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Subject: Inexpensive / free-ware similar to IDL?

Posted by [K. S. Balasubramaniam](#) on Tue, 21 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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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.

I am not sure how many folks out there use ANA <http://ana.lmsal.com/> It has the potential for a robust freeware and needs lots of work. Are there similar freeware packages? I am also aware of xmgrace, xmgr, etc for less intensive applications. Suggestions appreciated

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