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Subject: Re: Find shift between 2 star lists

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 2010 22:32:53 GMT

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Noah Johnson writes:

> I am new to IDL and I have the following task to complete and I cannot  
> find an acceptable way to do it.  
>  
> I have 2 star lists of approximately the same field of stars. One list  
> has about 100 stars and their locations (RA and DECLINATION) and the  
> other list has about 10,000 stars and their location. The difference  
> is that the second list is from observations that are much deeper than  
> the first list. Both lists have different kind of information and the  
> only common is the RA and DEC. I am trying to match the stars of the  
> first list to the stars of the second list. I used match\_2d but the  
> problem is that some of the matches might not be correct. The reason  
> is that the closest star might not be the same star because the second  
> list is a much deeper observation so many stars are very close to each  
> other. I was thinking that I should first find the shift between the 2  
> lists and but I do not know if there is a way to do that or a program  
> that can find the shift between 2 star lists of the same region.  
>  
> I would appreciate any help on this matter.

Have you read this article:

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

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Find shift between 2 star lists

Posted by [Noah Johnson](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 2010 22:49:42 GMT

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Dear David,

thank you for the response.

I did read this article but it might not solve my problem.

The problem is that one of the two fields is much more crowded than the other.

For example if one of the two images is shifted 50-100 pixels when trying to find the closest star

I might get a different star because there are so many stars that are really close to each other.

That is why I was thinking that I should first try to find the shift between the images and then use a routine to find the closest match star.

Is there such a routine?

Thank you,

Noah

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Subject: Re: Find shift between 2 star lists

Posted by [Gray](#) on Mon, 06 Dec 2010 23:24:46 GMT

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On Dec 6, 5:49 pm, Noah Johnson <noah.johnso...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear David,  
>  
> thank you for the response.  
> I did read this article but it might not solve my problem.  
> The problem is that one of the two fields is much more crowded than  
> the other.  
> For example if one of the two images is shifted 50-100 pixels when  
> trying to find the closest star  
> I might get a different star because there are so many stars that are  
> really close to each other.  
> That is why I was thinking that I should first try to find  
> the shift between the images and then use a routine to find the  
> closest match star.  
> Is there such a routine?  
>  
> Thank you,  
>  
> Noah

Hi,

Take a look at this thread and see if it's kind of what you want:

[http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse\\_thread/thread/f04e4da4993495f7/2c28002e6560d11d?q=#2c28002e6560d11d](http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/f04e4da4993495f7/2c28002e6560d11d?q=#2c28002e6560d11d)

I have a (not at all documented) program that I wrote based on Jeremy's solution. Basically, you pass it your two XY coordinate

lists and a binsize, and it outputs the optimal offset in x and y. The binsize you choose depends on the size of your image (the x and y ranges); I found that a binsize of 1.5 to 2 pixels (my matching radius to match\_2d was 1 pixel) worked fine and wasn't overly time-intensive. Calling sequence:

```
offsets = xy_offset(x1,y1,x2,y2,bin)
matches = match_2d(x1-offsets[0],y1-offsets[1],x2,y2,etc.)
```

```
FUNCTION xy_offset, x1, y1, x2, y2, bin
  on_error, 0
  xr = [min([x1,x2],max=tmp),tmp]+bin*[-1.,1.]
  yr = [min([y1,y2],max=tmp),tmp]+bin*[-1.,1.]
  hist1 = hist_2d(x1,y1,min1=xr[0],max1=xr[1],bin1=bin,$
    min2=yr[0],max2=yr[1],bin2=bin)
  hist2 = hist_2d(x2,y2,min1=xr[0],max1=xr[1],bin1=bin,$
    min2=yr[0],max2=yr[1],bin2=bin)
  hsz = size(hist1,/dimen)
  xcor=fft(/inverse,fft(hist1)*fft(hist2,/inverse))
  mxc = max(abs(xcor),lmxc)
  mxind = array_indices(hsz,lmxc,/dim)
  axcor = [[xcor,xcor,xcor],[xcor,xcor,xcor],[xcor,xcor,xcor]]
  bx = 7 & hbx = bx/2
  mxp = mxind + hsz
  aa = axcor[mxp[0]-hbx:mxp[0]+hbx,mxp[1]-hbx:mxp[1]+hbx]
  params = [0.,max(aa),1.,1.,hbx,hbx,0.]
  yfit=gauss2dfit(aa,params)
  refined = params[4:5]-hbx+mxind
  refined -= hsz * (refined gt hsz/2)
  offs = refined * bin
  ;check for reasonableness, or recurse with coarser binsize
  if (max(x1 - offs[0]) lt xr[0] or min(x1 - offs[0]) gt xr[1] or $
    max(y1 - offs[1]) lt yr[0] or min(y1 - offs[1]) gt yr[1]) then $
    return, xy_offset(x1,y1,x2,y2,bin*1.25)
  return, offs
end
```

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