
Subject: IDL: Center of Gravity Function

Posted by [Stefan Schoene](#) on Thu, 20 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi!

I need a function that returns the index of the center of a 2-dimensional array. But I have to consider the values of the Array. That means, the function has to return the Center of Gravity of the Array.

Does anybody know of such a function?

Stefan

Subject: Re: IDL: Center of Gravity Function

Posted by [djackson](#) on Mon, 24 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <50k9o333p2.fsf@mbcsg1.sghms.ac.uk>, Christian Soeller <csoelle@sghms.ac.uk> wrote:

> Stefan Schoene <stefan@fritz-haber-institut.mpg.de> writes:

>

>>

>> Hi!

>>

>> I need a function that returns the index of the center of a
>> 2-dimensional array. But I have to consider the values of the Array.
>> That means, the function has to return the Center of Gravity of the
>> Array.

>>

>> Does anybody know of such a function?

>>

>> Stefan

>

> I guess your talking about what is known as the centroid of an image in

> close analogy to the center of mass of a 2D mass distribution.

> I think you can get what you want with

>

> sz = size(array) ; you should probably check that you *do* have a 2D array

> xcoors = indgen(sz(1)) # replicate(1,sz(2))

> ycoors = replicate(1,sz(1)) # indgen(sz(2))

>

> xcg = total(array*xcoors)/total(array)

> ycg = total(array*ycoors)/total(array)

A fine solution, to which I might just add a memory-saver. In this case, the rows and columns can be totaled separately, giving two 1-D arrays. With a large starting array, this might be useful.

```
sz = size(array)
tot = total(array)
```

```
xcg = total(total(array,2)*indgen(sz(1)))/tot
ycg = total(total(array,1)*indgen(sz(2)))/tot
```

Hope this helps!

Cheers,
-Dick

Dick Jackson djackson@ibd.nrc.ca Institute for Biodiagnostics
Opinions are mine alone. National Research Council Canada, Winnipeg
"And I told him my dream was to live for all time
In some perfect refrain, like the man who wrote 'Danny Boy'."
- Joe Jackson, from the album `_Night_Music_`, 1994.
