Subject: IDL and PV-Wave
Posted by ritscher on Fri, 21 Aug 1992 13:39:07 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

There has been a lot of amusing but perhaps not technically informative discussions on IDL vs PV-Wave. I use IDL, so I am not familiar with where PV-Wave has progressed to since the parting of ways of Research Systems and Precision Visuals. It strikes me that it could be useful for the readers of this news group to compare the two packages features. I would appreciate it if some PV-Wave users discuss features added to PV-Wave since the split-off.

As was mentioned, there is now a release of IDL (i.e., IMSL/IDL) that gives full access to the IMSL library. This is, of course, a joint release between Research Systems and the IMSL folks.

Other additions to IDL include the 3-D display capabilities: the Z-buffer driver, the ability to do surface rendering (shade_surf), volume rendering (shade_volume and polyshade), and light source modeling for surface display, the ability to display 2- and 3-D triangulated data (or other data on irregular gridding) or regrid to a rectangular grid, and finally, the ability to project an image into an arbitrary 3-D plane (polyfill), which can be used for displaying slices through 3-D data. Now if Research System will just add translucent display of 3-D data, I'd be ecstatic!

Did the 3-D capabilities get added to PV-Wave? How about the Widget capabilities?

The current version of IDL can be down-loaded via internet (or SPAN, for the VMS folks). RSI will authorize use of this for a trial period. This could help PV-Wave users investigate the differences. Does Precision Visuals, Inc have anything similar? The FTP servers that have IDL are: gateway.rsinc.com (192.5.156.17) (via a 56KB link) and boulder.colorado.edu (128.138.240.1) For both, log in as ftp with password <userid>@<localhost>. IDL is in the directory pub/idl, in compressed format (.Z).

What other features were added to IDL? Will someone comment on additions to PV-Wave since the September 1990 end of their connection with RSI

David Ritscher
GE CR&D
K1-4C9, P.O. Box 8
Schenectady, NY 12301
ritscher@crd.ge.com