Subject: Re: Who have an electrical book of IDL in English?
Posted by btt on Fri, 12 Jan 2007 15:24:17 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:
> tianyf@gmail.com writes:
>
>> I think you should really learn the most things from IDL's online help
>> documents. They are designed for beginners, with a lot of examples. Try
>> them, and you will learn a lot.
>
> I don't doubt you will learn a lot. Whether that's the
> *best* way to learn IDL or not, I'm not so sure. I know
> when I was first learning IDL I had to read the User's
> Guide front to back twice before I could figure out how
> to draw a line plot. Things have improved a lot since
> then, but not so much "use the on-line help" would be
> my first recommendation for learning to write IDL programs. :-)
>

Speaking of online help...

You may recall that long ago Andrew Cool and I fussed with an online
help system for IDL 5.5 that used IDLWAVE resources to get around the
PDF help system that was then provided with IDL.

Imagine my surprise this week when I accidentally type ...

  IDL> xdl

What the heck?!?

Digging a little deeper I have found that...

  IDL> xdl, /no_block

while not pretty, is pretty handy. That said, I think the new online
help system, regardless of what I might think of the contents, is very good.

Cheers,
Ben

> That said, I don't know how anyone writes IDL programs
> without having a dual-screen monitor so that the on-line
> help can be up there simultaneously with the IDLDE.

>
> Cheers,
>
> David