
Subject: Re: IDL Pricing

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Fri, 26 Oct 2001 18:06:25 GMT

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Guillaume Dargaud wrote:

[stuff deleted]

> Anyway, the other thing I don't like in IDL are graphics. Try to do a
> surface plots in less than... 40 lines. In most graphic packages it takes
> one line !

Here's an example from "Practical IDL Programming" (p. 271). For demonstration purposes, let's create a 2D sinc function defined over the range -10 to 10 in x and y:

```
v = findgen(41) * 0.5 - 10.0
x = rebin(v, 41, 41, /sample)
y = rebin(reform(v, 1, 41), 41, 41, /sample)
r = sqrt(x^2 + y^2) + 1.0e-6
z = sin(r) / r
```

To plot the data as a mesh surface:

```
surface, z, x, y
```

To plot the data as a shaded surface:

```
shade_surf, z, x, y
```

Therefore IDL is perfectly capable of plotting a surface in one line.

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>
