
Subject: Re: Looking for general purpose image display.
Posted by [Lucio Chiappetti](#) on Tue, 20 May 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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On Thu, 15 May 1997, Dyer Lytle wrote:

- > I'm about to write a general purpose image display widget in IDL
- > similar in functionality to SAOimage. I figure something like

Why do you want to do that ? SAOimage is perfectly fine as it is, and is a standalone, free tool. Does not require licenses, is quite small and precompiled ...

- > query this newsgroup before I re-invent the wheel.

Although I quite like reinventing wheels :-) particularly when it involves inventing new stainless steel wheels for cars, or small plastic wheels for trolleys instead of wooden ox-cart wheels, if you follow my metaphore, I do not see much the case here :

I actually use essentially three families of programs :

- my own Fortran programs for "production" analysis, and also for some quick look display of data (a little Xlib-based set, mainly plots, although can do images as well)
- although I have my image display capabilities, I prefer SAOimage for quick look display of images

_ I use IDL (as a language, with little pieces of code I keep in scratchpad files, not necessarily always full-fledged .pro files) mainly for :

- testing preliminary algorithms before doing the final coding in Fortran
- doing "one off" massaging to data
- doing publication-quality plots (this includes plotting images in more-or-less fancy ways which would be too costly to reprogram, like contour or isometric plots ; it also includes some greyscale or colour display of images in ps files, although I'm quite unsatisfied of the way IDL handles this)

Of course this does not mean YOU may not have valid reasons of your own to do what you plan.

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For more info : <http://www.ifctr.mi.cnr.it/~lucio/personal.html>