

---

Subject: Re: RMS error

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 11 May 2004 21:14:39 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Julio writes:

> I'd like to calculate Root Mean Square error using a base image and a  
> secondary image. How can I do that? Clues are welcome!

```
rms_error = Sqrt( Total((img_1 - img2)^2)/N_Elements(img_1) )
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

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

---

---

Subject: Re: RMS error

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Tue, 11 May 2004 22:34:43 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

"David Fanning" wrote ...

> Julio writes:

>

>> I'd like to calculate Root Mean Square error using a base image and a  
>> secondary image. How can I do that? Clues are welcome!

>

```
> rms_error = Sqrt( Total((img_1 - img2)^2)/N_Elements(img_1) )
```

A couple of questions:

1) Shouldn't you first cast img\_1 and img\_2 to something other than byte?  
Subtracting byte arrays will result in points that wrap:

```
IDL> print, 213B-215B  
254
```

When you really want:

```
IDL> print, 213s-215s  
-2
```

2) Is this correct for true color images? Do you total the square of the

differences for each color plane or do you total the square of the sum of the differences for each plane? That is:

```
IDL> print, TOTAL((img_1 - img_2)^2)
56825.0
```

or:

```
IDL> dr=reform(img_1[0,*,*] - img_2[0,*,*])
IDL> dg=reform(img_1[1,*,*] - img_2[1,*,*])
IDL> db=reform(img_1[2,*,*] - img_2[2,*,*])
```

```
IDL> print, total((dR + dG + dB)^2)
170325.
```

Now that I think about it the first approach looks correct but since I am not an image analyst and I don't have even the most basic of references I thought I would ask.

-Rick

---

Subject: Re: RMS error  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 11 May 2004 23:23:02 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Rick Towler writes:

```
> A couple of questions:
>
> 1) Shouldn't you first cast img_1 and img_2 to something other than byte?
> Subtracting byte arrays will result in points that wrap:
>
> IDL> print, 213B-215B
> 254
>
> When you really want:
>
> IDL> print, 213s-215s
> -2
```

Yes, of course. I assumed these were 16-bit images, because, well..., I just did. :-)

```
> 2) Is this correct for true color images?
```

Don't know. I've never done this myself. I was just up getting a cup of tea when the message came in and I happened to have my Gonzalez and Woods sitting at hand. This is what I found when I looked RMS error up in the index. It's what happens when you give a guy with a compulsion to communicate a little bit of knowledge. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

---

---

Subject: Re: RMS error  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 12 May 2004 14:13:53 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

> Julio writes:  
>  
>> I'd like to calculate Root Mean Square error using a base image and a  
>> secondary image. How can I do that? Clues are welcome!  
>  
> rms\_error = Sqrt( Total((img\_1 - img2)^2)/N\_Elements(img\_1) )

Hey David, I'll pile on too. The problem I see with the above expression is that there could be an offset between the two images, which you are including in your TOTAL expression, and hence biasing the rms value. How about the following instead?

```
rms_error = stddev(img_1 - img2)
```

Craig

--

-----  
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.   EMAIL: [craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu)  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
-----

---

Subject: Re: RMS error

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 12 May 2004 14:42:28 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Craig Markwardt writes:

> Hey David, I'll pile on too. The problem I see with the above  
> expression is that there could be an offset between the two images,  
> which you are including in your TOTAL expression, and hence biasing  
> the rms value.

An offset!? We better take global warming into  
account, too. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

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

---

Subject: Re: RMS error

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 12 May 2004 14:56:47 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Craig Markwardt wrote:

> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

>

>

>> Julio writes:

>>

>>

>>> I'd like to calculate Root Mean Square error using a base image and a  
>>> secondary image. How can I do that? Clues are welcome!

>>

>> rms\_error = Sqrt( Total((img\_1 - img2)^2)/N\_Elements(img\_1) )

>

>

> Hey David, I'll pile on too. The problem I see with the above  
> expression is that there could be an offset between the two images,  
> which you are including in your TOTAL expression, and hence biasing  
> the rms value.

Errmm... isn't that intended? RMS errors include the bias. Std deviations don't. At any  
rate, that's how I use 'em. This is what I've got on my wall:

$$\text{RMS} = \text{SQRT}(\text{TOTAL}(X_{\text{truth}} - X_{\text{predicted}})^2 / N)$$

and

$$\text{StdDev} = \text{SQRT}(\text{TOTAL}(X_{\text{predicted}} - \text{MEAN}(X_{\text{predicted}}))^2 / N)$$

I think it really requires the OP to state more precisely what it is he's looking for. Blind use of statistical formula is usually a no-no.

```
> rms_error = stddev(img_1 - img2)
```

That works - same as the RMS defn above where  $X_{\text{truth}} = \text{img1} - \text{MEAN}(\text{img1})$  and  $X_{\text{predicted}} = \text{img2} - \text{MEAN}(\text{img2})$ . But is that what the OP needs/wants?

paulv

---

---

Subject: Re: RMS error

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Wed, 12 May 2004 15:02:19 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Craig Markwardt wrote:

```
> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
>> Julio writes:
```

```
>>
```

```
>>
```

```
>>> I'd like to calculate Root Mean Square error using a base image and a  
>>> secondary image. How can I do that? Clues are welcome!
```

```
>>
```

```
>> rms_error = Sqrt( Total((img_1 - img2)^2)/N_Elements(img_1) )
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
> Hey David, I'll pile on too. The problem I see with the above  
> expression is that there could be an offset between the two images,  
> which you are including in your TOTAL expression, and hence biasing  
> the rms value. How about the following instead?
```

The Root Mean Square difference between two images is defined as the square ROOT of the MEAN of the SQUARED differences between the images. If there's an offset between the two images, that offset is supposed to be squared, and is supposed to contribute to the mean, and therefore to an increase in the RMS error.

```
> rms_error = stddev(img_1 - img2)
```

That's a different statistic, also useful, but it's not the RMS error.

Note: if there's an offset difference, there might also be a scaling difference. Then the most appropriate statistic to use gets even more complicated.

---

Subject: Re: RMS error  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 12 May 2004 15:11:43 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Paul Van Delst <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> writes:

> Craig Markwardt wrote:  
>> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:  
>>  
>>  
>>> Julio writes:  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>> I'd like to calculate Root Mean Square error using a base image and a  
>>>> secondary image. How can I do that? Clues are welcome!  
>>>  
>>> rms\_error = Sqrt( Total((img\_1 - img2)^2)/N\_Elements(img\_1) )  
>>  
>>  
>> Hey David, I'll pile on too. The problem I see with the above  
>> expression is that there could be an offset between the two images,  
>> which you are including in your TOTAL expression, and hence biasing  
>> the rms value.  
>  
> Errmm... isn't that intended? RMS errors include the bias. Std deviations don't. At any  
> rate, that's how I use 'em. This is what I've got on my wall:

It's a good question for the original poster!

Craig

--

-----  
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.   EMAIL: [craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu)  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
-----

---

Subject: Re: RMS error  
Posted by [julio](#) on Thu, 13 May 2004 13:22:57 GMT

Hello all...

I'd like to thank you for the discussion and the clues! However, I'd like to know a way to extract from the image the coordinates to be put in the RMS equation.

Thanks...

Julio

James Kuyper <kuyper@saicmodis.com> wrote in message news:<40A23C7B.3070003@saicmodis.com>...

> Craig Markwardt wrote:

>> David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

>>

>>

>>> Julio writes:

>>>

>>>

>>>> I'd like to calculate Root Mean Square error using a base image and a secondary image. How can I do that? Clues are welcome!

>>>

>>> rms\_error = Sqrt( Total((img\_1 - img2)^2)/N\_Elements(img\_1) )

>>

>>

>> Hey David, I'll pile on too. The problem I see with the above expression is that there could be an offset between the two images, which you are including in your TOTAL expression, and hence biasing the rms value. How about the following instead?

>

> The Root Mean Square difference between two images is defined as the square ROOT of the MEAN of the SQUARED differences between the images.  
> If there's an offset between the two images, that offset is supposed to be squared, and is supposed to contribute to the mean, and therefore to an increase in the RMS error.

>

>> rms\_error = stddev(img\_1 - img2)

>

> That's a different statistic, also useful, but it's not the RMS error.

>

> Note: if there's an offset difference, there might also be a scaling difference. Then the most appropriate statistic to use gets even more complicated.

---

Subject: Re: RMS error

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 13 May 2004 13:36:50 GMT

Julio writes:

- > I'd like to thank you for the discussion and the clues! However, I'd
- > like to know a way to extract from the image the coordinates to be put
- > in the RMS equation.

Sigh...

I'll let somebody else field this.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

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

---