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Subject: Re: fast search

Posted by [Paolo Grigis](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 12:53:11 GMT

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This link may be useful to you:

[http://www.dfanning.com/code\\_tips/pts\\_in\\_sphere.html](http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/pts_in_sphere.html)

Ciao,  
Paolo

m.goullant@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi there,  
>  
> I have the following problem:  
>  
> ;data structure of an irregular point cloud  
> x = points.x  
> y = points.y  
> z = points.z  
>  
> search radio  
> radio = 8  
>  
> FOR i=0L,N\_ELEMENTS(z)-1 DO BEGIN  
>  
>     square = WHERE(x LE x[i] + radio AND x GE x[i] - radio AND y LE  
> y[i] + radio AND y GE y[i] - radio)  
>     ;(...)  
>  
>     ENDFOR  
>  
> I realize that WHERE will do the job, but at very low efficiency.  
> WHERE  
> makes no assumptions about the list being ordered. It seems to me it  
> has  
> to check every element of the array, requiring N steps for an N-element  
> array  
>  
> There is a faster way to do this?  
>  
> thanks,  
> Marie  
>

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Subject: Re: fast search

Posted by [greg michael](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 14:15:12 GMT

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Hi Marie,

Also take a look at this thread...

[http://groups.google.de/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse\\_thread/thread/1d020842b165598a/8e57c4b2c3841851?#8e57c4b2c3841 851](http://groups.google.de/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/1d020842b165598a/8e57c4b2c3841851?#8e57c4b2c3841 851)

A program to search for pairs closer than a given distance d in a point cloud. It recursively cuts up the volume until there are fewer than a given threshold of points in the subvolume, and then directly compares those few. At each cutting of the space, it's necessary to leave an overlap of d so that points in adjoining subvolumes aren't missed. I don't remember - looks like it might be necessary to check for the uniqueness of the solutions at the end. Anyway, the recursion is the fun part...

By the way, it looks like there are a lot of for-loops there, but they're powerful ones - each run of the loop cuts the space.

regards,  
Greg

[m.goullant@gmail.com](mailto:m.goullant@gmail.com) wrote:

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>  
> ;data structure of an irregular point cloud  
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> thanks,  
> Marie

---

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Subject: Re: fast search

Posted by [greg michael](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 17:17:57 GMT

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Actually, there's a mistake in that code - it's got mixed procedure/function syntax. Should be like this:

```
function ss_MakeGalaxies,n
p=replicate({x:0.,y:0.,z:0.},n)
seed=0
p.x=randomu(seed,n)*1000.
p.y=randomu(seed,n)*1000.
p.z=randomu(seed,n)*1000.
return,p
end

function ss_distance,p1,p2
return,sqrt((p2.x-p1.x)^2+(p2.y-p1.y)^2+(p2.z-p1.z)^2)
end

pro splitsearch,p,dist
;recursively splits the search volume into n_split^3 subvolumes. When
;there are fewer than 'threshold' points
;in a subvolume, checks for matches the brute force way - every point
;against every other.

n_split=3
threshold=75

s=(size(p))[1]

if s gt threshold then begin
  xm=min(p.x,max=xm)
  ym=min(p.y,max=ym)
  zm=min(p.z,max=zm)

  xg=xm+findgen(n_split+1)*(xm-xm)/n_split ;grid boundaries
```

```

yg=ymn+findgen(n_split+1)*(ymx-ymn)/n_split
zg=zmn+findgen(n_split+1)*(zmx-zmn)/n_split

for j=0,n_split-1 do begin
  for k=0,n_split-1 do begin
    for l=0,n_split-1 do begin
      w= where( (p.x ge xg[j]-dist) and (p.x lt xg[j+1]+dist) and $
                 (p.y ge yg[k]-dist) and (p.y lt yg[k+1]+dist) and $
                 (p.z ge zg[l]-dist) and (p.z lt zg[l+1]+dist))
      if n_elements(w) ge 2 then begin
        splitsearch,p[w],dist
      endif
    endfor
  endfor
endfor

endif else begin
  for i=0,s-2 do begin
    for j=i+1,s-1 do begin
      if ss_distance(p[i],p[j]) le dist then begin
        print,p[i],p[j]
      endif
    endfor
  endfor
endelse
end

```

Then call it using:

```

IDL> p=ss_MakeGalaxies(1e5)
IDL> splitsearch,p,.5
{ 454.665   175.794   87.0097}{ 454.816   175.504
 87.3471}
{ 556.761   981.076   933.809}{ 556.654   980.922
 934.065}
{ 981.340   196.286   105.551}{ 981.387   196.102
 105.703}

```

The left and right columns are the neighbouring (< .5 units distant) xyz triples.

regards,  
Greg

---



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**Subject: Re: fast search**  
 Posted by [greg michael](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 18:25:39 GMT

And here's a proper IDL version that uses histograms and the pairwise comparisons that David likes... still got three loops, though - have to think some more to get rid of those.

```
function ss_MakeGalaxies,n  
p=replicate({x:0.,y:0.,z:0.},n)  
seed=0  
p.x=randomu(seed,n)*1000.  
p.y=randomu(seed,n)*1000.  
p.z=randomu(seed,n)*1000.  
return,p  
end  
  
pro splitsearch2,p,dist  
;recursively splits the search volume into n_split^3 subvolumes. When  
;there are fewer than 'threshold' points  
;in a subvolume, checks for matches the brute force way - every point  
;against every other.  
  
n_split=3 ;1-D cutting factor (for 3, cube is cut into 3x3x3=27  
subvolumes)  
threshold=75 ;no. of points to start pairwise comparison  
n=n_elements(p)  
  
if n gt threshold then begin  
    hx=histogram(p.x,nbins=n_split+1,locations=x,reverse_indices =rx) ;1-D  
    binning  
    hy=histogram(p.y,nbins=n_split+1,locations=y,reverse_indices =ry)  
    hz=histogram(p.z,nbins=n_split+1,locations=z,reverse_indices =rz)  
  
    for i=0,n_split-1 do begin  
        for j=0,n_split-1 do begin  
            for k=0,n_split-1 do begin  
                qx=[rx[rx[i]:rx[i+1]-1]] ;indices from 1-D x bins  
                qy=[ry[ry[j]:ry[j+1]-1]]  
                qz=[rz[rz[k]:rz[k+1]-1]]  
                q=where(histogram([qx,qy,qz],min=0) eq 3) ;indices from 3-D bins  
                (i.e. where all of x,y,z  
                                ;lie inside subvolume  
  
                if n_elements(q) ge 2 then splitsearch2,p[q],dist ;splitsearch  
                again, if enough to compare  
            endfor  
        endfor  
    endfor  
  
endif else begin
```

```

q1=rebin(indgen(n),n,n) ;set up indices for pairwise comparison
q2=transpose(q1)
d=sqrt((p[q1].x-p[q2].x)^2+(p[q1].y-p[q2].y)^2+(p[q1].z-p[q2 ].z)^2)
;calculate pair distances
i=where((d le dist) and (q1 gt q2)) ;select close neighbours (q1>q2
to avoid reverse pairs and q1=q2)
if i[0] ne -1 then print,p[q1[i]],p[q2[i]] ;print the neighbours, if
found
endelse
end

```

IDL> p=ss\_MakeGalaxies(1e6)

IDL> splitsearch2,p,.1

{ 98.4014	461.355	673.278}{	98.4379	461.400
673.197}				
{ 190.002	444.629	924.567}{	189.966	444.613
924.605}				
{ 254.499	823.541	494.128}{	254.492	823.492
494.062}				
{ 638.107	100.159	240.530}{	638.083	100.108
240.606}				
{ 720.787	820.032	405.215}{	720.754	820.070
405.199}				

Greg

---



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Subject: Re: fast search

Posted by [greg michael](#) on Wed, 18 Oct 2006 15:25:04 GMT

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All but one indestructible loop removed. Wish I had a use for this  
program now... hope it's useful to you, Marie!

```

pro splitsearch3,p,dist
;recursively splits the search volume into n_split^3 subvolumes. When
;there are fewer than 'threshold' points
;in a subvolume, checks for matches the brute force way - every point
;against every other.

```

```

n_split=4 ;1-D cutting factor (for 3, cube is cut into 3x3x3=27
subvolumes)
threshold=75 ;no. of points to start pairwise comparison
n=n_elements(p)

```

```

if n gt threshold then begin
  mxx=max(p.x,min=mnx)
  mxy=max(p.y,min=mny)

```

```

mxz=max(p.z,min=mnz)
bx=fix((p.x-mnx)/(mxx-mnx)*n_split)<(n_split-1) ;< to ensure max
element not in new bin
by=fix((p.y-mny)/(mxy-mny)*n_split)<(n_split-1)
bz=fix((p.z-mnz)/(mxz-mnz)*n_split)<(n_split-1)
b=bx+by*n_split+bz*n_split^2
h=histogram(b,min=0,reverse_indices=ri)

for i=0,n_elements(h)-1 do begin
  if ri[i] ne ri[i+1] then begin
    q=[ri[ri[i]:ri[i+1]-1]]
    if n_elements(q) ge 2 then splitsearch3,p[q],dist ;splitsearch
again, if enough to compare
  endif
endfor

endif else begin
  q1=rebin(indgen(n),n,n) ;set up indices for pairwise matching
  q2=transpose(q1)
  d=sqrt((p[q1].x-p[q2].x)^2+(p[q1].y-p[q2].y)^2+(p[q1].z-p[q2 ].z)^2)
;calculate pair distances
  i=where((d le dist) and (q1 gt q2)) ;select close neighbours (q1>q2 to
avoid reverse pairs)
  if i[0] ne -1 then print,p[q1[i]],p[q2[i]] ;print the neighbours, if
found
  endelse
end

IDL> p=ss_makegalaxies(5e6)
IDL> splitsearch3,p,.02
{ 915.876   843.515   319.991}{ 915.861   843.528
 319.994}

```

---

**Subject: Re: fast search**

Posted by [m.goullant@gmail.com](mailto:m.goullant@gmail.com) on Thu, 19 Oct 2006 10:46:07 GMT

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Hi Greg,  
thank you very much, for your time!

I even dont understand the second algorithm and you already have the  
3!! :-(. In this weekend i'll take a better look in your explendid  
work!

I'm a newbie in IDL, so I have to understand some functions that you  
use! I  
If is not ask to much, can you coment all the lines of your code?

What I want is a point to points search, so I am trying to understand in your "quadtree" technique where I can adapt to my needs. I only need to compare (x,y) - 2D and get the Z values to compare

This is more and less What I want to do:

have this geographic data (could be 100000, 2 million, 4 million depends):

PRO example

```
points = myData()
```

```
;data structure of an irregular point cloud  
x = points.x ;X coord  
y = points.y ;Y coord  
z = points.z ; Elevation
```

```
n = 5 ; number of iterations  
mask = 4.0 ; diameter. in meters. Like your dist  
maskType = 0 ; 0 a circle, 1 square
```

```
FOR i=0L,n-1 DO BEGIN  
    newZ = erosion(x,y,z,dist,MaskType)  
    (...)  
    dist = dist + 2  
ENDFOR
```

```
END
```

```
FUNCTION erosion,x,y,z,mask,maskType ; Apply erosion to the data
```

```
newZ=z  
radio = mask /2  
FOR i=0L,N_ELEMENTS(z)-1 DO BEGIN  
    kernel = applyKernel(x,y,z,i,radio,maskType)  
;center the kernel in the data(i) and get neighbours there are inside  
of the mask  
    newZ[i]=MAX(z[kernel])  
ENDFOR  
RETURN,newZ
```

  

```
END
```

```

FUNCTION applyKernel,x,y,z,i,dist,maskType
    square = WHERE(x LE x[i] + dist AND x GE x[i] - dist AND y LE y[i]
+ dist AND y GE y[i] - dist)

    IF (maskType EQ 0) THEN BEGIN
        sqDistance = sqrt((x[square] - x[i])^2 + (y[square] -
y[i])^2)
        neighbors = WHERE(sqDistance LE dist)
        circle = square[neighbors]
        RETURN,circle
    ENDIF

    RETURN,square
END

```

Because this is an iterative process with a "dist" variable, it's possible implement your code?

Thank's in advance,  
Marie

---



---

**Subject:** Re: fast search  
**Posted by** [m.goullant@gmail.com](mailto:m.goullant@gmail.com) **on Thu, 19 Oct 2006 11:01:18 GMT**  
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Hi Paolo,

thanks for the article, i'll read cautiously!

regards,  
Marie

Paolo Grigis wrote:

- > This link may be useful to you:
- >
- > [http://www.dfanning.com/code\\_tips/pts\\_in\\_sphere.html](http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/pts_in_sphere.html)
- >
- > Ciao,
- > Paolo
- >
- >
- > m.goullant@gmail.com wrote:
- >> Hi there,
- >>
- >> I have the following problem:

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>> y[i] + radio AND y GE y[i] - radio)
>>     ;...
>>
>> ENDFOR
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>> I realize that WHERE will do the job, but at very low efficiency.
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>> array
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>> There is a faster way to do this?
>>
>> thanks,
>> Marie
>>
```

---