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Subject: Re: IDL vs. Matlab

Posted by [Michael Asten](#) on Tue, 03 Apr 2001 08:01:03 GMT

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It depends 75 % on what system your faculty staff expect you to use. They may have a preferred platform for lab assignments etc.

It depends 20% on the range of tasks you want to get into. Matlab may be stronger in numerical modelling. IDL may be stronger in imaging and visualisation. I say maybe, because for every specific example, someone from the "other" side will be able to produce a counter example. Both packages probably have far greater capabilities than you are likely to exercise in undergrad years.

The remaining 5%? Try a few tasks at the command line; try a simple tutorial.

Which one feels best to you?

Regards,

Michael Asten

Bruno wrote:

- > Just want to get the group's opinion regarding this. I am an undergrad and I
  - > am thinking about buying IDL or MATLAB (student version). Most of my friends
  - > are advising for the latter software product since it's apparently more
  - > powerful and widely available on university systems. What do you think?
  - >
  - > Thanks
  - > Bruno
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