Subject: Re: Beginner, Question
Posted by Jeremy Bailin on Tue, 25 Aug 2015 14:06:57 GMT

On Monday, August 24, 2015 at 11:49:44 PM UTC-5, justdo...@gmail.com wrote:
> I'm not programmer.
>
> I have a question.
>
> What is a advantage of idl. comparison with python?
>
> It is not sarcastic. just question.

The major reason that it is used a lot in astronomy is because there is a large well-tested codebase out there of routines that make oftentimes very complicated and necessary astronomical tasks fairly easy. There is currently a large effort underway to replicate all of that functionality in Python, and they are making great strides, but for many many tasks, the best and easiest way of doing them is using existing IDL routines.

I suspect the situation is similar in the other fields where IDL is prominent -- it's not so much that the task can't be done in Python, as that the effort required to rewrite routines with the existing sophistication and robustness hasn't been finished yet.

-Jeremy.