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Subject: Re: Modern IDL Comments

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Mon, 10 Oct 2011 20:58:30 GMT

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On 10/10/11 2:29 PM, David Fanning wrote:

> A lot of people ask me, "What in the world do you do on  
> that long flight to Australia!?" I normally give the same lame  
> answer, "I watch 3-4 really, really dumb movies while trying  
> to get some sleep."

>

> But, this time I did something more productive. I read  
> Mike Galloy's very interesting and helpful book, Modern  
> IDL, cover to cover. What a pleasure!

>

> Mike advises users already familiar with IDL to skip  
> the first six chapters if they like. I'm glad I didn't!  
> I almost learned more there than in the rest of the  
> chapters. Mike and I have had very different experiences  
> with IDL, have used it in different ways, and I found  
> it refreshing and interesting to read Mike's lucid  
> explanations of this different approach. I found myself  
> making notes almost every time I turned the page.

>

> The book covers a lot of ground, and I found myself  
> often aware of problems and dangers that he must  
> by necessity skip or gloss over if he planned to write  
> a book that could be held in the hand (not to mention  
> carried in a flight bag). But, still, there was an  
> impressive amount of explanatory material that made  
> difficult subjects at least seem approachable. His  
> explanation of iTools, for example, made them almost  
> seem comprehensible, although he provided little  
> detail(correctly, in my opinion!) in this section.  
> And surely his three pages of text and an index entry for  
> the BLAS\_AXPY function in IDL will be found in no  
> other IDL book published anywhere in the world! ;-)

>

> This book is obviously not aimed at the novice IDL  
> user, but for those of us who have been around the block  
> a few times, it will open the eyes to new possibilities  
> and a fresh way of thinking. Very well done, and a  
> valuable contribution of the growing IDL literature.

Thanks for the kind words!

Mike

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Michael Galloy

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