
Subject: Solving elliptic equation in IDL

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Sun, 17 Aug 2003 23:35:14 GMT

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Hi guys

I want to solve an elliptic equation on a rectangular portion of the (x,y) plane, specifically

$$L(A) = f(x,y)$$

where A is an unknown, scalar-valued 2D array, L is the Laplacian operator ($d^2/dx^2 + d^2/dy^2$) and the RHS (forcing) term is a function of space only. A is specified at the boundary.

This can be done with an elliptic equation solver, of the type that can be found in many general-purpose mathematical libraries. However a Google search has not uncovered any IDL code to do this. So I have two questions:

- Does anyone have or know of an IDL elliptic equation solver?
- If I choose to solve the equation in Fortran (Compaq Visual Fortran 6.6B, IMSL Fortran Library, IDL 6.0, Windows 2000), what is the path of least resistance for passing data between Fortran and IDL? A DLM? Can I call a Fortran subroutine directly from IDL or will I need to write glue code in C?

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