
Subject: Re: Which is better WAVE or IDL?
Posted by [pjclinch](#) on Fri, 20 Jan 1995 13:24:20 GMT
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Iarla Kilbane-Dawe (iarla@atm.ch.cam.ac.uk) wrote:
: I'm curious to know what anyone who may have used both systems
: might have to say about comparing the two. We use PV-WAVE
: but I've been told that IDL is
: a) cheaper, and,
: b) more robust and bug free in usage.
: Would anyone have any comments to make on this?

The "cheaper" seems to apply to the US. In the UK, at education prices, they cost exactly the same. Both can be evaluated free of charge, so you can check for yourself on robustness.

I evaluated both side by side, and went for PV-Wave because *at the time* I couldn't get the Solaris 2 IDL version working properly under the then just released Sol 2.2. Were it not for that, I think I'd have tossed a coin to decide, and that reason no longer applies... Both products are good, and I've been impressed with both companies' backup and support too.

The "Advantage" version of Wave costs a bit more, but has more in the way of maths and stats functionality than the basic version. Also, the help is better (entire manual set online with hypertext links!) than Wave CL and, unless it's improved from when I saw it last, IDL.

As suggested before, both companies will give you free demos so you can compare them side by side. If you want a fiddle with IDL their UK distributor is Floating Point on 01344 56921.

Pete.

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