
Subject: Re: Anyone link GSL into IDL?

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Fri, 04 Apr 2008 14:16:32 GMT

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Brian Larsen wrote:

> In the realm of crazy TLAs has anyone ever linked the GNU scientific
> library (GSL) into IDL. This is probably a case where I need to use a
> DLM. Before I expend a bunch of effort reinventing the wheel I just
> want to make sure that others have not done this.

>

>

>

> Cheers,

>

> Brian

>

> -----

> Brian Larsen

> Boston University

> Center for Space Physics

Brian,

Even if they had, it would probably[1] be in violation of the GPL to
distribute such code.

GSL is GPL and opposed to LGPL. This broadly means[2] you can't
distribute a derivative work which links IDL and GSL.

See the "licensing" section here:

<http://www.gnu.org/software/gsl/>

where the GPL has been explicitly chosen over the LGPL.

See also:

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/why-not-lgpl.html>

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-faq.html#IfLibraryIsGPL>

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-faq.html#GPLInProprietarySystem>

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-faq.html#MoneyGuzzlerInc>

You can, of course, link IDL and GSL but then you're not allowed[2] to
distribute that work.

Of course, IANAL, and this is just my understanding of things. I am also not advocating anything in particular - just pointing out the situation as I see it.

Thanks,

Allan

[1] You can get non-GPL versions of GSL but I'll work on the assumption you're talking about the free version you can just download.

[2] i.e. is the general understanding of what the GPL means.
