
LOWESS- Locally Weighted Scatterplot Smoothing

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Modifications:

This regression will work on linear and non-linear relationships between X and Y.

12/19/2008 - added upper and lower LOWESS smooths. These additional smooths show how the distribution of Y varies with X. These smooths are simply LOWESS applied to the positive and negative residuals separately, then added to the original lowess of the data. The same smoothing factor is applied to both the upper and lower limits.

2/21/2009 - added sorting to the function, data no longer need to be sorted. Also added a routine such that if a user also supplies a second dataset, linear interpolations are done on the lowess and used to predict y-values for the supplied x-values.

10/22/2009 - modified the second user provided X-data for obtaining predictions. Matlab function unique sorts by default. It really was not needed in the section of code to perform linear interpolations of the x-data using the y-predicted LOWESS results. If the user does not supply a second x-data set, it will assume to use the supplied x-y data set. Thus there is an output (xy) that maintains the original sequence of the input. Additionally, the user can now include a sequence index as the first column of input data. This can be a datenum or some other ordering index. The output will be sequenced using that index. If a sequence index is provided a second subplot will be created show the predicted Y-values in the order of the included sequence index. I suspect this sequence index most often will be a DateTime (i.e. datenum). Just to the function generic enough, the X-axis labels are not converted to a nice date format, but the user could easily change that with a datetic attribute in the subplot.

An example dataset (skll1a.mat) is also included in the ZIP file for convenience.

Description

Using a robust regression like LOWESS allows one the ability to detect a trend in data that may otherwise have too much variance resulting in non-significance p-values.

Yhat (prediction) is computed from a weighted least squares regression whose weights are both a function of distance from X and magnitude from of the residual from the previous regression.

The conceptual of these functions and subfunctions follow the USGS Kendall.exe routines. Because matlab is 8-byte precision, there are some very small differences between FORTRAN compiled and matlab. Maybe 64-bit OS's has 16-byte precision in matlab?

There is a very simple subfunction to create a plot of the data and regression if the user so chooses with a flag in the call to the lowess function. BTW-- the png file looks much better than what the figure looks like on screen.

There are loops in these routines to keep the memory requirements to a minimum, since it is foreseeable that one may have very large datasets to work with.

f = a smoothing factor between 0 and 1. The closer to one, the more smoothing done.

Syntax:

```
[dataout lowerLimit upperLimit xy] = lowess(datain,f,wantplot,imagefile,xdata)
```

```
datain = n x 2 (or 3 if sequend index is included) matrix
dataout = n x 3 matrix
wantplot = scaler (optional)
    if ~= 0 then create plot
imagefile = full path and file name where to output the figure to an
    png file type at 600 dpi. If imagefile not provided, a figure will
    be displayed but not exported to a graphics file.
    e.g. imagefile = 'd:\temp\lowess.png';
xdata = n x 1 vector. The user can supply a second dataset of x-values
    that will be used to predict y-values using the lowess regression
    results.
xy = x-values supplied by the user in xdata (or taken from the input
    data), and y-predictions using the lowess regression results. If
    a sequence index is given this will be included as well and
    inserted as the first column.
```

where:

```
* datain(:,1) = x
* datain(:,2) = y
* f = scaler (0 < f < 1)
* wantplot = scaler
* imagefile = string

* dataout(:,1) = x
* dataout(:,2) = y
* dataout(:,3) = y-prediction (aka yhat)
* lowerLimit(:,1) = x with negative residuals
* lowerLimit(:,2) = y-prediction of residuals + original y-prediction
* upperLimit(:,1) = x with positive residuals
* upperLimit(:,2) = y-prediction of residuals + original y-prediction
```

Requirements: none

Written by

Jeff Burkey
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
email: jeff.burkey@kingcounty.gov
12/16/2008

Example syntax: [dataout lowerLimit upperLimit xy] = lowess(sk11a,.25,1,'c:\temp\test.png',xdata)

Primary Function: lowess

The main engine for this function.

```
function [dataout lowerLimit upperLimit xy] = lowess(datain,f,wantplot,imagefile,xdata)

% start timer
start = tic;

rowcol = size(datain);

if rowcol(2) == 3
    % assume time index for first column
    dte = datain(:,1);
    x_data = datain(:,2);
    y_data = datain(:,3);
else % assign empty set
    dte = [];
    x_data = datain(:,1);
    y_data = datain(:,2);
end

if exist('xdata','var') == 0
    % User didn't provide any x-values for generating a dataset use
    % supplied set prior to sorting.
    xdata = x_data;
end

datain = sortrows([x_data y_data]);

if exist('wantplot','var') == 0 || wantplot == 0
    % user didn't provide assume zero (i.e. no plot)
    fprintf('\nNo plot will be created.\n');
    wantplot = 0;
    imagefile = '';
    limits = 1;
    upperLimit = nan;
    lowerLimit = nan;
else
    limits = 3;
end

if exist('imagefile','var') == 0
    % User didn't provide do not export to graphics file
    fprintf('\nNo plot will be exported.\n');
    imagefile = '';
end

dataout = [];

for nplots=1:limits
    % if limits is turned on, then plot the upper and lower limits of
    % the lowess- set to plot residuals lowess
    row = find(datain(:,1));
```

```
x = datain(row,1);
y = datain(row,2);

switch nplots
case 2
    row = lwsResiduals > 0;
    x = dataout(row,1);
    y = lwsResiduals(row);
case 3
    row = lwsResiduals < 0;
    x = dataout(row,1);
    y = lwsResiduals(row);
end

n = length(x);

if (f <= 0.0)
    f=0.25; % set to default
end

m=fix(n*f+0.5);
window = zeros(n,1);
yhat = zeros(n,1);

for j=1:n
    % This could be done in a matrix, but need to keep memory footprint
    % small, thus the loop.
    d = abs(x- x(j));
    r1 = ones(n,1);
    d = sort(d);

    window(j)=d(m);
    yhat(j)= rwlreg(x,y,n,window(j),r1,x(j));
end

for it=1:2
    e = abs(y-yhat);

    n = length(e);
    s=median(e);

    r = e/(6*s);
    r = 1-r.^2;
    r = max(0,d0,r);
    r = r.^2;

    for j=1:n
        yhat(j)= rwlreg(x,y,n,window(j),r,x(j));
    end
end

switch nplots
case 1
    % calculate residuals otherwise skip
    lwsResiduals = y - yhat;
    dataout = [x y yhat];
case 2
    ul = [x y yhat];
    [~, ia, ib] = intersect(dataout(:,1),ul(:,1));
    upperLimit = [ul(ib,1) ul(ib,3) + dataout(ia,3)];
    clear ul c ia ib
case 3
    ll = [x y yhat];
    [~, ia, ib] = intersect(dataout(:,1),ll(:,1));
    lowerLimit = [ll(ib,1) ll(ib,3) + dataout(ia,3)];
```

```
clear ul c ia ib
end
end

fprintf('\nCompute time %6.4f seconds.\n',toc(start));
```

Generate predicted XY data

Using linear interpolation to estimate y from the lowess regression Any x-values beyond the range given to generate the lowess will be ignored. Matlab unique function sorts the data, thus a modified unique function (usunique) was developed to return an unsorted vector.

```
if xdata
    xyd = [dataout(:,1) dataout(:,3)];
    xyd = unique(xyd,'rows');
    xd = xdata(xdata >= min(xyd(:,1)));
    xd = xd(xd <= max(xyd(:,1)));
    if ~isnan(xyd)
        % if f value was too small, it's possible that multiple
        % Note: it may be possible to have a few nan's in the data set
        % while the results would still be valid. I haven't come
        % across a case of this but is possible. If so, then the user
        % may need to incorporate a threshold of just how many nan's
        % would be acceptable before dumping the whole regression. But
        % to be conservative, if there are any nan's throw out the
        % whole result dataset.
        yinterp = interp1(xyd(:,1),xyd(:,2),xd);

        xy = [dte xd yinterp];

        if length(xd) ~= length(xdata)
            fprintf('\nOne or more x-values were beyond the range supplied to
        end
        else
            fprintf('\nThere were NaNs in the lowess results. No plot will be crea
            wantplot = 0;
            xy = nan;
        end
    end

    if wantplot ~= 0
        customplot(dataout,upperLimit,lowerLimit,f,[dte x_data y_data],xy,imagefil
    end

end
```

Modification of check for 10 or more non-zero weights

by Hirsch June 1987

Robust weighted least squares regression, bisquare weights by distance on X-axis. x = is the estimation point yy = is the estimate value of y at x dd = is half the width of the window r = is the robustness weight, a bisquare weight of residuals.

```
function [yy] = rwlreg(x,y,n,d,r,xx)
```

```

dd=d;
ddmax = abs(x(n) - x(1));
if dd == 0.0
    error('Regression:lowess','LOWESS window size = 0. Increase f.');
```

```

else
    while dd <= ddmax
        c = 0;
        total = 0.0;
        f = (abs(x-xx)/dd);
        f = 1.0-f.^3;
        w = ((max(0,d0,f)).^3).*r;
        total = sum(w);
        c = sum(w>0);
        if c > 3
            break % out of while loop
        else
            dd=1.28*dd;
            fprintf('\nrobust size of window = %5.0f.\nLowess window size incr
        end
    end
end

w = w/total;

[a b] = wlsq(x,y,w);
yy=a+b*xx;
end
```

Weighted least squares

This subfunction does not require any toolboxes in matlab to execute.

```

function[a b] = wlsq(x,y,w)
    sumw = abs(1-sum(w));
    if sumw > 1e-10
        % The weights, w, must sum to one. Precision assuming type double,
        % The user may want to adjust this value.
        error('Regression:wlsq','\nThere is an error in the weights.\nWeights do n
    end
    wxx = sum(w.*x.^2);
    wx = sum(w.*x);
    wxy = sum(w.*x.*y);
    wy = sum(w.*y);
    b = (wxy-wy*wx)/(wxx-wx^2);
    a = wy-b*wx;
end
```

Compute time 5.7452 seconds.

Plotting of data and lowess regression line

If a sequence vector is included in the data, the figure will contain two subplots. The first one is the LOWESS regression of the data, the second plots the time in the original sequence using the first column of input data. Example a datenum for when the data were observed would be common. The second plot will plot the observed Y-data and the predicted Y-data.

```

function customplot(lws,uplmt,lwrlmt,f,oldxy,newxy,imgfile)
    figure1 = figure;
```

```
try
rowcol = size(newxy);
if rowcol(2) == 3 % Users provided a sequence index e.g. Datenum
    % The second subplot id defined first as a matter of
    % readability in the code. This Conditional segment will not
    % be executed if no sequence index is provided (e.g. datetime).
    subplot(2,2,3:4,'Parent',figure1,...
        'YScale','linear','YMinorTick','off',...
        'XScale','linear','XMinorTick','on',...
        'YMinorGrid','off',...
        'XMinorTick','on',...
        'XMinorGrid','on');
    box('on');
    grid('on');
    hold('all');

    line(oldxy(:,1),oldxy(:,3),'LineStyle','none', ...
        'Marker','o','MarkerSize',7,...
        'MarkerEdgeColor','k',...
        'MarkerFaceColor','b',...
        'DisplayName','Observed');

    line(newxy(:,1),newxy(:,3),'LineStyle','-','...', ...
        'LineWidth',2,'Color','r',...
        'DisplayName','Simulated');

    ylabel('y-Values');
    xlabel('Sequence Index (e.g. datenum)');
    title('Simulated y-Values using LOWESS Regression');
    hold('off');

    % This is the primary plot that will be generate either from
    % this conditional statement or in the ELSEIF below. They are
    % exact same except for defining Subplot space as either two
    % plots or one.
    subplot(2,2,[1 2],'Parent',figure1,...
        'YScale','linear','YMinorTick','off',...
        'XScale','linear','XMinorTick','on',...
        'YMinorGrid','off',...
        'XMinorTick','on',...
        'XMinorGrid','on');

elseif rowcol(2) == 2
    % No sequence index is given, second plot would be identical to
    % first plot. Define plot to occupy space of both subplots.
    % This could be revised and not even call it a subplot, but for
    % consistency it is.
    subplot(2,1,[1 2],'Parent',figure1,...
        'YScale','linear','YMinorTick','off',...
        'XScale','linear','XMinorTick','on',...
        'YMinorGrid','off',...
        'XMinorTick','on',...
        'XMinorGrid','on');

end

box('on');
grid('on');
hold('all');

x = lws(:,1);
y = lws(:,2);
yh = lws(:,3);

% Point plot of points of the observed data on the LOWESS plot
```

```

line(x,y,'LineStyle','none',...
      'Marker','o','MarkerSize',7,...
      'MarkerEdgeColor','k',...
      'MarkerFaceColor','b',...
      'DisplayName','Data');

% Line plot of the LOWESS regression
line(x,yh, 'Color','r', 'LineWidth',2, 'LineStyle','-')

x = uplmt(:,1);
yh = uplmt(:,2);

% Line plot of the upper limit LOWESS regression
line(x,yh, 'Color','r', 'LineWidth',2,'LineStyle',':')

x = lwrlmt(:,1);
yh = lwrlmt(:,2);

% Line plot of the lower limit LOWESS regression
line(x,yh, 'Color','r', 'LineWidth',2,'LineStyle',':')

grid on
xlabel('x-Values')
ylabel('y-Values')
ts = strcat('LOWESS Regression plot f=',num2str(f));
title(ts)

hold('off');

if ~isempty(imgfile)
    % If a filename is give for the plot, create a PNG file.
    fprintf('\nCreating plot. Give a few tics.\n');
    print('-dpng','-r100', imgfile);
    fprintf('\nFinished...\n');
end

close(figure1)
catch ME1
    disp(ME1)
end
end

```

Creating plot. Give a few tics.

Finished...

dataout =

*1.0e+003 **

0.2200000000000000	3.9100000000000000	4.319232343949838
0.2200000000000000	4.6300000000000000	4.319232343949838
0.2300000000000000	1.6400000000000000	4.071345778164299
0.2300000000000000	2.3400000000000000	4.071345778164299
0.2500000000000000	3.8100000000000000	3.576523856445645
0.2500000000000000	4.9300000000000000	3.576523856445645
0.2600000000000000	4.5900000000000000	3.330649521694364
0.2600000000000000	4.6700000000000000	3.330649521694364
0.2800000000000000	1.2600000000000000	2.843146723319974
0.3100000000000000	7.6400000000000000	2.081088886040460
0.3200000000000000	1.5000000000000000	1.776854439448522
0.3200000000000000	3.0700000000000000	1.776854439448522

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0.3300000000000000	1.4000000000000000	1.467806032861281
0.3300000000000000	1.5000000000000000	1.467806032861281
0.3500000000000000	1.0200000000000000	1.085764453022432
0.3500000000000000	1.0800000000000000	1.085764453022432
0.3600000000000000	1.0600000000000000	0.949472454437612
0.3700000000000000	0.5950000000000000	0.828002843257433
0.3700000000000000	0.7410000000000000	0.828002843257433
0.3800000000000000	0.7770000000000000	0.707819038945072
0.3900000000000000	0.3210000000000000	0.644857298457643
0.3900000000000000	0.4230000000000000	0.644857298457643
0.3900000000000000	0.4720000000000000	0.644857298457643
0.3900000000000000	0.5420000000000000	0.644857298457643
0.4000000000000000	1.0800000000000000	0.579378508781684
0.4100000000000000	0.3660000000000000	0.576968965609245
0.4100000000000000	0.5080000000000000	0.576968965609245
0.4100000000000000	0.5420000000000000	0.576968965609245
0.4100000000000000	0.5690000000000000	0.576968965609245
0.4200000000000000	0.4950000000000000	0.575254719695504
0.4300000000000000	0.5650000000000000	0.581089968351493
0.4300000000000000	0.6650000000000000	0.581089968351493
0.4300000000000000	0.6790000000000000	0.581089968351493
0.4300000000000000	0.6800000000000000	0.581089968351493
0.4300000000000000	0.7360000000000000	0.581089968351493
0.4300000000000000	0.9200000000000000	0.581089968351493
0.4400000000000000	0.4600000000000000	0.551199460990149
0.4400000000000000	1.2300000000000000	0.551199460990149
0.4500000000000000	0.3800000000000000	0.505773692628709
0.4500000000000000	0.4690000000000000	0.505773692628709
0.4500000000000000	0.4690000000000000	0.505773692628709
0.4500000000000000	0.5410000000000000	0.505773692628709
0.4600000000000000	0.2640000000000000	0.450226907297555
0.4600000000000000	0.2950000000000000	0.450226907297555
0.4600000000000000	0.3640000000000000	0.450226907297555
0.4600000000000000	0.4900000000000000	0.450226907297555
0.4700000000000000	0.2390000000000000	0.421978673193178
0.4700000000000000	0.4620000000000000	0.421978673193178
0.4700000000000000	0.4990000000000000	0.421978673193178
0.4700000000000000	0.7500000000000000	0.421978673193178
0.4800000000000000	0.3340000000000000	0.411046051508763
0.4800000000000000	0.3420000000000000	0.411046051508763
0.4900000000000000	0.4580000000000000	0.418143316553890
0.4900000000000000	0.4880000000000000	0.418143316553890
0.4900000000000000	0.5000000000000000	0.418143316553890
0.5000000000000000	0.2160000000000000	0.433178692395648
0.5000000000000000	0.2440000000000000	0.433178692395648
0.5000000000000000	0.3140000000000000	0.433178692395648
0.5000000000000000	0.4730000000000000	0.433178692395648
0.5000000000000000	0.5030000000000000	0.433178692395648
0.5100000000000000	0.2230000000000000	0.441858831468175
0.5100000000000000	0.5930000000000000	0.441858831468175
0.5200000000000000	0.4720000000000000	0.435657636954711
0.5200000000000000	0.7320000000000000	0.435657636954711
0.5300000000000000	0.5830000000000000	0.422193300564489
0.5400000000000000	0.3600000000000000	0.408850209538940
0.5400000000000000	0.4690000000000000	0.408850209538940
0.5500000000000000	0.2450000000000000	0.399199260547102
0.5500000000000000	0.5130000000000000	0.399199260547102
0.5600000000000000	0.4440000000000000	0.403253382069620
0.5700000000000000	0.2240000000000000	0.405156030562639
0.5800000000000000	0.3250000000000000	0.402782997047014
0.6200000000000000	0.2400000000000000	0.396157918194194
0.6200000000000000	0.4320000000000000	0.396157918194194
0.6200000000000000	0.6500000000000000	0.396157918194194
0.6700000000000000	0.2790000000000000	0.384372251771626

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0.6800000000000000	0.5330000000000000	0.382404863909111
0.7000000000000000	0.2660000000000000	0.378608820106509
0.7000000000000000	0.5780000000000000	0.378608820106509
0.7100000000000000	0.2450000000000000	0.376631059080293

lowerLimit =

1.0e+003 *

0.2200000000000000	2.522921607626112
0.2300000000000000	2.414996556268145
0.2800000000000000	1.873587116875478
0.3200000000000000	1.717432442097954
0.3300000000000000	1.399186245213494
0.3500000000000000	0.989297425343045
0.3700000000000000	0.705759366232837
0.3900000000000000	0.505090628398852
0.4100000000000000	0.479796992537626
0.4200000000000000	0.497941052781938
0.4300000000000000	0.507659003913640
0.4400000000000000	0.469824864468880
0.4500000000000000	0.412982217677612
0.4600000000000000	0.343066681325003
0.4700000000000000	0.303358779245056
0.4800000000000000	0.272288533965245
0.5000000000000000	0.268632046646991
0.5100000000000000	0.292980429348981
0.5400000000000000	0.268183623676995
0.5500000000000000	0.262275549522692
0.5700000000000000	0.269305837186851
0.5800000000000000	0.268535699815678
0.6200000000000000	0.268453691745118
0.6700000000000000	0.261669609211342
0.7000000000000000	0.259042712320433
0.7100000000000000	0.258118060931821

upperLimit =

1.0e+003 *

0.2200000000000000	5.924703215376282
0.2500000000000000	4.958214149638528
0.2600000000000000	4.634423450397931
0.3100000000000000	2.968233923168393
0.3200000000000000	2.578400061934314
0.3300000000000000	2.191836508167800
0.3600000000000000	1.465036229387142
0.3800000000000000	0.901231487628006
0.4000000000000000	0.756327037978211
0.4300000000000000	0.740842405028191
0.4400000000000000	0.676007139348845
0.4500000000000000	0.612084254582316
0.4600000000000000	0.516519141991478
0.4700000000000000	0.500509400861237
0.4900000000000000	0.502378113582879
0.5000000000000000	0.525519837997631
0.5100000000000000	0.550215675502173
0.5200000000000000	0.543920245613710
0.5300000000000000	0.525649091771840
0.5400000000000000	0.508470364367557
0.5500000000000000	0.488134853199903
0.5600000000000000	0.483487758959327

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```
0.6200000000000000 0.529206591147893
0.6800000000000000 0.554311265850982
0.7000000000000000 0.563297949607988
```

xy =

1.0e+005 *

```
7.2100400000000000 0.0049000000000000 0.004181433165539
7.2103500000000000 0.0054000000000000 0.004088502095389
7.2109400000000000 0.0022000000000000 0.043192323439498
7.2118500000000000 0.0039000000000000 0.006448572984576
7.2127700000000000 0.0045000000000000 0.005057736926287
7.2136900000000000 0.0023000000000000 0.040713457781643
7.2145900000000000 0.0036000000000000 0.009494724544376
7.2155000000000000 0.0046000000000000 0.004502269072976
7.2164200000000000 0.0043000000000000 0.005810899683515
7.2173400000000000 0.0043000000000000 0.005810899683515
7.2182500000000000 0.0062000000000000 0.003961579181942
7.2194700000000000 0.0046000000000000 0.004502269072976
7.2200800000000000 0.0045000000000000 0.005057736926287
7.2210000000000000 0.0058000000000000 0.004027829970470
7.2219000000000000 0.0035000000000000 0.010857644530224
7.2228100000000000 0.0044000000000000 0.005511994609901
7.2237300000000000 0.0053000000000000 0.004221933005645
7.2240400000000000 0.0038000000000000 0.007078190389451
7.2243400000000000 0.0044000000000000 0.005511994609901
7.2246500000000000 0.0043000000000000 0.005810899683515
7.2249600000000000 0.0068000000000000 0.003824048639091
7.2252400000000000 0.0025000000000000 0.035765238564456
7.2255500000000000 0.0025000000000000 0.035765238564456
7.2258500000000000 0.0045000000000000 0.005057736926287
7.2261600000000000 0.0050000000000000 0.004331786923956
7.2264600000000000 0.0051000000000000 0.004418588314682
7.2267700000000000 0.0049000000000000 0.004181433165539
7.2270800000000000 0.0070000000000000 0.003786088201065
7.2273800000000000 0.0042000000000000 0.005752547196955
7.2276900000000000 0.0071000000000000 0.003766310590803
7.2279900000000000 0.0043000000000000 0.005810899683515
7.2283000000000000 0.0041000000000000 0.005769689656092
7.2286100000000000 0.0070000000000000 0.003786088201065
7.2288900000000000 0.0026000000000000 0.033306495216944
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7.2298100000000000 0.0045000000000000 0.005057736926287
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7.2307300000000000 0.0067000000000000 0.003843722517716
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7.2316400000000000 0.0037000000000000 0.008280028432574
7.2319500000000000 0.0041000000000000 0.005769689656092
7.2322600000000000 0.0054000000000000 0.004088502095389
7.2325500000000000 0.0055000000000000 0.003991992605471
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7.2331600000000000 0.0046000000000000 0.004502269072976
7.2334700000000000 0.0039000000000000 0.006448572984576
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LOWESS- Locally Weighted Scatterplot
Smoothing

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7.2459500000000000	0.0047000000000000	0.004219786731932
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7.2496100000000000	0.0033000000000000	0.014678060328613
7.2508100000000000	0.0032000000000000	0.017768544394485
7.2514200000000000	0.0050000000000000	0.004331786923956

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