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Subject: ANNOUNCE: perlDL v1.00 - the 'perl Data Language'

Posted by [kgb](#) on Mon, 28 Oct 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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'perlDL' ("perl Data Language") gives standard perl the ability to COMPACTLY store and SPEEDILY manipulate the large N-dimensional data arrays which are the bread and butter of scientific computing.

The idea is to turn perl in to a, free, array-oriented, numerical language in the same sense as commercial packages like IDL and MatLab. One can write simple perl expressions to manipulate entire numerical arrays all at once.

For example with 'perlDL' the perl variable '\$a' can hold a 1024x1024 floating point image, it only takes 4Mb of memory to store it and expressions like '\$a=sqrt(\$a)+2' would manipulate the whole image in a few seconds.

A simple interactive shell ("perlDl") is provided for command line use together with a module ("PDL") for use in perl scripts.

v1.00 is the first official alpha release. It provides the fundamental numerical processing facilities and a limited set of standard functions. Graphics are supported via the perl PGPLOT module and image display via the external programs saomage/ximtool. The goal is to allow perlDL to interact with a variety of external graphics systems. I/O is currently supported via the FITS standard, though given the simple design it ought to be possible to create perl code to read many common formats.

There are of course many things missing from this first release but it is hoped that perlDL will grow through efforts of interested users. It has a modular design to encourage this.

Where to obtain perlDL:

Home Site:

WWW: <http://www.aao.gov.au/local/www/kgb/perlDl/>

ftp: <ftp://ftp.aao.gov.au/pub/perlDl/>

Comprehensive Perl Archive Network (CPAN):

ftp: In directory modules/by-module/PDL/

WWW: You can automatically select your LOCAL CPAN site by going to: <http://www.perl.com/CPAN/modules/by-module/PDL/>

The PGPLOT module is available from (among others):

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~kgb/pgperl.html> (Home Page/General information)

<http://www.perl.com/CPAN/modules/by-module/PGPLOT/>

<ftp://ftp.ast.cam.ac.uk/pub/kgb/pgperl/>

<ftp://ftp.aao.gov.au/pub/pgperl/>

SAOimage is available from:

<http://tdc-www.harvard.edu/software/saoimage.html>

## Documentation

The current perIDL documentation is available from <http://www.aao.gov.au/local/www/kgb/peridl/PDL.html>

## Mailing List

Finally, a mailing list has been set up to talk about perIDL and for developers to coordinate their work.

The address of the list is [peridl@jach.hawaii.edu](mailto:peridl@jach.hawaii.edu). To subscribe, send a message to [peridl-request@jach.hawaii.edu](mailto:peridl-request@jach.hawaii.edu) containing a string in the following format:

subscribe me@my.email.address

I hope you find perIDL useful and enjoyable,

Karl Glazebrook. email: [kgb@aaoepp.aao.gov.au](mailto:kgb@aaoepp.aao.gov.au)