On Monday, February 9, 2015 at 6:58:23 PM UTC-7, Mark Hadfield wrote:
>
> Incidentally, what I do in my day job is ocean modelling using the ROMS model from Rutgers University. I have developed quite a collection of tools for preprocessing, postprocessing and analysing ROMS files. However I feel a bit like Don Quixote tilting at IDL windmills while my colleagues are getting the job done (less elegantly in my opinion) with Matlab and Python.


Mark, don't give up hope! I would agree with you 100% on the "tilting at windmills", and on your analysis of Matlab and Python. It's funny, there are all these comparisons of IDL and Python, with the conclusion that Python is "so much better". In my opinion, Python is *just as wacky* of a language as IDL. They both have their strange quirks, inconsistencies, and 50 different ways to accomplish the same task. But... it's hard to argue with free software.

Anyway, I would recommend that you avoid porting your code. We're actually working on a Python<->IDL bridge that should make your life a lot easier. You'll be able to call Python code from within IDL, and IDL code from within Python, pass variables and objects back & forth, etc. So if you have a library of IDL code that people find useful, they will be able to seamlessly call that from within Python (assuming you have an IDL license).

Finally, thanks so much for publishing your code on SourceForge! It's great to have these libraries up to date.

Cheers,
Chris
p.s. I'm hoping I'm retired by the time I have 7 grandchildren...