
Subject: Re: IDL vs. PV-WAVE

Posted by [Jonathan Rogness](#) on Fri, 13 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>

> William Connolley writes:

>

>> 2. Widgets seem to be particularly complex, but you probably don't
>> need them. As far as I can tell, they are mostly useful for
>> polished-product programs and not so useful for research-type work.

>

> Now hold on there just a minute, William!<snip>...

> When they are shown how easy it really is, they often start

> taking the view that widget programs are essential to their research

> and they don't know how they worked without them.

I'd be interested in hearing some of these people speak up, just because I'm curious about how exactly they incorporate widgets into their research. Personally, I write about 5-10 programs a day, either in IDL or C, and only one of them (about a year ago) has ever been a widget application. This, of course, puts me in the large group of unfortunate souls who learned from the manuals. =)

Perhaps it just depends on the type of research; I generally use IDL to manipulate large arrays and images, and then spend some time TVSCLing the results in order to decide what needs to be done next. Sometimes I'll use it to fit models to data, but generally I write programs in C using the NAG numerical library to do that. But it seems to me that using widgets would just slow me down, since I can usually accomplish what I need with a few commands at the prompt or a half page procedure.

Jon
