
Subject: Re: IDL, Matlab, Mathematica, Maple...

Posted by [David McClain](#) on Mon, 10 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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IDL and MatLab are intrinsically numeric modeling languages - no symbolic capabilities. Mathematica, Maple, Derive, Macsyma are symbolic languages with very poor performance for numeric modeling.

But why give up one for the other? With Mathematica there is a Mathlink connection to NML which is superior in performance to IDL. But if you don't want to learn functional programming, you can also use IDL because there is an RPC link from NML to IDL. That way you have the best of both worlds!

- DM

Sang-Heon Shim <sangshim@princeton.edu> wrote in message
news:38EFE9C5.1C84B373@princeton.edu...

> Dear Experts,
> I don't think it is appropriate to ask this question here. But...
> I have used IDL for my research (mostly fit and plot big datasets and
> do numerical simulations) last 3 years and enjoyed a lot. Recently I am
> interested in other math softwares but I cannot find information like
> "which is good for which".
> Would you compare IDL, Matlab, Mathematica, and Maple?
> Thanks.
>
> Dan
