
Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests ... python
Posted by [Kristian Kjaer](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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> "Paul van Delst" <pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov> wrote in message
> news:398825D1.B3B3F605@ncep.noaa.gov...
>
>> It won't make me stop using IDL, but I find it hard to counter his
>> argument when he can do in Python pretty much everything I can in
>> IDL.

>
Mark Hadfield wrote:
> Can he really? Even graphics? Perhaps I'd better take another look at
> Python!

Can all our existing *.pro files be used with python?
If not, would it be easy to convert them?

- Kristian Kjær, Risø Natl. Laboratory, Denmark

Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests ... python
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Mark Hadfield wrote:

>
> "Kristian Kjaer" <Kristian.Kjaer@Risoe.Dk> wrote in message
> news:3989B2D1.8A3D3153@Risoe.Dk...
>> Can all our existing *.pro files be used with python?
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>
> I'm afraid the answers are NO and NO. It's a completely different language.
> The scientific graphics subsystem is--from the little I know about
> it--completely different from either direct or object graphics.

He's using python but what he's developing he calls PYDL, i.e. an
interpreter that runs within Python. Some sample command line code:

```
PYDL> x = dindgen(100)/100.0 * 4.0 * pi
PYDL> y1 = sin(x)
PYDL> y2 = cos(x)
PYDL> set_plot('ps')
PYDL> device(file='nicks_test.ps')
PYDL> plot(x,y1, xtitle='Theta',ytitle='SIN/COS', \
          title='Trigonometry Functions', \
          nodata=1, xrange=[0,12])
PYDL> oplot(x,y1, color=2)
```

```
PYDL> oplot(x,y2, color=3)
PYDL> device(close=1)
```

I think most IDL programmers will recognise what's going on. He always told me he disliked the IDL syntax punctuation - hence the use of "()" instead of the ",", e.g. plot(x,y) instead of plot, x, y.

Personally I never understood why this bothered people. Doesn't C require a ";" at the end of each line?

Same dog, different leg I reckon.

paulv

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Camp Springs MD 20746

Subject: Re: Top 10 IDL Requests ... python
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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