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Subject: Re: Translating IDL Co ordinates  
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Mon, 27 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Peter Hunter wrote:

>  
> Please Help.  
> Using IDL's Extract Slice function, I can extract a 2d slice from a 3d  
> dataset.  
>  
> On this 2d slice I want to select a point( in 2d co ordinates) and then  
> translate this  
> co ordinate back into 3d co ordinates, in the 3d dataset.  
>  
> Can anyone help me with this ?  
>  
> Peter Hunter

Peter -

First, you may want to download my RESLICE.PRO function, which accounts for anisotropic voxels and allows you to produce a realistic slice from your 3D dataset. You can get this via anonymous ftp from:

bial8.ucsd.edu pub/software/idl/share/idl\_share.tar.gz

There are a lot of other routines that may be useful, but in any event you can extract RESLICE.PRO from this. Check the README file for a short description of the routines available. Also extract RESLICE.DOC for the documentation.

As for your task of converting from screen coordinates to volume coordinates, I will email you a file called SCRN\_UTILS.PRO that contains the following routines that may be useful:

```
; FUNCTIONS AND PROCEDURES
;
;   function get_voxel_dir_scale
;   function compute_disp_image_dim
;   function get_img_draw_limit
;   function check_3d_pt
;   function screen_to_3d_pt
;   function three_d_to_screen
;   function get_display_image
```

These routines were written by someone else and now are maintained by me; the code is a bit strange but it works! Here is a snippet of code from one of my programs that use several of these routines.

The user has picked a point from a Coronal brain slice within a 3D volume; this point (x,y,z) is then converted from screen coors to volume coors (in mm), and these are then converted back to screen coors but in the Axial and Sagittal plane (we have computed orthogonal images and now want to show the point in these other planes).

```
=====
; Now compute orthogonal views and display. Use SCREEN_TO_3D_PT(),
; THREE_D_TO_SCREEN() and GET_DISPLAY_IMAGE() from SCRN_UTILS.PRO
written
; by Jim Sewell. Also use DRAW_POINT_COLOR() from his DRAW_UTILS.PRO .
;
; Note that !ORDER has to be set to 0 before display of image returned
; from GET_DISPLAY_IMAGE(), as his routine maintains correct
orientation
; independent of the setting of !ORDER.

views = ['Y-Z', 'Z-X']      ; Sagittal, Axial views
scale = 512.0 / d.dim       ; Scale factor for window relative to
image
depth = 0.00               ; Depth in slice

; Get coordinates in 3D coordinates, with units of mm.
; Use structure for appropriate volume.

coords_struct = screen_to_3d_pt(winx, winy, depth, 'X-Y', $
    winz, scale, volume_info, 0)

; Now get new coordinates of this point from different view

screen_struct = three_d_to_screen(coords_struct.x_coord, $
    coords_struct.y_coord, coords_struct.z_coord, $
    views(i), scale, volume_info, 0)
=====
```

I will also mail you a routine that creates a volume information structure that is required by these routines. Hopefully these will at least be useful in getting you started. Let me know if you have any questions.

Dave  
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