

ASTR4004/ASTR8004

Astronomical Computing

Lecture 07

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Data processing in IDL

1 Reading data in IDL and making map plots

1. Download 3 HDF5 data files of the world's largest simulation of supersonic turbulence:
[EXTREME_proj_xy_000100](#)
[EXTREME_proj_xy_000200](#)
[EXTREME_proj_xy_000300](#)
These data are column density (2D) projections of the 3D gas density in the simulations. The 3 files are at 3 different times of the evolution. If you are interested in more details on these data and the simulations, please have a look at [Federrath et al. \(2016\)](#) and references therein.
2. Note that HDF5 is version 5 of the Hierarchical Data Format, which is a powerful data format for scientific data. Many codes use HDF5 as the standard now (it also allows parallel I/O). If you have HDF5 installed on your computer (e.g., for Mac users via `sudo port install hdf5`), you can check the content of HDF5 data files simply by typing `> h5ls [file]`. This and `> h5dump -H [file]` prints useful information about the content and header information. Similar to FITS files, HDF5 is a complex file format that can contain multiple datasets of different type, all with header information.
3. Use the IDL program [readhdf5data.pro](#) to read in one of the simulation data files:
`IDL> readhdf5data, filename, 'dens_proj_xy', coldens`
Now the content of the dataset 'dens_proj_xy' is read into the array called 'coldens'.
4. Use `help`, `reform`, `alog10`, `min`, `max`, `window`, `tvsc1`, `bytsc1`, and `xloadct` to investigate the data and make images of the gas column density. Display the image on the screen and modify the appearance by loading different colour tables and changing the minimum and maximum of the plotted colour range.
5. However, we also want to add a colour bar and write the image out as a `.eps` file. This can be done with the customised procedure [write_eps_wcb.pro](#) provided. Use this to make images of the three data files, scaled nicely and with a reasonable colour table and colour bar scaling.
6. Code this all up such that you use procedures and/or functions in order to be able to call these for the different files.

2 Re-binning and beam convolution

1. Lets add some beam smearing in order to simulate the effect of looking at these data through a telescope with a finite beam resolution.
2. First we can use the simple IDL functions `rebin` and `congrid`, which can be used to make lower-resolution versions of the previous images. The `congrid` function works for arbitrary grid interpolations.
3. However, both `rebin` and `congrid` do not simulate Gaussian beam smoothing. Lets implement a Gaussian beam convolution based on the IDL function `gauss_smooth`. The function (or procedure) that does the convolution should take the un-convolved map as an input, as well as the Gaussian beam full-width-half-maximum (FWHM) as an input, and return the beam-smearred image. Use 10 pixels for the FWHM.
4. Write out the beam-smearred image(s) with `write_eps_wcb.pro` as before and compare the non-smoothed with the beam-smoothed images.

Make use of `stop` in your scripts to turn from automatic script mode to interactive mode. Use `IDL> .cont` to continue the script after `stop`. Search function and procedure help to learn about optional keywords, which control the behaviour of functions/procedures.