
Subject: Spatial and temporal image correlation
Posted by [Cornelio Zolin](#) on Thu, 15 Aug 2013 16:19:01 GMT
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Dear all,
Hi all,
I have just started using IDL and I'm having hard times even with simple tasks. I'm trying to do the following task:

I have 12 folders (2001, 20022012) and in each folder I have 35 files .dat of anomalies (7 months NDVI, 7 months Surface temperature and so on) and I would like to do a correlation (pixel by pixel) for each index in each month for each year.

After that I want to make one plot per year: each index in a different column and each row representing a different month.

I started writing the code bellow, but I'm confused now. I think the next step would be REFORM the images, so for each image I will have a vector that I could use to do the correlation. Is there anyone that could help me on that?

Thanks a lot,

```
PRO ImgCorr,  
  CD, 'C:\Anomalies\year'  
  theseFiles = FindFile('*.dat', Count=numFiles)  
  Print, 'Number of files found: ', numFiles  
  FOR j=0,numFiles-1 DO BEGIN  
    OpenR, lun, theseFiles(j), /Get_Lun  
    File = fltarr(620, 500)  
    ReadU, lun, File  
    JustNumbers= where(File eq -9999, count)  
    File[JustNumbers]=!VALUES.F_NAN  
    *  
    *  
    *  
    *  
    Free_Lun, lun  
  ENDFOR  
END
```

Subject: Re: Spatial and temporal image correlation
Posted by [Andy Sayer](#) on Thu, 15 Aug 2013 17:48:51 GMT
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Looks like a good start!

I use `file_search` instead of `findfile` and believe `file_search` is considered preferable for some reason, although forget what it actually is. Note you don't need the `CD` command and could do e.g. `thesefiles=file_search('C:\anomalies\year*.dat',count=numfiles)` instead.

Are you trying to do a spatial correlation or a temporal correlation? If spatial (e.g. correlate NDVI and SST anomalies for June 2003) then you can pass the 2D array containing your data to `correlate()`, you don't need to reform() it to a 1D array first.

You will also want to modify your loop a bit. As written, the variable 'file' will be redefined and overwritten each time and the contents lost. So for example you might want to define `ndvi=fltarr(nyears,nmonths,620,500)` and then loop over years and months to populate the appropriate part of the array (and ditto for SST and your other variables). Also, (I think) you'll want to `close,lun` before `free_lun,lun`.

Hope this helps,

Andy

On Thursday, August 15, 2013 12:19:01 PM UTC-4, Cornelio Zolin wrote:

```
> Dear all,
>
> Hi all,
>
> I have just started using IDL and I'm having hard times even with simple tasks. I'm
trying to do the following task:
>
>
>
> I have 12 folders (2001, 2002 ....2012) and in each folder I have 35 files .dat of anomalies (7
months NDVI, 7 months Surface temperature and so on) and I would like to do a correlation (pixel
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>
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representing a different month.
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>
> Thanks a lot,
>
```

```
>
>
>
>
> PRO ImgCorr,
>
>   CD, 'C:\Anomalies\year'
>
>   theseFiles = FindFile('*.dat', Count=numFiles)
>
>   Print, 'Number of files found: ', numFiles
>
>   FOR j=0,numFiles-1 DO BEGIN
>
>     OpenR, lun, theseFiles(j), /Get_Lun
>
>     File = fltarr(620, 500)
>
>     ReadU, lun, File
>
>     JustNumbers= where(File eq -9999, count)
>
>     File[JustNumbers]=!VALUES.F_NAN
>
>     *
>
>     *
>
>     *
>
>     *
>
>     Free_Lun, lun
>
>   ENDFOR
>
> END
```

Subject: Re: Spatial and temporal image correlation
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 15 Aug 2013 17:53:25 GMT
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AMS writes:

```
> I use file_search instead of findfile and believe file_search is considered preferable for some
reason, although forget what it actually is
```

Find_File doesn't work reliably. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Spatial and temporal image correlation
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 15 Aug 2013 17:54:16 GMT
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AMS writes:

> Also, (I think) you'll want to close,lun before free_lun,lun .

No need. Free_LUN will do both.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Subject: Re: Spatial and temporal image correlation
Posted by [Cornelio Zolin](#) on Thu, 15 Aug 2013 18:16:28 GMT
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On Thursday, August 15, 2013 12:19:01 PM UTC-4, Cornelio Zolin wrote:

> Dear all,

>

> Hi all,

>

> I have just started using IDL and I'm having hard times even with simple tasks. I'm trying to do the following task:

>

>

>

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> After that I want to make one plot per year: each index in a different column and each row representing a different month.

>

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> I started writing the code bellow, but I'm confused now. I think the next step would be REFORM the images, so for each image I will have a vector that I could use to do the correlation.

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> Is there anyone that could help me on that?

>

>

>

> Thanks a lot,

>

>

>

>

>

> PRO ImgCorr,

>

> CD, 'C:\Anomalies\year'

>

> theseFiles = FindFile('*.dat', Count=numFiles)

>

> Print, 'Number of files found: ', numFiles

>

> FOR j=0,numFiles-1 DO BEGIN

>

> OpenR, lun, theseFiles(j), /Get_Lun

>

> File = fltarr(620, 500)

>

> ReadU, lun, File

>

> JustNumbers= where(File eq -9999, count)

>

> File[JustNumbers]=!VALUES.F_NAN

```
>
>   *
>
>   *
>
>   *
>
>   *
>
>   Free_Lun, lun
>
>   ENDFOR
>
>   END
```

Thank you folks,
I'll try to move forward using your suggestions.

Zolin

Subject: Re: Spatial and temporal image correlation
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 15 Aug 2013 18:21:57 GMT
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Cornelio Zolin writes:

```
> I'll try to move forward using your suggestions.
```

It is hard to know exactly what you are trying to do, but it seems similar to Principle Component Analysis to me. You might be interested in this article:

http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/eof_analysis.html

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Spatial and temporal image correlation

Besides the aforementioned use of `file_search` and not using `CD`, let me add the following about your loop:

- 1) Generally speaking, I like to open the file I need, read it in, and free the lun for file immediately before doing any processing. This especially goes while you are debugging your code. The reason is so you don't have any "hanging" luns that aren't freed properly.
- 2) In addition, you are making file a float array for the data in the file. Is that the case, or is it integers? If it *is* floats, it's generally not a good idea to check for equality between floats (see http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/comparearray.html for a discussion). I'll assume below -9999 is your missing value, and all good data is definitely greater than -9990.0. This may not really affect you here, but at some point checking if two floats are equal will get you in trouble.
- 3) You should use square brackets to access array elements (I see you do that once, so it may be a typo in the `OPENR` call). Although not strictly required, this will help you down the line and help you differentiate between arrays and functions. The use of the compiler option `idl2` (see http://www.exelisvis.com/docs/COMPILE_OPT.html) is highly recommended by several notable IDL programmers.
- 4) Be sure to check the `count` keyword before assigned the null values to `NaN`. In IDL 7 and below, if there are no null values, the code as you've written it will throw an error. In IDL 8, if there are no null values, your code will assign the last element to `NaN`.

Since you're starting out in IDL, I recommend you check out this page: http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/mostcommon.html

So, I would modify the loop slightly to this:

```
FOR j=0,numFiles-1 DO BEGIN
  OpenR, lun, theseFiles[j], /Get_Lun
  File = fltarr(620, 500)
  ReadU, lun, File
  Free_Lun, lun
  JustNumbers= where(File lt -9990.0, count)
  IF count NE 0 THEN File[JustNumbers]=!VALUES.F_NAN
  *
  * ;do more processing
  *
  *
ENDFOR
```

Good luck!

Subject: Re: Spatial and temporal image correlation
Posted by [Cornelio Zolin](#) on Fri, 16 Aug 2013 13:47:17 GMT
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On Thursday, August 15, 2013 3:44:36 PM UTC-4, Phillip Bitzer wrote:

> Besides the aforementioned use of file_search and not using CD, let me add the following about your loop:

>
>
>
> 1) Generally speaking, I like to open the file I need, read it in, and free the lun for file immediately before doing any processing. This especially goes while you are debugging your code. The reason is so you don't have any "hanging" luns that aren't freed properly.

>
>
>
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>
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>
>
>
> Since you're starting out in IDL, I recommend you check out this page:http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/mostcommon.html

>
>
>
> So, I would modify the loop slightly to this:

>
>
>
> FOR j=0,numFiles-1 DO BEGIN
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```
> OpenR, lun, theseFiles[jj], /Get_Lun
>
> File = fltarr(620, 500)
>
> ReadU, lun, File
>
> Free_Lun, lun
>
> JustNumbers= where(File lt -9990.0, count)
>
> IF count NE 0 THEN File[JustNumbers]=!VALUES.F_NAN
>
> *
>
> * ;do more processing
>
> *
>
> *
>
>
>
> ENDFOR
>
>
>
> Good luck!
```

Thanks a lot for the tips.
