
Subject: Re: How to find points inside a bounding polygon?

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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I have solved this problem with the included two functions. It works by first creating a point outside the polygon, then creating a line from the outside point to the test point. Then, the algorithm counts the number of intersections between the test line and the lines making up the polygon. An odd number indicates that the test point is inside the polygon, while an even number indicates a point outside the polygon. This method ensures a correct result even in the case of polygons with concave sides, etc. The function `inpoly` requires the `line_int` function, and returns an array with the same number of elements as the number of data points, with a 1 for points inside the polygon and 0 for points outside the polygon. Hope that this helps and that you can decipher my lousy code!

```
=====
function inpoly,polyxy,dataxy

; procedure to determine which points in dataxy
; fall inside a given polygon
; polygon is defined by series of vertices given
; in polyxy

polyxy = double(polyxy)
dataxy = double(dataxy)

;determine polygon min and max x and y values

pxmax = max(polyxy(0,*))
pxmin = min(polyxy(0,*))
pymax = max(polyxy(1,*))
pymin = min(polyxy(1,*))

;determine size of input arrays

dsize = size(dataxy)
if dsize(0) eq 1 then dpts = 1 else dpts = dsize(2)
datain = intarr(dpts)

psize = size(polyxy)
ppts = psize(2)
int = intarr(ppts)

; determine which points lie inside polygon bounding box

w = where((dataxy(0,*) lt pxmax) and (dataxy(0,*) gt pxmin) and $
  (dataxy(1,*) lt pymin) and (dataxy(1,*) gt pymin),c)
```

```
for i = 0,c-1 do begin ;loop through data
```

```
    testpt = [pxmin-(.1*(pxmax-pxmin)),pymax+(.1*(pymax-pymin))]
```

```
    l1 = [[testpt],[dataxy(*,w(i))]] ;line 1 is from testpt to data point
```

```
;loop through polygon edge segments - last point in polygon array must be same as first!
```

```
    for j = 0,ppts-2 do begin
```

```
        if ( polyxy(0,j) ne polyxy(0,j+1) or polyxy(1,j) ne polyxy(1,j+1) ) then
```

```
begin
```

```
    l2 = [[polyxy(*,j)],[polyxy(*,j+1)]] ;second line connects two vertices
```

```
    int(j) = line_int(l1,l2) ;calculate line intersection
```

```
endif
```

```
endfor
```

```
nint = total(int) ;total no. of intersections
```

```
;even if point is outside polygon; odd if inside
```

```
    if (nint/2 eq fix(nint/2)) then datain(w(i)) = 0 $
```

```
        else datain(w(i)) = 1
```

```
endfor
```

```
print,total(datain),' points inside polygon.'
```

```
return,datain
```

```
end
```

```
=====
function line_int,l1,l2
```

```
; calculate line equations
```

```
; print,l1,l2
```

```
if ( l1(0,0) ne l1(0,1) ) then begin
```

```
    slope1 = (l1(1,1)-l1(1,0))/(l1(0,1)-l1(0,0))
```

```
    yint1 = l1(1,0) - slope1*l1(0,0)
```

```
; print,'m1',slope1,'b1',yint1
```

```
endif else begin
```

```
    if ((l1(0,0) lt max(l2(0,*))) and (l1(0,0) gt min(l2(0,*)))) then return,1 $
```

```
    else return,0
```

```
endelse
```

```
if ( l2(0,0) ne l2(0,1) ) then begin
```

```
    slope2 = (l2(1,1)-l2(1,0))/(l2(0,1)-l2(0,0))
```

```
    yint2 = l2(1,0) - slope2*l2(0,0)
```

```
; print,'m2',slope2,'b2',yint2
```

```

endif else begin
  if ((l2(0,0) lt max(l1(0,*))) and (l2(0,0) gt min(l1(0,*)))) then return,1 $
  else return,0
endelse

; if lines are parallel, no intersection

if (slope1 ne slope2) then begin

xintersect = (yint2-yint1)/(slope1-slope2)
;print,'xintersect',xintersect
endif else return,0

if ( (xintersect lt max(l1(0,*))) and (xintersect gt min(l1(0,*))) $
and (xintersect lt max(l2(0,*))) and (xintersect gt min(l2(0,*)))) then return,1
$
  else return,0

end
=====

```

"Martin LUETHI GL A8.1 2-4092" wrote:

```

> Dear all
>
> Is there a simple and fast way to find the indices of array elements, which
> are inside of a boundary (in 2 dimensions). Let's say coord(npoints, 2) is an
> array of coordinates in the plane and bound(nbound, 2) is the array of a
> boundary polygon. The coordintes are not on a grid (otherwise one could use
> polyfillv (PV-Wave).
>
> Thank you for any suggestion!
>
> Martin
>
> --
> =====
> Martin Luethi          Tel. +41 1 632 40 92
> Glaciology Section    Fax. +41 1 632 11 92
> VAW ETH Zuerich
> CH-8092 Zuerich       mail luthi@vaw.baum.ethz.ch
> Switzerland
> =====

```

Subject: Re: How to find points inside a bounding polygon?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Martin LUETHI GL A8.1 2-4092 (luthi@aura.ethz.ch) writes:

> Is there a simple and fast way to find the indices of array elements, which
> are inside of a boundary (in 2 dimensions). Let's say coord(npoints, 2) is an
> array of coordinates in the plane and bound(nbound, 2) is the array of a
> boundary polygon. The coordintes are not on a grid (otherwise one could use
> polyfillv (PV-Wave).

You might be able to modify the small program that is associated
with the following article on my web page:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/point_in_polygon.html

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]
