
Subject: Re: Interesting article in Nature

Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 15:21:15 GMT

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I generally acknowledge the "tool" in professional papers if the tool is either non-standard (like I've developed some optimization routines in IDL) or am using non-standard settings of standard routines. In some cases the author(s) of the code(s) publish papers on them, so citing my source is easy. But in the case of IDL, I generally just say something like: "... for this we implement [some algorithm] in IDL\footnote{GIVE EXELIS URL}..." Though, I've never published in Nature...

On Thursday, January 31, 2013 10:15:17 AM UTC-5, Mark Piper wrote:

> On Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:24:09 PM UTC-7, Paulo Penteadó wrote:

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>> It is not everyday that choosing IDL over other languages gets

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>> discussed in Nature:

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>> "The algorithms to be incorporated were varied, and included codes for

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>> estimating snow coverage, grain size and absorption of solar radiation

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>> by dust and black carbon. They had been written in IDL, a specialized

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>> programming language used by many researchers. Geographers, remote

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>> sensing experts and software programmers contributed.

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>> Most computer scientists would assume that such a system would take

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>> years, not weeks, to develop. The algorithms would presumably have to
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>> be rewritten in a standard language such as C++, Java or Python, or
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>> one that could run on a fast computer system or infrastructure, such
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>> as Google's MapReduce model.
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>> But, in my experience, there is no need to rewrite scientific
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>> algorithms for bigdata systems. Rewriting only increases the barriers
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>> to communication between scientists and computer engineers. Rewriting
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>> can also introduce costly errors."
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>> From
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>> <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/493473a>
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> Thank you, Paulo, for linking to this article. I love to post articles such as this internally at VIS to
> try to help people understand how and why IDL is important to us who use it.
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> mp
