
Subject: Re: point inside polygon

Posted by [manizade](#) on Wed, 01 Apr 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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>> In article C0684CDB@oma.be, Philippe Peeters <philp@oma.be> writes:

>>> Does anybody knows of an IDL function to test whether a given point is

>>> inside a polygon?

The proposed polyfill approaches are limited by the resolution of the bitmap used.

In general, you can decompose any polygon into a set of triangles (using TRIANGULATE), then determine whether the point is included in any of the triangular regions.

TRIANGULATE gives each vertex list in counterclockwise order, so a point is inside the triangle if it is to the left of each directed edge of the triangle.

Suppose you have a directed line from point L1 to point L2, where the the x coordinate of L1 is L1[0] and the y coordinate is L1[1]; L2[0], L2[1] are the (x,y) coords of L2; and px,py are the coordinates of the point in question.

Then the boolean answer to whether the point is to the left of the line is given by

$(L1(1)-L2(1))*(L1(0)-px) \leq (L1(0)-L2(0))*(L1(1)-py)$

I have not seen an approach to this problem other than what I invented (and I'm sure I am not the only one to (re)invent it). Any other solutions out there?

--

Serdar S. Manizade <serdar.manizade@gsfc.nasa.gov>

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Subject: Re: point inside polygon

Posted by [wmc](#) on Wed, 01 Apr 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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> This function determines if a point is inside a polygon or not. If you

> have several points I believe you are better off with the polyfillv approach.

> Baard

> FUNCTION inside, x, y, px, py

(some bits cut)

> sx = size(px)

> sy = size(py)

> N=sx(1)

```

> tmp_px = [px, px[0]] ; Close Polygon in x
> tmp_py = [py, py[0]] ; Close Polygon in y
> i = indgen(N) ; indices 0...N-1
> ip = indgen(N) + 1 ; indices 1...N
> X1 = tmp_px(i) - x & Y1 = tmp_py(i) - y
> X2 = tmp_px(ip) - x & Y2 = tmp_py(ip) - y
> dp = X1*X2 + Y1*Y2 ; Dot-product
> cp = X1*Y2 - Y1*X2 ; Cross-product
> theta = atan(cp,dp)
> IF (abs(total(theta)) GT 1.0E-8) THEN return,1 ELSE return,0
> END

```

Interesting... there had to be a better way and this looks like it.
 I'm now trying to work out why it works... I think you're counting up the angles going round the polygon to the point, and the sum is zero outside and 2π inside.

Only one criticism: $1e-8$ is too tight a test for single precision:
 inside(.5,1.5,[0,1,1,0],[0,0,1,1]) returns 1
 since total(theta) is $-1.19e-7$.
 But inside(.5,1.5d0,[0,1,1,0],[0,0,1,1]) returns 0 as it should.
 So I think the test should be $1e-5$ or somesuch (though presumably .1 would work just as well?).

- William

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 Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself

Subject: Re: point inside polygon
 Posted by [Philippe Peeters](#) on Wed, 01 Apr 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Alex Schuster wrote:

```

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> William Connolley wrote:
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>>
>>

```

```
>> This is grotesquely inelegant, but its very simple and it works. I can
>> post the code if you're interested. A better solution
>> would be to look at polyfill and see how it does the fill... but sadly
>> polyfill seems to be one of the few routines not written in IDL.
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> subscripts of all points inside the polygon.
> This worked okay for me, but for floating point coordinates it might not
> be too accurate.
```

This is precisely my problem. POLYFILLV is ok to check regular grid points within a given polygon. In my case I have a polygon with real coordinates (a satellite pixel) and I want to check if a ground station (lat,lon) is within the pixel.

I have tried to adapt a C code from Graphic Gems
<http://www.acm.org/tog/GraphicsGems/>
 which is the CrossingMultiply from Haines
 in C:

```
/* ===== Crossings Multiply algorithm
===== */

/*
 * This version is usually somewhat faster than the original published
in
 * Graphics Gems IV; by turning the division for testing the X axis
crossing
 * into a tricky multiplication test this part of the test became
faster,
 * which had the additional effect of making the test for "both to left
or
 * both to right" a bit slower for triangles than simply computing the
 * intersection each time. The main increase is in triangle testing
speed,
 * which was about 15% faster; all other polygon complexities were
pretty much
 * the same as before. On machines where division is very expensive
(not the
 * case on the HP 9000 series on which I tested) this test should be
much
 * faster overall than the old code. Your mileage may (in fact, will)
vary,
 * depending on the machine and the test data, but in general I believe
this
 * code is both shorter and faster. This test was inspired by
unpublished
 * Graphics Gems submitted by Joseph Samosky and Mark Haigh-Hutchinson.
```

* Related work by Samosky is in:

*

* Samosky, Joseph, "SectionView: A system for interactively specifying and

* visualizing sections through three-dimensional medical image data",

* M.S. Thesis, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science,

* Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1993.

*

*/

/* Shoot a test ray along +X axis. The strategy is to compare vertex Y values

* to the testing point's Y and quickly discard edges which are entirely to one

* side of the test ray. Note that CONVEX and WINDING code can be added as

* for the CrossingsTest() code; it is left out here for clarity.

*

* Input 2D polygon _pgon_ with _numverts_ number of vertices and test point

* _point_, returns 1 if inside, 0 if outside.

*/

int CrossingsMultiplyTest(pgon, numverts, point)

double pgon[][2] ;

int numverts ;

double point[2] ;

{

register int j, yflag0, yflag1, inside_flag ;

register double ty, tx, *vtx0, *vtx1 ;

tx = point[X] ;

ty = point[Y] ;

vtx0 = pgon[numverts-1] ;

/* get test bit for above/below X axis */

yflag0 = (vtx0[Y] >= ty) ;

vtx1 = pgon[0] ;

inside_flag = 0 ;

for (j = numverts+1 ; --j ;) {

yflag1 = (vtx1[Y] >= ty) ;

/* Check if endpoints straddle (are on opposite sides) of X axis

* (i.e. the Y's differ); if so, +X ray could intersect this edge.

* The old test also checked whether the endpoints are both to the

* right or to the left of the test point. However, given the faster

* intersection point computation used below, this test was found to

```

* be a break-even proposition for most polygons and a loser for
* triangles (where 50% or more of the edges which survive this test
* will cross quadrants and so have to have the X intersection computed
* anyway). I credit Joseph Samosky with inspiring me to try dropping
* the "both left or both right" part of my code.
*/
if ( yflag0 != yflag1 ) {
    /* Check intersection of pgon segment with +X ray.
    * Note if >= point's X; if so, the ray hits it.
    * The division operation is avoided for the ">=" test by checking
    * the sign of the first vertex wrto the test point; idea inspired
    * by Joseph Samosky's and Mark Haigh-Hutchinson's different
    * polygon inclusion tests.
    */
    if ( ((vtx1[Y]-ty) * (vtx0[X]-vtx1[X]) >=
        (vtx1[X]-tx) * (vtx0[Y]-vtx1[Y])) == yflag1 ) {
        inside_flag = !inside_flag ;
    }
}

/* Move to the next pair of vertices, retaining info as possible. */
yflag0 = yflag1 ;
vtx0 = vtx1 ;
vtx1 += 2 ;
}

return( inside_flag ) ;
}

```

I code it in IDL as

```

function ptpoly,pgonx,pgony,x,y

numverts=n_elements(pgonx)
if numverts ne n_elements(pgony) then message,'X & Y must have same
size'
if numverts lt 3 then message,'At least 3 vertex'

tx = x
ty = y

vtx0x = pgonx[numverts-1]
vtx0y = pgony[numverts-1]
; get test bit for above/below X axis
yflag0 = ( vtx0y ge ty ) ;
vtx1x = pgonx[0]
vtx1y = pgony[0]

```

```

inside_flag = 0
for j = 1,numverts-1 do begin

yflag1 = ( vtx1y ge ty ) ;

if yflag0 ne yflag1 then begin

    if ( ((vtx1y-ty) * (vtx0x-vtx1x) ge $
        (vtx1x-tx) * (vtx0y-vtx1y)) eq yflag1 ) then $
        inside_flag = not(inside_flag)

endif

yflag0 = yflag1
vtx0x = vtx1x
vtx0y = vtx1y
vtx1x = pgonx[j]
vtx1y = pgony[j]
endfor

return,inside_flag
end

```

I tried it with a square $px=[0,1,1,0]$ and $py=[0,0,1,1]$ and random points with $0 < x < 2$ and $0 < y < 2$. It works quite well with that polygon but fail if I rotate the polygon vertices using $\text{shift}(px,1)$ and $\text{shift}(px,2)$. The polygon is the same, only the vertices ordering has changed.

But...

Now I have tried Crossing algorithm. this one seems to work. The only thing is that it can gives a "divide by zero" when two vertices have the same Y coordinates. In my case of satellite pixels, align vertices are very improbable.

--

Philippe Peeters

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 B-1180 Brussels, Belgium <http://www.oma.be/BIRA-IASB/>

Subject: Re: point inside polygon

Alex Schuster wrote:

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This function determines if a point is inside a polygon or not. If you have several points I believe you are better off with the polyfillv approach. Baard

FUNCTION inside, x, y, px, py

```
    sx = size(px)
    sy = size(py)
    IF (sx[0] EQ 1) THEN NX=sx[1] ELSE return,-1 ; error if px not a
vector
    IF (sy[0] EQ 1) THEN NY=sy[1] ELSE return,-1 ; error if py not a
vector
    IF (NX EQ NY) THEN N = NX ELSE return,-1 ; Incompatible
dimensions

    tmp_px = [px, px[0]] ; Close Polygon in x
    tmp_py = [py, py[0]] ; Close Polygon in y

    i = indgen(N) ; indices 0...N-1
    ip = indgen(N) + 1 ; indices 1...N

    X1 = tmp_px(i) - x & Y1 = tmp_py(i) - y
    X2 = tmp_px(ip) - x & Y2 = tmp_py(ip) - y

    dp = X1*X2 + Y1*Y2 ; Dot-product
```

cp = X1*Y2 - Y1*X2 ; Cross-product
theta = atan(cp,dp)

IF (abs(total(theta)) GT 1.0E-8) THEN return,1 ELSE return,0
END

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Alex

--

Alex Schuster Wonko@weird.cologne.de PGP Key available
alex@pet.mpin-koeln.mpg.de

Subject: Re: point inside polygon
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Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself

Subject: Re: point inside polygon

Posted by [LC's No-Spam Newsread](#) on Thu, 09 Apr 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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In article C0684CDB@oma.be, Philippe Peeters <philp@oma.be> writes:

>> Does anybody knows of an IDL function to test whether a given point is
>> inside a polygon?

NO, but insideness testing is a native postscript operator, and is described in the Adobe postscript manual (aka the red book)

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