
Subject: Re: I for Interactive Programming? (was: widget_control and group_leader)

Posted by [Ray Sterner](#) on Thu, 04 Jan 2001 17:47:55 GMT

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Jaco van Gorkom wrote:

>
> Richard G. French wrote:
>> ... I used to approach IDL as though
>> the I in Interactive meant 'interactive programming' - I'd start
>> a journal file, fiddle with the observations and analysis and display,
>> edit the journal file, and call it a program. I still take this approach
>> for rush projects, but taking the few minutes to annotate the code
>> and reorganize it so that it can be used again is now a high priority
>> for me.
>> Although I have written some widget programs over the years,
>> I still find myself quite often using IDL in this seat-of-the-pants
>> mode when I start a new project. I'd be curious to know how many
>> other readers of this news group use IDL primarily in this way.
>> Dick French
>
> Hi Dick,
>
> Count me in, I do this all the time. Usually forgetting to start a
> journal
> in time and thus cutting and pasting from the log window. I find that it
> often leads to faster and more 'creative' data analysis, although it is
> sometimes hard to really take those minutes at the end of the day for
> reorganizing and annotating the code.
>
> Jaco
>
> -----
> Jaco van Gorkom gorkom@rijnh.nl
> FOM-Instituut voor Plasmafysica Rijnhuizen

I work that way a lot too, and never remember to turn on journal. So I wrote a routine called grab_commands.pro that I can call at any point to grab all the commands I've used and put them in a file, like turning journal on and getting all the previous commands. It grabs commands from the recall buffer, which by default only keeps a few commands. In my IDL startup file I set !EDIT_INPUT=1000 which should cover most cases.

It's been awhile since I've updated my public IDL library, but for now

I've put this

routine at http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/temp/grab_commands.pro

It should work for any version that has the IDL `recall_commands`

routine (not sure when that

came in, maybe IDL 5?). Once you get it just do `grab_commands,/help`
for all the details.

--

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