
Subject: Re: PV-WAVE widgets
Posted by [thompson](#) on Wed, 06 Jan 1993 20:24:00 GMT
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In article <1993Jan6.175820.21889@news2.cis.umn.edu>, patel@sparky.drad.umn.edu (8-)) writes...

> I have seen postings on this net concerning IDL widgets
> but none concerning the PV_WAVE widgets. I was wondering if
> anyone out there has tried out WAVE widgets. I am running
> PV-WAVE CL 4.01 with widgets. I like the ease of programming
> these widgets. Moreover, we can use any of the Motif (or OL)
> widgets also apart from the Wave widgets and also mix them.
> I don't know if same things hold true for IDL widgets. IDL user?

Not being familiar with PV-Wave, I'm not sure I follow you. IDL widgets work the same on both Motif and OpenLook, and take on the native look and feel of either system, depending on which machine you're running on.

There are a small number of basic widget types available. Off the top of my head, I can think of base, button, slider, list (inclusive and exclusive), menu, draw, text and label. There are keyword parameters that extend the capabilities of each widget type, such as allowing slide bars on draw or list widgets, for example.

The latest version of IDL introduces the concept of combined widgets, which are routines that combine several widgets, which can then be called as if it were a single widget.

> Only thing I dislike is passing the parameters by common block.
> The program looks like FORTRAN programs and I hate the common blocks.
> I was wondering if PV-WAVE can come up with something like a global
> declarations. This might ease a bit the parameter passing and
> make it easy to add/delete parameters to be passed.

It sounds like widget procedures in IDL and PV-WAVE work very similarly in this case.

Of course, system variables are global and could be defined by the user in either IDL or PVWAVE. I have stored parameters used in a number of routines in a system variable that was defined as a structure.

> I was wondering if someone out there can summarize the pros and cons
> of IDL and WAVE widgets.

How about discussing the pros and cons of IDL versus PV-WAVE just in general? Anybody out there has much experience in both programs?

Bill Thompson
