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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@ll.mit.edu>, knight@ll.mit.edu (Fred Knight) writes:

|>  
|> In article <C7B1GH.1Ft@cbnews.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:  
|>  
|> [.....]  
|>  
|> Are there PV~WAVE equivalents?

Comparing with PV Wave vers 4.01

|> ---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 programs  
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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@std\_disclaimer.pro

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