
Subject: Re: Five days mean values

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Wed, 05 Oct 2005 21:57:16 GMT

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In article <1128546470.965721.312300@g49g2000cwa.googlegroups.com>,
"Julio" <julio@cpa.unicamp.br> wrote:

> Hello people,
>
> I have meteorological data from several years, like these:
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> Date Temp (max) Temp (min)
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> I want to calculate mean value from 01-05 days, 05-10 days, 10-15 days
> and so on.
> In other words, I must get the mean value at each five days.
> I'm trying to make some code to get it automatically. I think this kind
> of work is trivial for meteorological data users. Does anybody have
> some idea?
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> Regards,

If the data are in an array T, this is a very quick way to compute averages

```
IDL> T = findgen(15)
IDL> print, T
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IDL> print, rebin(T, 3)
   2.00000   7.00000  12.0000
```

but make sure that the number of days is a multiple of 5 and that you have no missing data. Also, watch out for leap days.

Subject: Re: Five days mean values
Posted by [Julio\[1\]](#) on Thu, 06 Oct 2005 12:56:22 GMT
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Hi Kenneth,

I don't see how rebin can help me... An example, considering the meteorological data below, I want to find the temp(max) mean values from 01/08/2001 to 05/08/2001 and from 06/08/2001 to 10/08/2001...

So I have Temp (max) = 27.2 and 27.4

The problem is I have a very large amount of data. I can't see a way to find the mean value every five days.

Any comments welcome!

Regards,
Júlio

Kenneth Bowman escreveu:

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> Ken Bowman
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Subject: Re: Five days mean values

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Thu, 06 Oct 2005 14:23:18 GMT

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I wouldn't have thought of using rebin, but rebin will do the job for you as Ken describes. Rebin is used to resize arrays. When you compress an array, rebin take averages of the data points in the array.

You can use rebin to compress your temperature array and when it does so, averages will automatically be taken.

In order for the results to be accurate, you can neither have any missing days nor can your temperature array size not be a multiple of five. The array has to be a multiple of five because the compression and averaging is occurring over every five data points.

```
; temp is your temperature array
avgtemp = rebin(temp, n_elements(temp) / 5)
```

The `n_elements(temp) / 5` tells us how many five element groups there are in your temperature array. The first five elements will be averaged and stored in `avgtemp[0]`. The second five elements will be averaged and stored in `avgtemp[1]`, etc.

-Mike

Julio wrote:

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>> Ken Bowman
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Subject: Re: Five days mean values
Posted by [Julio\[1\]](#) on Thu, 06 Oct 2005 17:54:34 GMT
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Thanks Mike, now I understand how rebin works...

I'll try this, but I'm not sure rebin will help me... The fact is my temperature array size is not always multiple of five, due to the number of days in a month (28, 30 or 31).

Kind Regards,
Júlio

Subject: Re: Five days mean values
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Thu, 06 Oct 2005 18:04:46 GMT
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> I'll try this, but I'm not sure rebin will help me... The fact is my
> temperature array size is not always multiple of five, due to the
> number of days in a month (28, 30 or 31).

With or without rebin, what do you with the days at the end of a month.

You said previously that you were calculating 5-day averages. What do you want to do with the left over days?

-Mike

Subject: Re: Five days mean values
Posted by [btt](#) on Fri, 07 Oct 2005 12:10:42 GMT
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Julio wrote:

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> number of days in a month (28, 30 or 31).
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Hello,

I'm not sure what you want to do with the 'extra' days each month. But if what you want is to bin the dates into 5-day consecutive groups then I suggest you...

(1) Convert your dates from strings to Julian day values. You need to use some string processing before you get to using JULDAY().

(2) Sort your dates into 5 day bins using HISTOGRAM().

H = HISTOGRAM(myJulianDayValues, START = JULDAY(8,1,2001), BIN = 5, \$
REVERSE = r, LOCATION = binStartDates)

(3) Use the REVERSE_INDICES to extract the records for each 5 day group.

Hope that helps.

Cheers,
Ben
