
Subject: Re: IDL/Wave alternatives

Posted by [Randall Smith](#) on Wed, 11 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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<aaron@boofura.swcp.com> writes:

- > I am looking for an IDL, PV-Wave, MatLab, -like product,
- > free and open source.
- >
- > Does anybody know of any suggestions?
- >
- > I have run into scilab, which seems to be the front-runner to me.
- > I once saw a graphing package mentioned in LINUX journal, from
- > one of the USA National labs... but it seemed too minimal.
- >
- > I'm looking for something to do image processing.
- > Writing new algorithms.
- > If it has a nice interpreted command language, and open architecture,
- > I'm willing to add c-modules to do things like import/export of
- > various file formats.
- >
- > I just want to get images into data arrays that I can then play with.
- >
- > Thanks for any help.... including pointers to FAQ's.

Another possibility (although it doesn't have any built-in graphics per-se) is S-lang (<http://space.mit.edu/%7Edavis/slang.html>) or ISIS (<http://space.mit.edu/ASC/ISIS/>) which is built on top of S-lang and does have graphics via pgplot. It's IDL-like but built with a stack-based model. It's quite lightweight, and we've been using it as a command language built inside our X-ray spectral analysis code.

Without any built-in graphics, S-lang can't be a drop-in replacement for IDL, but if you've got a project that could really use a small, powerful, and IDL-like scripting language, S-lang might be useful to you.
