
Subject: Re: uniform expansion

Posted by [Herbert Ramoser](#) on Fri, 08 Oct 2004 10:10:33 GMT

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mark wrote:

- > Hello,
- > Say I have a random 2D shape (a blob) with an irregular border (all
- > pixel values equal to one). What I want to do is uniformly expand it
- > in all directions such that it's increased by a constant integer
- > number of pixels all around the perimeter. Subtraction of the
- > original shape from the new one should yield a thin border with a
- > constant width corresponding to the # of pixels the object was
- > enlarged by.
- > Does anyone have any suggestions... preferably of an IDL nature?

If I am not mistaken you are asking for morphological dilation:
help bwmorh

-Herbert

Subject: Re: uniform expansion

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Sat, 09 Oct 2004 16:13:42 GMT

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"mark" <mruschin@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:a9116224.0410072307.6c4cb6d0@posting.google.com...

- > Hello,
- > Say I have a random 2D shape (a blob) with an irregular border (all
- > pixel values equal to one). What I want to do is uniformly expand it
- > in all directions such that it's increased by a constant integer
- > number of pixels all around the perimeter. Subtraction of the
- > original shape from the new one should yield a thin border with a
- > constant width corresponding to the # of pixels the object was
- > enlarged by.
- > Does anyone have any suggestions... preferably of an IDL nature?
- >
- > Regards,
- > Mark

[comp.lang.idl removed from list, as I think you mean the IDL language from
RSI]

Hi Mark,

In IDL, you will want the Dilate function. Here's an example:

```
; Make sample data
```

```
IDL> a = Dist(15) GT 8
```

```
IDL> print,a
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

```
; Make a simple square structuring element for enlarging blob
; by desired width
```

```
IDL> width = 2
```

```
IDL> structElement = Replicate(1B, width*2+1, width*2+1)
```

```
IDL> print, structElement
```

```
1 1 1 1 1
1 1 1 1 1
1 1 1 1 1
1 1 1 1 1
1 1 1 1 1
```

```
; Perform dilation
```

```
IDL> b = Dilate(a, structElement)
```

```
IDL> print,b
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0
```

```
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

IDL> print, b-a

```
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0
0 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

If this dilation is too 'blocky' you may want a structuring element that is 'rounder' (say, with the four corner elements as 0 instead of 1). For more info, have a look at Online Help for Dilate.

Hope this helps!

Cheers,

--

-Dick

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