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Subject: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [Wilpert\\_Martin](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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Hi everybody,

we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,  
i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.

Has anybody a idl-pvwave procedure to do this task?

Thank you in advance  
Martin Wilpert

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Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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Wilpert\_Martin wrote:

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> Has anybody a idl-pvwave procedure to do this task?  
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> Thank you in advance  
> Martin Wilpert

I would think that the shift function (used twice)  
could be used to do this.

--  
Andrew F. Loughe |  
afl@cdc.noaa.gov  
University of Colorado, CIRES Box 449 |  
http://cdc.noaa.gov/~afl  
Boulder, CO 80309-0449 | phn:(303)492-0707  
fax:(303)497-7013

-----  
"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us  
with  
sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use."  
-Galileo

---

---

Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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Andy Loughe <afl@cdc.noaa.gov> writes in response to Wilpert Martin:

>> we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,  
>> i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.

> I would think that the shift function (used twice)  
> could be used to do this.

Andy, do you think you could you give those of us who are  
wondering about this just a small example of what you  
mean? Thanks!

David

-----  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521  
Phone: 970-221-0438 Fax: 970-221-4762  
E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>  
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Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [stockwell](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <yckohdg23jj.fsf@hmi.de> Wilpert\_Martin <wilpert-m@hmi.de> writes:

> From: Wilpert\_Martin <wilpert-m@hmi.de>  
> Subject: Gradient of two dimensional field  
> Date: 19 Feb 1997 16:56:00 +0100

> Hi everybody,  
> we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,  
> i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.  
> Has anybody a idl-pvwave procedure to do this task?  
> Thank you in advance  
> Martin Wilpert

The gradient is just  $(d/dx, d/dy)f(x,y)$   
so you can take the deriv() function on the rows and then the columns  
"The DERIV function performs numerical differentiation using 3-point,

Lagrangian interpolation and returns the derivative."

so do this:

```
.....  
;; array holds your potential function of size (len,len)  
dx = fltarr(len,len)  
dy = fltarr(len,len)  
; my apologies for the for loop  
for i = 0,len-1 do  dx(*,i) = deriv(array(0:len-1,i))  
for i = 0,len-1 do  dy(i,*) = deriv(phase(i,0:len-1))  
endfor  
vel,dx,dy  
end  
.....
```

dx holds the x component of the gradient  
dy holds the y component of the gradient

cheers,  
bob

```
=====
```

R. G. Stockwell	Space and Atmospheric Research Group
Phone: 519-679-2111 X6411	University of Western Ontario
Fax: 519-661-3129	London, Ontario, Canada

```
.....  
email: stockwell@uwo.ca  
WWW:  http://www.sar.physics.uwo.ca/~stockwell/time_series.html  
" If I have not seen as far as other men, it's  
because giants were standing on my shoulders"  
=====
```

---

Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning wrote:

```
>  
> Andy Loughe <afl@cdc.noaa.gov> writes in response to Wilpert Martin:  
>  
>>> we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,  
>>> i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.  
>  
>> I would think that the shift function (used twice)  
>> could be used to do this.
```

```
>
> Andy, do you think you could give those of us who are
> wondering about this just a small example of what you
> mean? Thanks!
>
> David
```

A simple solution was posted already, but I think it accomplished the task via one-sided differences. To use two-sided differences one may wish to use the shift function twice for each vector component, then use shift again to handle the pesky boundaries (assuming non-cyclic boundary values), then compute the "magnitude" of the gradient, and return this value.

Here is a solution that I have not had time to debug.  
If improvements need to be made, please let me know...

```
; Compute the vector magnitude of the gradient.
;
; Andrew F. Lough (afl@cdc.noaa.gov)
;

function grad, data, x, y

sz = size(data) & im = sz(1) & jm = sz(2)

if ( N_params() eq 0 ) then message, ' grad_data = grad(data, x, y)'
if ( sz(0) ne 2 ) then message, 'Input data must be 2-D'
if ( N_elements(x) eq 0 ) then x = indgen(im) + 1
if ( N_elements(y) eq 0 ) then y = jm - indgen(jm)

; Begin here

x2 = x # replicate(1, jm)
y2 = replicate(1, jm) # y

; i-component
if (x(1) gt x(0)) then dx = shift(x2, -1, 0) - shift(x2, 1, 0)
if (x(1) lt x(0)) then dx = shift(x2, 1, 0) - shift(x2, -1, 0)
grad_x = ( shift(data, -1, 0) - shift(data, 1, 0) ) / dx

; j-component
if (y(1) lt y(0)) then dy = shift(y2, 0, 1) - shift(y2, 0, -1)
if (y(1) gt y(0)) then dy = shift(y2, 0, -1) - shift(y2, 0, 1)
grad_y = ( shift(data, 0, 1) - shift(data, 0, -1) ) / dy
```

; But for non-cyclic boundary values we still have a problem...

; Take care of the outer rows and columns

```
grad_y(*,jm-1) = ( data(*,jm-1) - data(*,jm-2) ) / $
```

```
    ( y2(*,jm-1) - y2(*,jm-2) )
```

```
grad_y(*,0)   = ( data(*,1) - data(*,0) ) / ( y2(*,1) - y2(*,0) )
```

```
grad_x(im-1,*) = ( data(im-1,*) - data(im-2,*) ) / $
```

```
    ( x2(im-1,*) - x2(im-2,*) )
```

```
grad_x(0,*)   = ( data(1,*) - data(0,*) ) / ( x2(1,*) - x2(0,*) )
```

```
grad = sqrt(grad_x^2 + grad_y^2)
```

```
return, grad
```

```
end
```

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Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field

Posted by [bowman](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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---

In article <brian.jackel.106.19DE53E0@uwo.ca>, brian.jackel@uwo.ca (Brian Jackel) wrote:

```
>>> we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,
>>> i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.
```

```
>>>
```

```
>>> Has anybody a idl-pvwave procedure to do this task?
```

```
>
```

```
>> I would think that the shift function (used twice)
```

```
>> could be used to do this.
```

```
>
```

```
> Or even just
```

```
>
```

```
> dx= a(1:*,*) - a
```

```
> dy= a(*,1:*) - a
```

```
>
```

```
> or
```

```
>
```

```
> dx= a(1:n-1,*) - a(0:n-2,*)
```

```
> dy= a(*,1:m-1) - a(*,0:m-2)
```

```
>
```

```
> if "a" has dimensions of (n,m). When doing it the first way IDL takes
```

> care of the different array sizes, with no perceptible performance hit.  
> The second way is perhaps a bit easier to read. Is this what you (the  
> original poster) were after?

You may want to use centered differences, i.e.

```
dzdx = (SHIFT(z,-1, 0) - SHIFT(z, 1, 0))/(2.0*dx)
dzdy = (SHIFT(z, 0,-1) - SHIFT(z, 0, 1))/(2.0*dy)
```

(I trust the compiler is smart enough to convert the division to multiplication.)

Don't forget to fix the edges, i.e., use uncentered differences for the normal component or whatever is appropriate for your problem.

Ken

--

Kenneth P. Bowman, Assoc. Prof.                      409-862-4060  
Department of Meteorology                            409-862-4132 fax  
Texas A&M University                                bowman@csrp.tamu.edu  
College Station, TX 77843-3150  
Satellite ozone movies on CD-ROM --> <http://www.lenticular.com/>

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Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [brian.jackel](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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In article <330B44DD.647C@cdc.noaa.gov> Andy Loughe <afl@cdc.noaa.gov> writes:  
> Wilpert\_Martin wrote:

>> we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,  
>> i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.  
>>  
>> Has anybody a idl-pvwave procedure to do this task?

> I would think that the shift function (used twice)  
> could be used to do this.

Or even just

```
dx= a(1:*,*) - a  
dy= a(*,1:*) - a
```

or

```
dx= a(1:n-1,*) - a(0:n-2,*)
dy= a(*,1:m-1) - a(*,0:m-2)
```

if "a" has dimensions of (n,m). When doing it the first way IDL takes care of the different array sizes, with no perceptible performance hit. The second way is perhaps a bit easier to read. Is this what you (the original poster) were after?

Brian Jackel

---

---

Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Wed, 19 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Andy Loughe wrote:

```
>
> Wilpert_Martin wrote:
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>> Hi everybody,
>>
>> we want to determine the electrical field from a given potential,
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>> Thank you in advance
>>      Martin Wilpert
>
> I would think that the shift function (used twice)
> could be used to do this.
>
> --
> Andrew F. Loughe          |
> afl@cdc.noaa.gov
> University of Colorado, CIRES Box 449 |
> http://cdc.noaa.gov/~afl
> Boulder, CO 80309-0449    | phn:(303)492-0707
> fax:(303)497-7013
> -----
> "I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us
> with
> sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use."
> -Galileo
or, convolve with a kernel that will give you the gradient.
(we are talking two kernels, one for each direction)
```

```
--
Mirko Vukovic, Ph.D   3075 Hansen Way M/S K-109
```

---

Subject: Re: Gradient of two dimensional field  
Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Mon, 03 Mar 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Wilpert\_Martin wrote:

>  
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>  
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> i.e. we have to calculate the gradient of a two dimensional array.  
>  
> Has anybody a idl-pvwave procedure to do this task?  
>  
> Thank you in advance  
> Martin Wilpert

The gradient of a 2-D field is a vector field, this function computes the i,j vector components of the gradient, and returns the \*magnitude\* of that vector field. It performs one-sided differences at the lateral boundaries, which is an assumption that your field does not have a cyclical boundary condition. Let me know if it works for you!

```
; Compute the magnitude of the vector gradient.  
;  
; Andrew F. Loughe (afl@cdc.noaa.gov)  
;
```

```
function grad, data, x, y
```

```
sz = size(data) & im = sz(1) & jm = sz(2)
```

```
if ( N_params() eq 0 ) then message, ' grad_data = grad(data, x, y)'  
if ( sz(0) ne 2 ) then message, 'Input data must be 2-D'  
if ( N_elements(x) eq 0 ) then x = indgen(im) + 1  
if ( N_elements(y) eq 0 ) then y = jm - indgen(jm)
```

```
; Begin here
```

```
x2 = x # replicate(1, jm)  
y2 = replicate(1,jm) # y
```

```
; i-component
```



```

if (x(1) gt x(0)) then dx = shift(x2, -1, 0) - shift(x2, 1, 0)
if (x(1) lt x(0)) then dx = shift(x2, 1, 0) - shift(x2, -1, 0)
grad_x = ( shift(data, -1, 0) - shift(data, 1, 0) ) / dx

```

```

; j-component
if (y(1) lt y(0)) then dy = shift(y2, 0, 1) - shift(y2, 0, -1)
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grad_y = ( shift(data, 0, 1) - shift(data, 0, -1) ) / dy

```

```

; But for non-cyclic boundary values we still have a problem...

```

```

; Take care of the outter rows and columns

```

```

grad_y(*,jm-1) = ( data(*,jm-1) - data(*,jm-2) ) / $
                  ( y2(*,jm-1) - y2(*,jm-2) )
grad_y(*,0)    = ( data(*,1) - data(*,0) ) / ( y2(*,1) - y2(*,0) )

```

```

grad_x(im-1,*) = ( data(im-1,*) - data(im-2,*) ) / $
                  ( x2(im-1,*) - x2(im-2,*) )
grad_x(0,*)    = ( data(1,*) - data(0,*) ) / ( x2(1,*) - x2(0,*) )

```

```

grad = sqrt(grad_x^2 + grad_y^2)

```

```

return, grad

```

```

end

```

```

--

```

```

Andrew F. Loughe          |
afl@cdc.noaa.gov          |
University of Colorado, CIRES Box 449 |
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Boulder, CO 80309-0449    | phn:(303)492-0707
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