Posted by Brian Larsen on Wed, 18 Nov 2009 23:29:48 GMT

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Hey all,

I have a quick poll for the experts out there. I recently learned
about (and was wowed) scipy and all the other python stuff that
basically make it a viable substitute for idl. I am wondering if
anyone has made the switch (if so why are you still on this usenet?)
or came away from python or has any advice at all?

Here is a gallery of plots and code from python matplotlib
http://matplotlib.sourceforge.net/gallery.html

I am seeing some cool advantages and some disadvantages too, ill list
a few to try and start a bit of discussion,

Sames:
array based a = a+1 for arrays
multiplatform
command line to test things out
all the same plots are there (or at least all I do)

+idl:
I already know it
code library that I am familiar with
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming

+python:
no licensing fee
easier scriptable (like into web pages etc)
interactive plots that make iplot look like 1980
super easy export of plots to png, pdf, ps whatever even interactively
from the plot
seems like its up and coming

Cheers,

Brian

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