
Subject: Re: Inexpensive / free-ware similar to IDL?
Posted by [ushomirs](#) on Wed, 22 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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the "problem" with these alternatives (octave, python) is that they don't understand IDL code. so the mountain of working software that has been written in IDL would not be available with these (probably superior in other respects) packages. for example, there's a ton of astronomical software written in IDL. software that works. heck, python and octave don't even read FITS binary tables. sure, i could sit down and spend a few weeks writing and debugging a comprehensive FITS library, but i have many other things on my plate. i suspect that there are at least a few users of IDL in the scientific community that share my opinion.

oh, yeah, and i thought that IDL and PV-WAVE were the same product years ago, before they split up.

greg

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