly_bounds"), would have a fraction about .5 for pixel 34, 1 for pixels 33 & 43, and other values on the interval [0,1] for the others. Return only those pixels with non-zero fractions, and retain polygon vertices in fractional pixels (i.e. don't truncate like `polyfillv()` does).

JD

```
pro poly_bounds,x,y,N=n
  if n_elements(n) eq 0 then n=10
  if n_elements(x) eq 0 then begin
    x=[1.2,3,5.3,3.2] & y=[1.3,6.4,4.3,2.2]
  endif
  window,XSIZE=500,YSIZE=500
  ;; Set up the plot region, etc.
  plot,[0],[0],XRANGE=[0.,n],YRANGE=[0.,n], XMINOR=-1,YMINOR=-1, $
    XTICKS=n,YTICKS=n,POSITION=[.05,.05,.95,.95],TICKLEN=0,/NODATA
  p=polyfillv(x,y,n,n)
  for i=0,n_elements(p)-1 do begin
    xp=p[i] mod n
    yp=p[i]/n
    polyfill,[xp,xp,xp+1,xp+1],[yp,yp+1,yp+1,yp],COLOR=!D.N_COLORS/2
  endfor
  oplot,[x,x[0]],[y,y[0]]
  for i=0,n-1 do begin
    plots,i,!Y.CRANGE
```

```
plots,!X.CRANGE,i
for j=0,n-1 do begin
  plots,i+.5,j+.5,PSYM=3
  xyouts,i+.1,j+.1,strtrim(i+j*n,2)
endfor
endfor
end
```

File Attachments

1) [poly_bounds.pro](#), downloaded 153 times

Subject: Re: A distracting puzzle

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Tue, 25 Sep 2001 16:54:40 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

>
> If what's being sought here is only to distinguish which pixels have *some*
> area inside the polygon and which do not, wouldn't it be sufficient to check
> the corners? I.e., in a continuum of pixel coordinates, given corners with
> coordinates [0,0], [1,0], [1,1], [0,1], it can be checked whether each of
> those are inside versus outside any defined polygon. If one or more of the
> corners is inside, then some area is also inside..
>
> I have included some simple-minded routines I wrote some years ago to check
> whether a point is inside or outside a polygon...

Thanks Stein Vidar. Your method would seem to provide the answer for the boolean question; however, my intent was to provide a list of pixels which are at least partly inside the polygon, *along with* a list of their fractional areas included. I came up with a solution I call polyfillaa, which is a direct replacement for polyfillv.

```
inds=polyfillaa(x,y,sx,sy,AREAS=a)
```

returns the pixel indices, along with the clipping areas if desired. It performs a straightforward form of polygon clipping. The "aa" is for anti-aliasing, which is basically what it does. It works quite well, but is very slow, thanks to a surplus of looping. In general it returns more pixels than polyfillv, which neglects pixels with small areas inside, and (erroneously, I feel) truncates polygon points to integer pixels.

I may document it and put it up somewhere soon, but I'm embarrassed by all the for loops. We'll see.

JD

Subject: Re: A distracting puzzle

Posted by [Martin Downing](#) on Wed, 26 Sep 2001 08:53:25 GMT

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Ah go on JD, show your code - then the rest of us can decide whether we could do better without reinventing the wheel!

Martin

"JD Smith" <jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu> wrote in message
news:3BB0B6D0.43C7859F@astro.cornell.edu...

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