
Subject: Using histogram (or cghistogram) to get top X percent of distribution?

Posted by [rjp23](#) on Mon, 25 Jan 2016 21:48:20 GMT

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I'm not sure if this is just me not quite understanding how histogram works.

I have a large array containing data. I want to identify the array indices of the top 10% (for example) of the data. I thought I should be able to use histogram to do this quickly but can't figure out how.

Any help much appreciated as always :-)

Subject: Re: Using histogram (or cghistogram) to get top X percent of distribution?

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Tue, 26 Jan 2016 14:37:20 GMT

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On Monday, January 25, 2016 at 9:48:23 PM UTC, [rj...@le.ac.uk](#) wrote:

> I'm not sure if this is just me not quite understanding how histogram works.

>

> I have a large array containing data. I want to identify the array indices of the top 10% (for example) of the data. I thought I should be able to use histogram to do this quickly but can't figure out how.

>

> Any help much appreciated as always :-)

Hi,

I normally do something very similar to scale images: I clip the histogram around a few percent from the lowest and highest side. This can be a good reference to find those pixels...

Here is the histogram to perform the histogram percentage clipping:

<http://idl.marchetto.de/percentage-of-histogram/>

It's not very clean, but works fine for me.

Cheers,

Helder

PS: previously I searched the cumulative histogram until I hit the percentage I wanted, but using `value_locate` is more efficient.

Subject: Re: Using histogram (or cghistogram) to get top X percent of distribution?

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Tue, 26 Jan 2016 15:38:12 GMT

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On Monday, January 25, 2016 at 2:48:23 PM UTC-7, [rj...@le.ac.uk](#) wrote:

> I'm not sure if this is just me not quite understanding how histogram works.

>
> I have a large array containing data. I want to identify the array indices of the top 10% (for example) of the data. I thought I should be able to use histogram to do this quickly but can't figure out how.
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> Any help much appreciated as always :-)

If all you need are the indices of the top 10% of the data, you can also just do

```
IDL> s = sort(data)
IDL> idx = s[round(0.9*n_elements(s)):]
```

Subject: Re: Using histogram (or cghistogram) to get top X percent of distribution?
Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Tue, 26 Jan 2016 15:46:28 GMT
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On Monday, January 25, 2016 at 2:48:23 PM UTC-7, [rj...@le.ac.uk](#) wrote:
> I'm not sure if this is just me not quite understanding how histogram works.
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> I have a large array containing data. I want to identify the array indices of the top 10% (for example) of the data. I thought I should be able to use histogram to do this quickly but can't figure out how.
>
> Any help much appreciated as always :-)

If all you need are the indices of the top 10% of the data, you can also just do

```
IDL> s = sort(data)
IDL> idx = s[round(0.9*n_elements(s))+1:]
```

Subject: Re: Using histogram (or cghistogram) to get top X percent of distribution?
Posted by [penteado](#) on Wed, 27 Jan 2016 14:26:08 GMT
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I have a function for that:

http://www.ppenteado.net/idl/pp_lib/doc/pp_quartile.html

On Monday, January 25, 2016 at 1:48:23 PM UTC-8, [rj...@le.ac.uk](#) wrote:
> I'm not sure if this is just me not quite understanding how histogram works.
>
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Subject: Re: Using histogram (or cghistogram) to get top X percent of distribution?

Posted by [pfp](#) on Wed, 27 Jan 2016 14:51:08 GMT

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On Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 7:26:12 AM UTC-7, Paulo Penteado wrote:

> I have a function for that:

>

> http://www.ppenteado.net/idl/pp_lib/doc/pp_quartile.html

Ex:

```
IDL> a=reverse(dindgen(20))
```

```
IDL> print,pp_quartile(a,0.9d0,index=ind,sort=s)
```

```
18.000000
```

```
IDL> print,a[s[ind:-1]]
```

```
18.000000    19.000000
```
