Subject: Re: speed comparison of IDL, numPy, Matlab
Posted by Nathaniel Gray on Tue, 06 Feb 2001 07:58:50 GMT
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Paul van Delst wrote:

> I've never used Python, and Matlab only once or twice, but what's with the
> Python syntax? Seems a tad wordy. Looks like Nick Bower's IDL-like package
> in Python (http://nickbower.com/computer/pydl) is worth another look
> though.....

It's true that Numpy code can end up more verbose than Matlab, although this example doesn't really hilight that issue. This is to be expected from a language that wasn't designed from the ground up as a numerical computing language. There's a faint glimmer of hope that we may get a new Python operator for matrix multiplication, though. (See PEP 211)

On the flipside, have you ever tried to write user interfaces in Matlab? Have you ever tried to implement a dictionary in Matlab? Have you ever tried to understand when Matlab is making a copy of a giant array and when it's using a reference? Have you ever had your Matlab license expire the day of a meeting, _before_ you've made your plots?

I have. <shudder>

Having used IDL and Matlab quite extensively, I've realized that in any moderately complex numerical program 75% of the code is *programming* and only 25% of the code is *numerical*. I'd take a great general-purpose language with decent numerical extensions over a decent language with great numerical capabilities any day of the week, and twice on Sunday. :^)

> paulv
>
> P.S. BTW, in Matlab, how do you simply multiply the corresponding matrix
> elements? (i.e. not a matrix multiply).

mat1 .* mat2;

-n8

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Nathaniel Gray
California Institute of Technology
Computation and Neural Systems
n8gray <at> caltech <dot> edu
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