
Subject: Re: Are people using IMSL?

Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Wed, 09 Jul 2008 07:30:32 GMT

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Brian Larsen wrote:

> I am looking through the IDL documentation and seeing more and more of
> the routines that I want to use as part of IMSL, in this instance it
> is random numbers from "weird" distributions. This makes we want to
> get analyst, I am wondering if the experts on this list are using it?
> And if not, why? Too much money? Don't need the features? Already
> wrote everything you need? Using something else?

I am not an expert, but...

originally we were using PV~Wave Advantage here, which is Wave with the IMSL extra goodies. In our particular usage, which was actually pretty straightforward image processing, we weren't taking much advantage of the extras so when we got a good offer from RSI to change to IDL which gave us a lower annual maintenance bill we moved over and haven't missed the extras enough to want them back, but that's for straightforward image processing and relatively lightweight data crunching.

> I do notice that most of the things I want (in my looking today) are a
> part of the GSL, it is not too hard to write wrappers to GSL code to
> make it callable from IDL but that is certainly a heck of a lot more
> work than calling IMSL_xxxx.pro.

The usual dichotomy here: at some level Time == Money. If you have the money, it's probably worth spending because you can never get time back again. If you don't have the money you don't have the choice, of course. Reinventing the wheel is for either those with no choice or who have time on their hands, the latter group being something of an empty set, I suspect!

Pete.

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