
Subject: IDL vs SPlus; or similar packages for MS Windows

Posted by [rfinch](#) on Thu, 15 Jul 1993 21:58:39 GMT

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This is one of those dreary posts asking for people's product comparisons. At least I'm not asking about Amiga vs Atari. No, I need a data analysis package for a 486 running Windows.

Requirements/Wants:

- strong interactive visualization (graphics) tools. But this should allow interactive sifting of data (more than just plotting).
- some sort of efficient method for storing and retrieving time-series data.
- programming language
- some statistics, preferably with Fourier and time-series analysis capability.
- menu system would be nice, but command line is ok.
- ability to develop a custom GUI for particular apps would be nice.

I would use IDL (PV-Wave), because that's what I know already. But they want \$1000-\$1500 for the 486 version, too much I think. SPlus would only charge \$500, because we have that already on Suns and they offer a discount. But I haven't used it so don't know anything about it. So first, if anybody out there has used IDL and SPlus, I would much appreciate your opinions on both, or even SPlus alone.

Secondly, if anybody can recommend something besides SPlus, I would appreciate that. I'm looking for something in the \$300-\$500 range. Heavy-duty statistics that SAS and SPSS offer are less important than visualization and programming functions.

I'll summarize as usual. Followups to [comp.graphics.visualization](#), or email to me.

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Any opinions expressed are my own; they do not represent the DWR
