
Subject: Re: Uniting IDL and Matlab

Posted by [Jan Kristian Jensen](#) on Tue, 18 Apr 2006 07:51:44 GMT

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ChristopherFlorio@gmail.com wrote:

> I'm currently at a point where I have to make an IDL program generate a
> Matlab friendly array of data points.

My strong recommendation is to save the data in a format independent of both IDL and matlab, but supported by both. HDF or NETCDF may be good candidates. Unfortunately, the IDL routines and documentation for reading and writing scientific data formats are rather obscure, but searching this group should get you started all right :)

If you find this to cumbersome for some specific problem at hand, you may try saving the data as a text file. It is very straightforward to read and write a 2D array this way in IDL and matlab.

Or you may write the data as a 1D array which after reading can be reformed into the original dimensions. Both binary and ascii can be written and read this way. Writing binary data in IDL and reading them with matlab *_might_* just work right away, or else you need to sort out some more details (little v.s. big endian etc. etc.).

You could also check out the "Fortran file formats" in the IDL documentation, and see if you find something similar in matlab. If you get this far, I would recommend you to have another look at the HDF or NETCDF formats.

Good luck!

Jan

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Jan Kristian Jensen

Remove the obvious from the email address to email me.
