Subject: Re: IDL or PV~Wave?

Posted by landers on Fri, 21 May 1993 20:12:13 GMT

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In article <1993May21.164403.1583@Il.mit.edu>, knight@Il.mit.edu (Fred Knight) writes: |> |> In article <C7B1GH.1Ft@cbnewsi.cb.att.com>, ft@maxwell.ccs.att.com (Frederick True) writes: |> |> I'm considering purchasing either IDL or PV~Wave for some large modeling ... |> |> |> BTW I have read the FAQ, but am looking for a more opinionated view! |> |> Here are some features added to IDL since v2.1 that I particularly like: |> |.....]

Comparing with PV Wave vers 4.01

> Are there PV~WAVE equivalents?

|> ---integrated support for HDF, CDF, and netCDF. don't know about this

|> ---on-line help in a separate window yes. Hypertext. fork from inside Wave or from OS prompt. The vast majority of the reference manual is there, and some of the users guide. Version 4.2 (Jun/Jul 93) is supposed to have the ENTIRE manual set on line, supposedly word-for-word.

|> ---IOCTL to access low-level file operations not directly, but you could wrap these in C calls...

|> ---logarithm Z axis for surface plots yes, but it's not great

|> ---anonymous structures yes

|> ---create_struct (v3.1)

to create a structure from tagnames and values, I assume As part of the SQL table functions, there's BUILD_TABLE, which builds a structure given tag names and values.

|> ---reads: like readf only from an IDL variable instead of from a file that sounds nice - not directly available in Wave

|> ---device independent screen preview in EPSI format to see IDL plot in desktop

publishing progams yes

|> ---integrated TIFF and GIF support TIFF, Sun Raster file, but no GIF

|> ---format capability for tick labels on plots yes. can specify format of labels, what their values are, where to put them, and you can even use strings or Date/Time labels

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