
Subject: joining images into a colored one

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Thu, 15 Jun 2017 11:18:47 GMT

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Hi,

I couldn't find anything on this in previous posts, but I think (hope) that there's an easy solution to it.

I want to create a colored image out of a subset of images that are "labelled regions", that is:

image[0] has patches with values 1, zero otherwise.

image[1] has patches with values 2, zero otherwise.

...and so on

Typically I'm dealing with n images, where $n < 10$. Fortunately, all images have the same dimensions.

I want to join the images so that the color of each [i,j] pixel is dependent on which and how many images (from the subset) had this value different from zero.

Example:

[i0,j0] is only different from zero in image[0], so it will be, e.g., red.

[i1,j1] is only different from zero in image[1], so it will be, e.g., blue.

[i1,j1] is different from zero only in image[0] and image[1], so it will be, red+blue=magenta.

I know how to handle the pixels, any clue how to programmatically handle the colors?

[I was thinking of using something like number conversion from basis-to-basis. That is if I have n images, I will assign to each pixel the following value:

$[i,j] = \text{image_0}[i,j] \cdot n^0 + \text{image_1}[i,j] \cdot n^1 + \text{image_2}[i,j] \cdot n^2 + \dots$ and then use a long number for indexing colors (24-bit)... but I think/hope that there is a nicer/cleaner way of doing this]

Thanks,
Helder

Subject: Re: joining images into a colored one

Posted by [markb77](#) on Thu, 15 Jun 2017 11:55:46 GMT

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Not sure this is exactly what you're asking for, but it is along the same lines. I typically deal with an arbitrary number of greyscale images which I want to combine into a multicolor image. What I do is render each greyscale image as an RGB image with a certain colormap. Once you have a set of RGB images, they can simply be added together to produce the final image.

Something like the code below. Note that each greyscale image is contained in an IDLgrImage object which have all been added to the same IDLgrView, and each has its own IDLgrPalette which sets the color of each channel. All of the images are hidden, and what I do is unhide them one at a time, saving an RGB image each time. At the end the RGB images are added up to form the final image.

=====

```

output_image = intarr(3,xpix,ypix)

for i = 0, number_of_input_images-1 do begin

    image_object_array[i] -> SetProperty, HIDE=0
    image_buffer_object -> Draw, view_object
    image_buffer_object -> GetProperty, image_data = rgb_image
    image_object_array[i] -> SetProperty, HIDE=1

    output_image = ( temporary(output_image) + rgb_image ) < 255

endfor

output_image = byte(temporary(output_image))
output_image = reform(output_image, 3, xpix, ypix, /overwrite)

return, output_image

```

=====

Subject: Re: joining images into a colored one

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Fri, 16 Jun 2017 10:18:06 GMT

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On Friday, June 16, 2017 at 11:59:15 AM UTC+2, Nikola Vitas wrote:

> On Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 12:18:49 PM UTC+1, Helder wrote:

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n images, I will assign to each pixel the following value:

>> [i,j] = image_0[i,j]*n^0 + image_1[i,j]*n^1 + image_2[i,j]*n^2 +... and then use a long number for indexing colors (24-bit)... but I think/hope that there is a nicer/cleaner way of doing this]

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>> Thanks,

>> Helder

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> If I understand your problem, the first part is how to combine your images into one where the value of each pixel shows how many of the images have non-zero value at that location.

Something like

>

> Images:

>

> 1 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 3 1 1 1

> 0 1 0 0 2 0 0 3 0 - combined -> 0 3 0

> 0 1 0 0 0 2 3 0 0 1 1 1

>

> If that's what you want to do then the quickest way is to sum up the binary maps (assuming that images stored in one 3D variable images = FLOAT(nx, ny, nimages)

>

> combined = INTARR(nx, ny)

> FOR i = 0, nimages-1 DO combined += images[*, *, i] EQ i

>

> (or i+1 or whatever else you have as indicator).

>

> Once you create the combined image, you want to display it with only nimages colors. For that you need to create a new color scale. Every color scale has 3 arrays (representing R, G and B channels) with 256 values each. For you only the first nimages values of each array will matter. The details will depend on which routine you use for displaying the data.

>

> Regarding the choice of colors, check:

> <http://colorbrewer2.org/>

> http://www.idlcoyote.com/ng_tips/brewer.html

Hi,

sorry for not being able to explain better...

Your suggested solution will not distinguish, for example, the following case:

image Nr --> 1 2 3 4

image-----> 001 020 030 004

combine-----> 022

I want to be able to distinguish between "1+4" and "2+3"

I'm using Superchromix's solution for the moment. After adapting and fighting a bit, I got that to work.

Thanks anyway!

Subject: Re: joining images into a colored one

Posted by [Guilherme Gualda](#) on Mon, 19 Jun 2017 03:50:30 GMT

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On Friday, June 16, 2017 at 7:18:08 AM UTC-3, Helder wrote:

> On Friday, June 16, 2017 at 11:59:15 AM UTC+2, Nikola Vitas wrote:

>> On Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 12:18:49 PM UTC+1, Helder wrote:

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```
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```

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> I'm using Superchromix's solution for the moment. After adapting and fighting a bit, I got that to
work.
>
> Thanks anyway!
> Helder
```

Hi Helder,

If you need to distinguish between 1+4 and 2+3, you could use the sum of the powers of 2. In that case:

```
1+4 --> 2^1 + 2^4 = 18
2+3 --> 2^2 + 2^3 = 12
```

The only problem is that you end up with lots of gaps in your sequence of numbers (values are bound by $2^{(n+1)!}$), and you will probably want to renumber the summed image to remove the gaps.

You can remove the gaps using HISTOGRAM. You can do it the elegant way using reverse indices (see http://www.idlcoyote.com/tips/histogram_tutorial.html), or you can use a for loop (oh no!!) through the histogram values and replace the values in your summed image.

For the coloring, why don't you use a color table to display your summer image, rather than try to come up with RGB colors directly? If you only have a small number of values (say, order 20?), you may want spread the values by some common factor before applying the color table. If you need the color image in the end, you can always use TVRD to retrieve it.

Maybe this helps? I can be more specific if needed. But you posed the problem conceptually, so I am guessing you can handle the actual coding...

Best,

Guil
