David Fanning, Ph.D. <david@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Jonathan Greenberg writes:
>
>> David: you are the expert on IDL, one thing I haven't figured out is what
>> does IDL have that Matlab/Octave doesn't? As a remote sensor, I use IDL
>> because of this interface with ENVI. However, why do non-envi users use IDL
>> (except for sheer inertia of not wanting to learn a new program)?
>
> In a word, objects. :-)

Another answer, also related to intertia, is the sheer mass of already
existant code. Speaking again from the parochial perspective of us
star-gazers, I can't imagine any mass migration until Matlab or Octave
have something comparable to the Goddard idlastro library.
Notably, the Python guys are actually working on creating just such a thing;
I'll be very interested to see how that progresses in coming years.

 - Marshall