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Subject: Re: connected component labeling problem in a graylevel image without background

Posted by [Karsten Rodenacker](#) on Tue, 15 Oct 2002 07:52:12 GMT

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Julia schrieb:

>  
> I am not quite familiar with watershed algorithm. But in my understanding,  
> "considering the gray scale image  
> as a surface, each local minimum can be thought of as the point to which  
> water falling on the surrounding  
> region drains. The boundaries of the watersheds lie on the tops of the  
> ridges. This operator labels each  
> watershed region with a unique index, and sets the boundaries to zero.  
> Typically, morphological gradients,  
> or images containing extracted edges are used for input to the watershed  
> operator."  
>  
> If I use watershed operator on the image, since it labels some pixels as  
> boundaries, it will eliminate some regions  
> with one-pixel width and label them as boundaries. That is not what I want.  
> Can watershed algorithm really solve this?

1 px width boundaries guarantee connected regions which can later on  
relabelled e.g. by label\_region. However the algorithm implemented by  
rsi generates boundaries, there are other watershed algorithms which  
generate touching regions without boundaries. I have a pure idl  
implementation under  
<http://www.gsf.de/ILIAD/Rodenacker/IDL/MM.html#Watershed> designed in  
times before morph\_... and n-dim label\_region existed which performs in  
that way (doc. in German). (Still I wait for idl watershed on 3d data  
which comprises a very simple extension of the original watershed  
algorithm).

>  
> Regards,  
>

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Karsten Rodenacker ()

-----:~)

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<http://www.gsf.de/ibb/homepages/rodenacker>

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Subject: Re: connected component labeling problem in a graylevel image without background

Posted by [Julia](#) on Wed, 16 Oct 2002 15:55:49 GMT

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Thanks for your suggestion.

I tested the algorithm on a 1730\*2210 image with 364 gray levels. If I use the label\_region in IDL to mask and relabel, it takes about 80s. While if I use the watershed algorithm tm\_wshe1.pro, it takes more than 4000s. I saw on your webpage that there is another version of watershed algorithm implemented in C that can be called by IDL, I think that will be faster. Can you send the file to me? My email address is: [julia65201@yahoo.com](mailto:julia65201@yahoo.com).

Regards,

Julia

"Karsten Rodenacker" <[rodена@gsf.de](mailto:rodена@gsf.de)> wrote in message news:3DABC92C.DB809DD9@gsf.de...

>

>

> Julia schrieb:

>>

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> Karsten Rodenacker ()  
> -----:  
> -)  
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> http://www.gsf.de/ibb/homepages/rodenacker

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Subject: Re: connected component labeling problem in a graylevel image without background

Posted by [Jaco van Gorkom](#) on Wed, 16 Oct 2002 16:22:28 GMT

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"Julia" <julia65201@yahoo.com> wrote in message news:aok20m\$efp\$1@dipsy.missouri.edu...

> ...  
> I tested the algorithm on a 1730\*2210 image with 364 gray levels. If I use  
> the label\_region in IDL to mask and relabel, it takes about 80s. While if I  
> use the watershed algorithm tm\_wshe1.pro, it takes more than 4000s.

Hello Julia,

for this size of image and number of gray levels, a fast solution is probably not possible in IDL. I am aware of a routine by Harvey Rhody at <http://www.cis.rit.edu/class/simg782/> that does exactly what you want. (hr\_label\_region, this was a tip from Jason on this newsgroup sometime.) It loops over the elements of the image and is therefore not very fast, but may be quite instructive.

If speed of this operation is really important to you, then you should consider writing it in C as a dlm. Or, if you do not want to learn how to do that, find someone to do it for you. And who knows, maybe RSI can be convinced that this is the one feature that would make IDL complete?

Good luck,  
Jaco

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