
Subject: Re: IMSL/IDL vs IDL (Which is the better)
Posted by [lacu](#) on Thu, 11 Jun 1992 15:08:52 GMT
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In article <1992Jun5.173013.7365@ll.mit.edu>, kevinmac@ll.mit.edu (Kevin McElearney) writes:
> IMSL/IDL vs IDL (Which is better?)

In response to your question about "IMSL/IDL and IDL, which is better?," I'd like to note some differences.

1) IMSL/IDL seamlessly integrates 200+ mathematical functions into IDL. IMSL users wanted a way to visualize their numerical computations; There is much user contributed numerical code in IDL, and with IMSL/IDL, IMSL reviewed and replaced them with tested codes that were more numerically robust.

2) Users can purchase one copy, or as many as they like. There is no minimum purchase requirement. Node-locked and floating licenses are available; volume discounts and educational discounts exist as well.

3) The cost is higher for IMSL/IDL, than for IDL. IMSL/IDL has all of the functionality of IDL plus the numerical integration of IMSL's C/Math/Library. IMSL has also recently announced the integration of Maple, the symbolic computation package into IMSL/IDL (release is first quarter 93). At that time, the statistical capabilities of IMSL's C/Stat/Library will be integrated as well.

IMSL and RSI (developers of IDL) have an agreement whereby IMSL/IDL is updated with the most recent release of IDL, and of IMSL's numerical functionality. IMSL and RSI have both made this commitment to our users. There should never be an extended delay between updates.

4) IMSL/IDL and IDL both share the same kernel, thus your .pro files are compatible.

5) For both IDL and IMSL/IDL, you need to purchase support to get updates. IMSL/IDL has a 90-day warranty; almost all users purchase support, thus they have coverage for 15 months at the outset.

I hope this differentiates them, and explains the philosophies.

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