
Subject: Re: Inexpensive / free-ware similar to IDL?
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Wed, 22 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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"K. S. Balasubramaniam" wrote:

- > I am looking for inexpensive solutions for data analysis, other than IDL,
- > but similar in
- > capability.
- >
- > IDL has been a wonderful tool and has enormous strengths, but individuals
- > cannot
- > afford it. I have used it for over a decade while I worked at govt.
- > sponsored/educational
- > labs. Its flexibility is addictive. Having moved over to the private
- > sector, and switching
- > fields, in a different area of data analysis things are different! Many
- > folks have not heard
- > of IDL, and when informed of its use are able to nod in appreciation but
- > quickly loose interest
- > because it is way too pricey! and very compareable to the price of some
- > workstations.

If you're already familiar with IDL, is the cost of a single-user IDL license for Windows more or less than the cost of your salary and benefits for however many weeks it takes for you to find, learn, and do something productive with a 'free' package?

I like 'free' software as much as the next person (I run Linux on my notebook). But I also know that if I switched from IDL to ANA, Yorick, Octave or any other 'free' package, I'd be kidding myself if I thought the switch would be at no cost.

Cheers,
Liam.

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