
Subject: Re: Mac OSX

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2001 15:48:20 GMT

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Randall Skelton wrote:

- > For those only looking for a Mac/Windows solution you might want to try
- > IGOR from Wavemetrics (Commercial but very affordable). Having been an
- > IGOR user for many years prior to Matlab/IDL I can say their support and
- > commitment is second to none. As of IGOR 3.16, the language it self
- > lacked a little in linear algebra area and it was notably missing data
- > structures last I checked. An object model and better 3d visualization
- > tools would also be required for it to really compete directly with IDL.
- > I would love to see the language develop a little further and a Linux
- > version to become available... <http://www.wavemetrics.com>

Going to Igor after IDL for your data processing needs is like crawling after you learned to fly. Igor (I have Pro 4.01) does not support creating temporary data on the fly. In other words, if you are interested in a subset of something, you must explicitly create a variable containing the subset. Indexes do not exist, subscripts are not allowed on the right side of assignment operator - this means, no processing or re-assigning of subscripts. You have to use a loop to work on a subscript. Expressions are not allowed in visualization calls, only variables (so-called waves). Last time I checked, 3D visuals of any size over a megabyte were so slow on a G4 it was unbearable. No pointers, structures or objects.

Pros:

Nice 2D visuals with perfect eps output. Point-and-click color, linestyle, etc - out of the box, no programming. A bunch of built-in statistical analyses tools, easy to use (if you have the patience to prepare your sub-arrays that you want to analyze). There is Xop (like a DLM) support, but of course platform-specific and I think requiring a developers license.

To sum up, Igor is a visualization package, not (really) a data analyses tool. Processing efficiency is a lot lower than in IDL. I am responsible for my words as I re-wrote our own data processing code from Igor into IDL and gained 2 orders of magnitude performance increase. And our data sets are relatively small - 10Mb the most.

I still do use Igor, and they do have a PC version that is fully compatible with Igor for the Mac files. But I use it only to put the results of IDL processing into nice presentation format.

Cheers,
Pavel
