
Subject: Gradient Function

Posted by [jyoung](#) on Mon, 20 May 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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I am new to IDL and I am looking for a function that might speed up a procedure I am working on. I have a two dimensional array that has some data points mostly low values, but in places it jumps rather quickly to high values. I want to put zeros at the constant places and ones at the quick changes.

It was suggested to me that I should try some kind of gradient function. I can probably create my own for IDL, but I wanted to know if there was any kind of function that might help in my efforts. I think the DERIV function might help, but maybe there is a more powerful function to examine these changes within the array.

Lastly what I have created causes a shift of the data by 1 element in the new array...any suggestions on how to fix this?

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Subject: Re: Gradient Function

Posted by [ralfu](#) on Tue, 21 May 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <19960520.114958.988283.NETNEWS@WVNM.WVNET.EDU>, jyoung@olie.wvitcoe.wvnet.edu (Jason Young) writes:

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> up a procedure I am working on. I have a two dimensional array that has
> some data points mostly low values, but in places it jumps rather quickly
> to high values. I want to put zeros at the constant places and ones at
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> DERIV function might help, but maybe there is a more powerful function to
> examine these changes within the array.

I looked very low values in a 2D array and did this in the following way: first smoothing the array with SMOOTH, subtracting this from the real data, then looking in the remaining array for sharp features with the edge detecting SOBEL filter. Then I go with a loop through

the resulting index array and locate the rectangular subarrays,
which contain exactly one of the sharp minima I look for, this I
get with MIN and WHERE.
Perhaps not the most elegant method, but it works for me.

Regards, Ralf

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