
Subject: Re: measuring lines

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 11 Oct 2005 11:37:40 GMT

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robin.vandebroek@gmail.com writes:

- > My apologies if this is a trivial problem.
- > I have a bitmap which is a picture of glass fibers distributed on a
- > flat surface.
- > The bitmap is already processed so the fibers can be easily
- > distinguished.
- > Is there a way or a method within IDL to measure the length of the
- > individual fibers apart from programming a scanning algorithm myself ?

You could use the tape measure tool in my AnnotateWindow program for this purpose:

```
AnnotateWindow, image, XRange=[0,5], YRange=[0,4]
```

The ranges specify the actual extent of your image data (shown here at 4 mm by 5 mm). You can find out about the program here:

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs.html#ANNOTATEWINDOW>

(The angle measuring tool might also be of interest to you.)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Subject: Re: measuring lines

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Wed, 12 Oct 2005 10:02:20 GMT

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robin.vandebroek@gmail.com wrote:

- > Hi,
- >
- > My apologies if this is a trivial problem.
- > I have a bitmap which is a picture of glass fibers distributed on a
- > flat surface.
- > The bitmap is already processed so the fibers can be easily
- > distinguished.

- > Is there a way or a method within IDL to measure the length of the
- > individual fibers apart from programming a scanning algorithm myself ?
- >
- > Thank you very much in advance.

Depending on the thickness of the fibres, you may be able to use David Fanning's Find_Boundary routine, which returns the perimeter of an object, amongst other bits of info. If the fibre is really quite "skinny", then the length could be simply perimeter/2.0 ?? How accurate do you need to be is the other question...

Andrew
