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Subject: Re: a plea for more reliable mathematical routines

Posted by [Karl Young](#) on Fri, 10 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Shoring up current functions may be a hard sell, but if RSI wants to protect it's user base from erosion it would nonetheless be a good idea. What if using the highly touted new mine locating application of IDL, somebody gets blown up because of some of IDL's sloppy math routines. I'm sure RSI's lawyers have made sure that they wouldn't be libel for that but nonetheless it wouldn't reflect

very well on their software (I know, I know, that's being a little dramatic !).

IDL does a lot of things very well so I've accommodated myself to its shortcomings (e.g. some bad math routines, no opportunity for taking advantage of the now ubiquitous presence of multiprocessors,...) but the question is always how long can one hold out. As an example of accommodation we do most of our sensitive calculations in called Fortran or C routines. As a result, for us IDL becomes close to just a portable GUI builder (which it is good at) but there are more and more competing products that provide that functionality.

> Richard G. French wrote:

>

>> I for one wouldprefer that RSI consolidate their current  
>> program structure and shore up the computational and  
>> mathematical functions to be competitive with other  
>> programs.

>

> I guess the problem is that it's difficult to "sell". Just  
> imagine the "IDL Version 10" sales slogan:

>

>     Now with accurate numerical functions!

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> Regards,

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> Stein Vidar

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