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Subject: distribution of colors for an image  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 26 Oct 2004 17:05:43 GMT  
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Dear all,

Did someone know a routine to show in a simple XY Plot the distribution of colors for an image?

cheers

Reimar

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Subject: Re: distribution of colors for an image  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 2004 13:37:16 GMT  
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Karsten Rodenacker wrote:

```
> Perhaps
> u=uniq(long(a),sort(long(a)))
> help,u,h
> U          LONG    = Array[15]
> H          LONG    = Array[15]
> tends in the direction of understanding?
```

Oh I see the dist function was a bad example to use  
Thanks for this hint.

:~)

Reimar

```
>
> Regards
> Karsten
>
> On Wed, 27 Oct 2004 13:32:13 +0200, Reimar Bauer
> <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote:
>
>> David Fanning wrote:
```

```

>>
>>> Reimar Bauer writes:
>>>
>>>> Did someone know a routine to show in a simple XY Plot the
>>>> distribution of colors for an image?
>>>
>>> I think that is called a histogram, Reimar. :-)
>>> Cheers,
>>> David
>>>
>>
>>
>> fine, I have seen a lot of instruction on your marvellous web page.
>>
>> But I don't understand the result I got. Lets show an example.
>>
>> a=dist(20)
>> h=histogram(a)
>> print,max(a),max(h)
>>      14.1421      56
>>
>>
>> u=uniq(a,sort(a))
>> help,u,h
>> U      LONG      = Array[61]
>> H      LONG      = Array[15]
>>
>> Why could be h higher as a?
>> Why doesn't I got a vector length of 61 as uniq tells?
>>
>>
>> More and more I believe the first question does not describe what I
>> want. .
>>
>>
>> Reimar
>>
>>
>>
>
>
>

```

```

--
Reimar Bauer

```

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)

-----  
a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)  
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Subject: Re: distribution of colors for an image  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 2004 13:57:00 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Reimar Bauer writes:

>

>

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>>

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>>

>> a=dist(20)

>> h=histogram(a)

>> print,max(a),max(h)

>> 14.1421 56

>>

>>

>> u=uniq(a,sort(a))

>> help,u,h

>> U LONG = Array[61]

>> H LONG = Array[15]

>>

>> Why could be h higher as a?

>> Why doesn't I got a vector length of 61 as uniq tells?

>

>

> You asked about color distribution in an image. A histogram  
> will tell you (with a byte scaled image, of course) how many  
> pixels in the image have a particular color. It will even  
> tell you which pixels those are, but that is another story,  
> best explained with JD's Histogram Tutorial.

>

> In your case H is fifteen elements long, because your data  
> had values between 0 and 15, and you used a bin size of 1,  
> by default. The \*numbers\* returned from histogram, told you  
> the pixel distribution of those 15 "colors". In one bin, for  
> example, you had 56 pixels values that fell into that bin.

>

> You had 61 unique numbers in your data, but all 61 of them fell

```
> into one of the 15 bins you set up.  
>  
> To see your color distribution, you want to plot the histogram  
> of your data:  
>  
> data = dist(200)  
> Plot, Histogram(data), XStyle=1, $  
>   XTitle='Color Distribution', YTitle='Number of Pixels'  
>  
> Does that help?  
>
```

Yes, this is very good explained.

Now it is clear and I know why I was so irritated of the result I got.

I have used a circular clipping of an image and have missed that's histogram uses always rectangular input. The background color which clips the data to invisible is count highest. If I don't use max\_value I see nothing on the plot.

Thanks for all help

Reimar

```
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
>
```

--

Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)  
Forschungszentrum Juelich  
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

-----  
a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)  
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Subject: Re: distribution of colors for an image  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 2004 17:27:17 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Wed, 27 Oct 2004 15:57:00 +0200, Reimar Bauer wrote:

```
> David Fanning wrote:
>> Reimar Bauer writes:
>>
>>
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>>>
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>>
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```

```

>> the pixel distribution of those 15 "colors". In one bin, for
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> I have used a circular clipping of an image and have missed that's
> histogram uses always rectangular input. The background color which
> clips the data to invisible is count highest. If I don't use max_value I
> see nothing on the plot.

```

Another way to recover all 61 of your input values, illustrating how bin size has everything to do with the number of non-zero histogram elements:

```

IDL> a=dist(20)
IDL> h=histogram(a,BINSIZE=.05)
IDL> wh=where(h gt 0,cnt)
IDL> print,cnt
      61

```

But beware of using HISTOGRAM on floating point data in cases where you care whether a given value falls in one bin or another (see the "razor's edge" article [http://www.dfanning.com/math\\_tips/razoredge.html](http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/razoredge.html)).

JD

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