
Subject: Re: triangulating over undefined space in irregular grids
Posted by [bjelley](#) on Wed, 26 Mar 2008 16:00:13 GMT

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An original plot of the irregular grid coverage (from another plotting source) can be seen here: <http://www.worldwindsinc.com/uploads/grid.PNG>

A good example of the problem can be seen here:
http://www.worldwindsinc.com/uploads/example_wind.PNG

Subject: Re: triangulating over undefined space in irregular grids
Posted by [Kenneth Bowman](#) on Wed, 26 Mar 2008 16:48:43 GMT

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In article <419932f8-47d6-4822-aa67-6f6e235ef003@n77g2000hse.googlegroups.com>, bjelley@worldwindsinc.com wrote:

- > The setup: I am trying to contour plot a number of variables for a
- > storm surge grid that has up to 10 km resolution in the open Atlantic,
- > yet has 8 meter resolution in New Orleans area waterways. The grid
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- > Louisiana to New England, yet the grid does not include any land with
- > an elevation greater than 20 meters. So the grid does include some
- > land for a range of distances from the coast, from ~5 to ~100 km
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I think your main problem is that TRIANGULATE computes the convex hull of the set of points. That is, there are no "bays" or concave regions in the resulting set of triangles. This produces the long narrow triangles that you see across the SE U.S.

- > Also of importance is that the grid is numbered and ordered in a
- > counter-clockwise fashion, not in any order of south to north and the
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You might also have some round-off problems, as your grid spacing spans
4 orders of magnitude 10 to 10⁴ m. Are your inputs double precision?

Your best bet may be to learn how to use object graphics polygon objects,
but I'm afraid I can't help you there.

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: triangulating over undefined space in irregular grids
Posted by [bjelley](#) on Wed, 26 Mar 2008 19:57:08 GMT
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On Mar 26, 11:48 am, Kenneth Bowman <k-bow...@tamu.edu> wrote:
> In article <419932f8-47d6-4822-aa67-6f6e235ef...@n77g2000hse.googlegroup s.com >,
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The inputs are all double precision and the data in the files are carried out to enough places to avoid round off errors.

Example definition for node 1:" 1 -90.2350725000 30.4780242000 -7.9830000000"

[node long lat bathymetry]

Of course this is far beyond the precision of any measuring system, but that does not matter at the moment.

The nodes at the corners of the triangles shown in the grid plot (above) are defined in the grid file. I am going to try using that to look for any side of a triangle that is not repeated, which means it is on a boundary, and classify the nodes on either end of the line (side of triangle) as a member of an array describing FAULT_POLYGONS for use in GRIDDATA.

I'll share how that goes.

Subject: Re: triangulating over undefined space in irregular grids

Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Wed, 26 Mar 2008 20:10:04 GMT

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On Mar 26, 3:57 pm, bjel...@worldwindsinc.com wrote:

> On Mar 26, 11:48 am, Kenneth Bowman <k-bow...@tamu.edu> wrote:

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Hi,

Wow! What a great problem!

I think it is worth pursuing the FAULT_POLYGONS feature of GRIDDATA. I suggest that you run your points through GRID_INPUT first - these can be calculated once and then saved for reuse just like the triangulation can be saved.

Out of enterprising ignorance I have occasionally introduced sample locations over undefined regions like land. To these locations I assign whatever the "missing" value is (like NaN). The nice thing about that is that the triangulation doesn't have to draw line segments that cross undefined regions (like Florida). But I never did that for a problem this scale.

It will be very interesting to know how you resolve this - so I am glad you will share.

Cheers,
Ben

Subject: Re: triangulating over undefined space in irregular grids
Posted by [bjelley](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 17:26:38 GMT
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On Mar 26, 3:10 pm, "ben.bighair" <ben.bigh...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Mar 26, 3:57 pm, bjel...@worldwindsinc.com wrote:

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An update:

I am working on the fault_polygons and fault_xy arrays. Some of the challenge is in connecting the beginning and end of some of the polygons...the islands are easy. Also working on perfecting the generation of polygons that do not erroneously connect islands to mainland. As much as the populace might wish for one, Cuba does not have a landbridge to Florida ;-)

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I currently have 6000+ polygon points on 61 polygons. A plot and link forthcoming.

I must credit Jim P of ITT VIS for the first suggestion of the FAULT_POLYGONS in GRIDDATA method via an email response to this posting.

I expect that as soon as I figure this all out David Fanning will come on and show us an elegant 2 lines to handle it all. I like his map_gshhs_shoreline routine utilizing some of the logic needed here.

Last question for the moment: Is there a way to dictate a polygon of inclusion (the mainland and open Atlantic boundary) and also numerous polygons of exclusion (islands)? That would be useful.

Subject: Re: triangulating over undefined space in irregular grids
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 17:34:35 GMT
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bjelley@worldwindsinc.com writes:

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I can assure you, David Fanning doesn't have a clue
what any of your are talking about in this thread!
Just the *idea* of polygons makes his eyes glaze over.

Cheers,

Coyote

--

Coyote, Chief Honcho
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: triangulating over undefined space in irregular grids
Posted by [ben.bighair](#) on Thu, 27 Mar 2008 19:56:14 GMT
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On Mar 27, 1:26 pm, bjel...@worldwindsinc.com wrote:

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Hi,

I am not clear on this last question. As I understand things, the interpolation does not occur across a fault. So if you have an "island" there will be interpolation within the island that is independent of the interpolation outside of the island.

As far as the FAULT_XY thing, I think you simply concatenate the XY coordinates pairs for fault1 to fault2, ...

Some thing like this...

```
;the polygons
xy1 = [[1.0, 1.0], [2.0, 2.0], [2.0, 0.0], [0.0,0.0]]
xy2 = [[0.0, 1.0], [3.0, 1.0], [2.5, 4.0], [1.0, 4.0], [0.0, 2.5]]
;paste the together
fault_xy = [[xy1],[xy2]]
n1 = SIZE(xy1, /N_ELEM)/2
n2 = SIZE(xy2, /N_ELEM)/2

;start the poly description - terminate with -1
fault_poly = [n1, LINDGEN(n1),-1]
;determine the size of the poly descriptor
np = SIZE(fault_poly, /N_ELEM)
;add the second polygon descriptor
fault_poly = [fault_poly[0:np-2], n2, LINDGEN(n2) + np-2, -1]
```

Cheers,
Ben
