
Subject: Re: Spherical gridding
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 19 Jun 2003 22:31:17 GMT
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On Thu, 19 Jun 2003 10:11:59 -0700, Ben Tupper wrote:

```
> Paul van Delst wrote:
>> Ben Tupper wrote:
>>
>>> Liam Gumley wrote:
>>>
>>>> It's not included in my SGI version of IDL 5.5.
>>>>
>>>>
>>> That's odd. The documentation for IDL 5.6 says it was introduced in
>>> version 5.5. I don't see any mention of its absence in the What's New
>>> in IDL 5.5 (which I happen to have handy.) Have you explored this
>>> with RSI?
>>
>>
>> I thought my linux install didn't have it:
>>
>> IDL> print, !version
>> { x86 linux unix linux 5.5a Feb 7 2002    32    32}
>>
>> until I noticed that the help that comes with my 5.5a on my system is
>> the 5.4 docs!
>>
>> But:
>>
>> IDL> result=griddata(x,y)
>> % Loaded DLM: QHULL.
>> % GRIDDATA: Expression must be an array in this context: X. % Execution
>> halted at: $MAIN$
>>
>> indicates that there's *something* there. Too bad I can't look at the
>> help to have a look. Makes me wonder what else I've missed.....well,
>> not too much. My "What's new in IDL 5.6" book is still in the
>> shrink-wrap!
>>
>> I seem to recall a discussion about non-updated online documentation a
>> while back....is this what folks were referring to? Or could this just
>> be due to a screwed up installation on my part?
>>
>> paulv
>>
>>
> This is the problem caused by the funny update to online documentation in
```

> the 5.4 to 5.5 upgrade. The online docs for IDL 5.6 are superior in
> terms of content. I struggle with searching on a Mac OSX online help
> since the PDF format doesn't provide the nice IDL> ?widget_list
> functionality. CoolHelp can work on IDL 5.6 - but it has dated content.
> See http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/nohelp.html for the story.
>
> I have not made the switch to IDLWAVE (sorry, JD!) - I am a part-timer
> right now and can't seem to bridge the M-X C-Q, etc. keystrokes and get
> work done. I drool over IDLWAVE's slick online help system - but
> alas...
>
>

I should probably write up a little tutorial called "IDLWAVE for the
keystroke-aphobic". As it turns out, you really can do almost
everything (including HTML context-sensitive help lookup) using menu
items and buttons. The same can be said for Emacs in general,
especially starting with version 21. E.g., I can do:

```
x=gridd[menu IDLWAVE->Completion->Complete]
```

```
x=gridddata([menu IDLWAVE->Routine Info->Online Context Help]
```

and up pops:

GRIDDATA

The GRIDDATA function interpolates scattered data values and
locations sampled on a plane or a sphere to a regular grid. This is
accomplished using one of several available methods. The function
result is a two-dimensional floating point array. Computations are
performed in single precision floating point. Interpolation methods
supported by this function are as follows:

So you see, you don't actually need to learn all the silly keystrokes,
which must blend into a vaguely irritating white-noise appearance in
postings and documentation. You can get your feet wet without ever
touching the Meta key!

JD
