>> That, _and_ the IDL student software takes the opposite strategy.
>>
>> To wit, the student version of IDL is still at 5.0 (IIRC).
>
> Never mind, it's not very usable, anyhow, as you state yourself.
>
> But all that talk on Matlab made me curious, so I had a look, and at
> least for non US/Canada users, the Student edition of Matlab is even
> worse than the one of IDL, as it is limited to 128x128 matrices....

The Mathworks' Student VERSION has no matrix-size-limit unlike the
counterpart (Prentice Hall Student EDITION).

http://www.mathworks.com/products/studentversion/