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Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 16:11:38 GMT  
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I have tried this on several occasions (for a little different application but I think its the same) and have had no luck eliminating the for loop, so I just wrote it in a function to hide it from myself. This is my try at this based on value locate:

[http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL/Entries/2008/1/7\\_round2array\\_\(updated\\_7Jan2008\).html](http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL/Entries/2008/1/7_round2array_(updated_7Jan2008).html)

If others know how to eliminate the for loop that would be fantastic.

Cheers,

Brian

-----  
Brian Larsen  
Boston University  
Center for Space Physics  
<http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL>

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Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 16:50:25 GMT  
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Would something like this work for sorted x (plus some fix for first and last element)?  
There's going to be an overhead for sorting x if not already sorted however.

```
x=[3,3.5,4,6.5,7]  
y=[3.4, 3.0, 6.8, 6.3]
```

```
a=value_locate(x,y)  
result=a+ (y-x[a]) GT (x[a+1]-y))  
print,result
```

Ciao,  
Paolo

Brian Larsen wrote:

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> application but I think its the same) and have had no luck eliminating

> the for loop, so I just wrote it in a function to hide it from  
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> Brian  
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> -----  
> Brian Larsen  
> Boston University  
> Center for Space Physics  
> <http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL>

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Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [Juggernaut](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 16:58:57 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Aug 26, 12:11 pm, Brian Larsen <balars...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> I have tried this on several occasions (for a little different  
> application but I think its the same) and have had no luck eliminating  
> the for loop, so I just wrote it in a function to hide it from  
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locate:[http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL/Entries/2008/1/7\\_round2array\\_\(...](http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL/Entries/2008/1/7_round2array_(...)  
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> If others know how to eliminate the for loop that would be fantastic.  
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> Cheers,  
>  
> Brian  
>  
> -----  
> Brian Larsen  
> Boston University  
> Center for Space Physics<http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL>

Not sure if the following is what you're looking for but first off you  
have in your one line  
FOR K = 0, CLOSE\_LATS DO BEGIN  
which doesn't make sense based upon what search2d returns (an array)  
maybe it was really n\_elements(CLOSE\_LATS)?...I don't know  
But maybe the following will lead you to the promise land or far far  
away from it

Well I'd say if you're `dlat(192,139)` means that you have 139 lats for each of the 192 columns then you could do something like

```
CS_LATLON(0,4607)
```

```
dlat(192,139)
```

```
x2 = rebin(reform(dlat[0,*],139),139,4607)
```

```
x3 = rebin(reform(CS_LATLON,1,4607), 139,4607)
```

```
indices = where(abs(x3-x2) LT 1e-4)
```

```
x2[indices] gives the matching lats to within 1e-4
```

In the end something like

```
ncols = n_elements(dlat[*],0]
```

```
nrows = n_elements(dlat[0,*])
```

```
nels = n_elements(CS_LATLON)
```

```
for i = 0, ncols-1 do begin
```

```
  x2 = rebin(reform(dlat[i,*],nrows),nrows,nels)
```

```
  x3 = rebin(reform(CS_LATLON,1,nels), nrows,nels)
```

```
  indices = where(abs(x3-x2) LT 1e-4)
```

```
  vals = x2[indices]
```

```
  ;- Now you can print these vals or store them to an array or  
whatever
```

```
endfor
```

Just repeat for the lons...still has for loops but I'm pretty sure that works. I did a simple test on a 5x5 compared to a 1x25.

If it doesn't....I never did this.

Hope this helps eliminate some loops anyway....and actually is relevant.

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 17:07:04 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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pgrigis@gmail.com wrote:

```
> Would something like this work for sorted x (plus some fix for first  
> and last element)?
```

```
> There's going to be an overhead for sorting x if not already sorted  
> however.
```

```
>
```

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> x=[3,3.5,4,6.5,7]
```

```
> y=[3.4, 3.0, 6.8, 6.3]
```

```
>
```

```
> a=value_locate(x,y)
```

```
> result=a+( (y-x[a]) GT (x[a+1]-y))
```

```
> print,result
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
> Ciao,
```

```
> Paolo
```

this would work if you only have 1 coordinate (latitude), not with 2 (lat,long)...

Jean

```
>
> Brian Larsen wrote:
>> I have tried this on several occasions (for a little different
>> application but I think its the same) and have had no luck eliminating
>> the for loop, so I just wrote it in a function to hide it from
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>> If others know how to eliminate the for loop that would be fantastic.
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>> Cheers,
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>> Brian
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>> -----
>> Brian Larsen
>> Boston University
>> Center for Space Physics
>> http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL
```

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [Juggernaut](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 17:29:49 GMT  
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---

On Aug 26, 1:07 pm, Jean H <jghas...@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca> wrote:

```
> pgri...@gmail.com wrote:
>> Would something like this work for sorted x (plus some fix for first
>> and last element)?
>> There's going to be an overhead for sorting x if not already sorted
>> however.
>
>> x=[3,3.5,4,6.5,7]
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>
>> a=value_locate(x,y)
>> result=a+( (y-x[a]) GT (x[a+1]-y))
>> print,result
>
>> Ciao,
```

```

>> Paolo
>
> this would work if you only have 1 coordinate (latitude), not with 2
> (lat,long)...
> Jean
>
>
>
>> Brian Larsen wrote:
>>> I have tried this on several occasions (for a little different
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>>> the for loop, so I just wrote it in a function to hide it from
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>>> http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL/Entries/2008/1/7_roun d2array_(...
>
>>> If others know how to eliminate the for loop that would be fantastic.
>
>>> Cheers,
>
>>> Brian
>
>>> -----
>>> Brian Larsen
>>> Boston University
>>> Center for Space Physics
>>> http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL

```

You could just do them simultaneously and only take the intersection of the values....

```

for i = 0, ncols-1 do begin
  x2 = rebin(reform(dlat[i,*],nrows),nrows,nels)
  x3 = rebin(reform(CS_LATLON,1,nels), nrows,nels)
  indices = where(abs(x3-x2) LT 1e-4)
  vals = x2[indices]
  x2 = rebin(reform(dlon[i,*],nrows),nrows,nels)
  x3 = rebin(reform(CS_LATLON,1,nels), nrows,nels)
  indices2 = where(abs(x3-x2) LT 1e-4)
  vals = x2[indices2]
  intersecting = setintersection(indices,indices2)
endfor

```

Couldn't you?

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
 Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 17:54:35 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Jean H wrote:

> pgrigis@gmail.com wrote:

>> Would something like this work for sorted x (plus some fix for first  
>> and last element)?

>> There's going to be an overhead for sorting x if not already sorted  
>> however.

>>

>> x=[3,3.5,4,6.5,7]

>> y=[3.4, 3.0, 6.8, 6.3]

>>

>> a=value\_locate(x,y)

>> result=a+( y-x[a] GT (x[a+1]-y))

>> print,result

>>

>>

>> Ciao,

>> Paolo

>

> this would work if you only have 1 coordinate (latitude), not with 2

> (lat,long)...

> Jean

Yes, this is not going to help the original poster.

But I think Brian's routine below is 1-dimensional.

Ciao,

Paolo

>

>>

>> Brian Larsen wrote:

>>> I have tried this on several occasions (for a little different  
>>> application but I think its the same) and have had no luck eliminating  
>>> the for loop, so I just wrote it in a function to hide it from  
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>>>

>>> Brian

>>>

>>> -----

>>> Brian Larsen

>>> Boston University  
>>> Center for Space Physics  
>>> <http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL>

---

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [Conor](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 18:41:27 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Aug 26, 11:47 am, wilsona <awils...@bigred.unl.edu> wrote:  
> I have 2 separate arrays of Latitudes and Longitudes.  
> CS\_LATLON(0,4607) is one latitude array and dlat(192,139) is the  
> other  
> CS\_LATLON(1,4607) is one longitude array and dlon(192,139) is the  
> other.  
> I want to index through each element in both CS\_LATLON arrays and  
> find  
> which point(s) in the dlat and dlong arrays are closest.  
> I tried using nested loops but that gave me 12 million+ loops which  
> is  
> too many for my liking. I now am trying search2d  
> NUM\_PNTS = N\_ELEMENTS(CS\_LATLON(0, \*)) - 1  
>  
> FOR J = 0, NUM\_PNTS DO BEGIN  
>     CLOSE\_LATS = SEARCH2D(dlat, 0, 0, CS\_LATLON(0,J),  
> CS\_LATLON(0,J), INCREASE=0.5, \$  
>     DECREASE=0.5)  
>     lat1 = CS\_LATLON(0,J) \* PI / 180.0  
>     FOR K = 0, CLOSE\_LATS DO BEGIN  
>         lat2 = dlat(K) \* PI / 180.0  
>         d\_long = CS\_LATLON(1,J) - dlon(K) \* PI / 180.0  
>         DISTANCE = 10800.0 / PI \* acos(sin(lat1) \* sin(lat2)  
> +  
> cos(lat1) \* \$  
>                     cos(lat2) \* cos(d\_long))  
>     ENDFOR ; K  
> ENDFOR ; J  
> This is not working the way I would like. Any suggestions on this  
> would be greatly appreciated.

I often have to match up two star fields, which is pretty much the same thing. You can download the routine I use here:

[astro.ufl.edu/~cmancone/pros/qfind.pro](http://astro.ufl.edu/~cmancone/pros/qfind.pro)

Here's the source. It basically just uses histogram to bin everything and then searches one bin left and right:

```

function qfind,x1,y1,x2,y2,posshift=posshift

if n_elements(posshift) eq 0 then posshift = 1

n1 = n_elements(x1)
n2 = n_elements(x2)

; this is where I'll store the result
res = lonarr(2,n1)

; this mask list will tell us if an entry is from list one or list two
allinds = lindgen(n2)

; the histogram will tell us how many stars left and right we have to
check
hist = histogram(x2,binsize=posshift,omin=minx,reverse_indices=ri)

; calculate which bin each x went into
bins = floor((x1-minx)/posshift)>0
nbins=n_elements(hist)

f = 0L
for i=0L,n1-1 do begin
; figure out which bin this star is in
bin = bins[i]

; adjust the indexes accordingly
inds = ri[ri[(bin-1)>0]:ri[(bin+2)<nbins]]-1]

; calculate the distance from this star to its neighbors
dist = sqrt( (x2[inds]-x1[i])^2 + (y2[inds]-y1[i])^2 )

; get the closest star within posshift that is from the second list
mindist = min( dist, wm )

; no stars found
if mindist gt posshift then continue

; record result
res[* ,f] = [i,inds[wm]]
++f
endfor

if f eq 0 then return,-1

; get rid of any blank entries
res = res[* ,0:f-1]

```

return,res

end

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [Conor](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 18:42:57 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Aug 26, 2:41 pm, Conor <cmanc...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> On Aug 26, 11:47 am, wilsona <awils...@bigred.unl.edu> wrote:  
>  
>  
>  
>> I have 2 seperate arrays of Latittudes and Longitudes.  
>> CS\_LATLON(0,4607) is one latitude array and dlat(192,139) is the  
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>  
>> FOR J = 0, NUM\_PNTS DO BEGIN  
>> CLOSE\_LATS = SEARCH2D(dlat, 0, 0, CS\_LATLON(0,J),  
>> CS\_LATLON(0,J), INCREASE=0.5, \$  
>> DECREASE=0.5)  
>> lat1 = CS\_LATLON(0,J) \* PI / 180.0  
>> FOR K = 0, CLOSE\_LATS DO BEGIN  
>> lat2 = dlat(K) \* PI / 180.0  
>> d\_long = CS\_LATLON(1,J) - dlon(K) \* PI / 180.0  
>> DISTANCE = 10800.0 / PI \* acos(sin(lat1) \* sin(lat2)  
>> +  
>> cos(lat1) \* \$  
>> cos(lat2) \* cos(d\_long))  
>> ENDFOR ; K  
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```

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>
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> and then searches one bin left and right:
>
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>
> if n_elements(posshift) eq 0 then posshift = 1
>
> n1 = n_elements(x1)
> n2 = n_elements(x2)
>
> ; this is where I'll store the result
> res = lonarr(2,n1)
>
> ; this mask list will tell us if an entry is from list one or list two
> allinds = lindgen(n2)
>
> ; the histogram will tell us how many stars left and right we have to
> check
> hist = histogram(x2,binsize=posshift,omin=minx,reverse_indices=ri)
>
> ; calculate which bin each x went into
> bins = floor((x1-minx)/posshift)>0
> nbins=n_elements(hist)
>
> f = 0L
> for i=0L,n1-1 do begin
>     ; figure out which bin this star is in
>     bin = bins[i]
>
>     ; adjust the indexes accordingly
>     inds = ri[ri[(bin-1)>0]:ri[(bin+2)<nbins]-1]
>
>     ; calculate the distance from this star to its neighbors
>     dist = sqrt( (x2[inds]-x1[i])^2 + (y2[inds]-y1[i])^2 )
>
>     ; get the closest star within posshift that is from the second list
>     mindist = min( dist, wm )
>
>     ; no stars found
>     if mindist gt posshift then continue
>
>     ; record result
>     res[* ,f] = [i,inds[wm]]
>     ++f
> endfor
>

```

```
> if f eq 0 then return,-1
>
> ; get rid of any blank entries
> res = res[*,:f-1]
>
> return,res
>
> end
```

I asked this same question before. You might find the discussion useful.

[http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse\\_thread/thread/629cbb2a852c5371/b568d74f6d539b79?hl=en&lnk=gst&q=That+works+well+enough%2C+but+is+certainly+not+optimal.+It+uses+the#b568d74f6d539b79](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/629cbb2a852c5371/b568d74f6d539b79?hl=en&lnk=gst&q=That+works+well+enough%2C+but+is+certainly+not+optimal.+It+uses+the#b568d74f6d539b79)

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Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [wilsona](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 19:15:19 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Thanks for the responses! Very appreciated

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Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [Brian Larsen](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 22:46:12 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Paolo,

thanks you were spot on. That bought me another x10 speed improvement in that routine.

Thanks,

Brian

-----  
Brian Larsen  
Boston University  
Center for Space Physics  
<http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL>

---

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays

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Posted by [Gaurav](#) on Wed, 27 Aug 2008 05:52:35 GMT

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Forgive my trespass but why is nobody suggesting the use of the DISTANCE\_MEASURE or MAP\_2POINTS functions of IDL? Or is the problem only with the length of the loop?

Or did I not get the problem right?

Gaurav

---

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Wed, 27 Aug 2008 12:49:47 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Aug 26, 11:47 am, wilsona <awils...@bigred.unl.edu> wrote:

```
> I have 2 separate arrays of Latitudes and Longitudes.
> CS_LATLON(0,4607) is one latitude array and dlat(192,139) is the
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> too many for my liking. I now am trying search2d
> NUM_PNTS = N_ELEMENTS(CS_LATLON(0, *)) - 1
>
> FOR J = 0, NUM_PNTS DO BEGIN
>   CLOSE_LATS = SEARCH2D(dlat, 0, 0, CS_LATLON(0,J),
> CS_LATLON(0,J), INCREASE=0.5, $
>   DECREASE=0.5)
>   lat1 = CS_LATLON(0,J) * PI / 180.0
>   FOR K = 0, CLOSE_LATS DO BEGIN
>     lat2 = dlat(K) * PI / 180.0
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>     DISTANCE = 10800.0 / PI * acos(sin(lat1) * sin(lat2)
> +
> cos(lat1) * $
>           cos(lat2) * cos(d_long))
>   ENDFOR ; K
> ENDFOR ; J
> This is not working the way I would like. Any suggestions on this
> would be greatly appreciated.
```

You might find WITHINSPHRAD in JBIU useful:

<http://astroconst.org/jbiu/jbiu-doc/astro/withinsphrad.html>

-Jeremy.

---

---

Subject: Re: Matching Lats and Lons from two arrays  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 05 Sep 2008 22:53:53 GMT  
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I should point out that the MATCH\_2D routine mentioned in the above thread and at:

[http://www.dfanning.com/code\\_tips/matchlists.html](http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/matchlists.html)

assumes euclidean distance measures apply, which of course is *\*not\** strictly correct on a sphere. For points of latitude and longitude (or ra/dec), this will work for small patches of earth (or sky), but if you are near either pole, or cover appreciable areas, the 2D distance measure will falter.

You can "fake" a "pretty good" euclidean distance measure by pre-multiplying all longitudes by the cos of latitude. This works if the latitude range is not overly large, and if you don't cross any poles. Do do this correctly would require replacing the  $d = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2}$  with:

$$d = 2 \operatorname{asin}(\sqrt{\sin(d\text{dec}/2)^2 + \cos(\text{dec}1)\cos(\text{dec}2)\sin(d\text{ra}/2)^2})$$

which is obviously much costlier to evaluate. More importantly, you'll need to think a bit about whether the stock "platte carre" projection (i.e. (ra, dec) -> (x,y)) is wasteful or not for your distribution of points on the sphere, or adversely affects your matching radius criterion. Adopting another projection prior to binning and running the histogram might offer gains in efficiency and more "uniform" distance performance (the issue being that square bins in a projected sphere do not have constant area). It should be straightforward to "wrap-around" the poles.

JD

---