
Subject: Re: Cost of student version of IDL
Posted by [d.poreh](#) on Tue, 08 May 2012 17:54:32 GMT
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On Tuesday, May 8, 2012 8:21:36 AM UTC-7, Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:

- > I am going back into the classroom next fall to teach IDL to undergraduates
- > after spending the last few years as department head. The course alternates
- > between IDL and Matlab, and we have talked about adding a Python version section.
- >
- > I am working on ways to get students to spend more time outside of class reading
- > my book and working IDL examples in order to create more time in class to work
- > with students individually.
- >
- > To accomplish this, students need to have a copy of IDL on their personal
- > computers. I looked at the Exelis website yesterday and found that the student
- > edition of IDL is \$89 (\$149 with the IMSL library). That didn't seem too bad
- > until I realized that that price is for a 1-year license! So a sophomore taking
- > my course would need to pay at least \$270 to keep a working IDL license until
- > graduation. Knowing students as I do, most will simply let their licenses
- > lapse.
- >
- > For reference, my IDL textbook is \$42 on Amazon. When my text was first
- > released (2006), a non-expiring student IDL license was \$49.
- >
- > We make IDL available in our labs, but the inconvenience of coming to the campus
- > guarantees that students will only use IDL when they *have* to.
- >
- > For comparison, I see that Mathworks charges \$99 for a student Matlab license
- > with no time limit. They require proof of enrollment to move the license to a
- > new machine after 4 years, and they charge for upgrades.
- >
- > In the current environment (with free alternatives like Python), does the IDL
- > student pricing make sense to anyone?
- >
- > Has anyone worked out better ways to get students access to IDL?
- >
- > Ken Bowman

I have a question: is this version (student version) for research too? I mean could we do the graphs for publications?
