
Subject: IDL vs. matlab

Posted by [Bruno](#) on Tue, 03 Apr 2001 21:18:04 GMT

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Just want to get the group's opinion regarding this. I am an undergrad and I am thinking about buying IDL or MATLAB (student version). Most of my friends are advising for the latter software product since it's apparently more powerful and widely available on university systems. What do you think?

Thanks
Bruno

Subject: Re: IDL vs. matlab

Posted by [Aaron Birenboim](#) on Thu, 12 Apr 2001 20:18:54 GMT

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Bruno <bruno_dubois@hotmail.com> wrote:

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: am thinking about buying IDL or MATLAB (student version). Most of my friends
: are advising for the latter software product since it's apparently more
: powerful and widely available on university systems. What do you think?

Depends on the discipline. What do your peers in the field use? I'm an EE. MatLab is the most common. Especially for the controls folks who like simulink. Some of the DSP guys are gravitating toward MatLab too.

Much of the Image processing (Especially Hyperspectral) community and Physicists seem to be using IDL.

It depends on what you want. MatLab was slow to get basic programming constructs into its language (like structs...) IDL has been strong here. Does MatLab allows arrays of greater dimension than 2? If so, its a recent development. Hence the historical preference for IDL with video processors.

Also... MatLab used to re-interpret routines every time they are run. Have they gone to a pre-compiled or VM-like solution like IDL yet? Without this ability, lots of MatLab stuff could run VERY SLOWLY, as it re-interprets subroutines millions of times in a loop.

As it stands, I think IDL is more expensive... but it bundles many things that cost more on MatLab. It starts with some numerical recipes routines i think, it has the ability to call C (without a \$900 extension last time I checked MatLab)

Frankly, as a student, I'd give some pretty serious consideration to ANA. Its an minimal-functionality IDL-like OPen source project. I'd like to see it take off, so I can stop messing with IDL. Last I checked there, it needed a good LINKNLOAD/CALL_EXTERNAL function so that people could more easily start attaching modules for extended functions... like complex numerical methods and GUI's.

--

Aaron Birenboim
Albuquerque, NM
aaron@boim.com
<http://boim.com/~aaron>

Subject: Re: IDL vs. matlab
Posted by [marc schellens\[1\]](#) on Fri, 13 Apr 2001 03:54:09 GMT
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Aaron Birenboim wrote:

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>
Do you have an URL for that ANA?
thanks,
marc

Subject: Re: IDL vs. matlab
Posted by [Ivan Zimine](#) on Fri, 13 Apr 2001 09:25:08 GMT
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Marc Schellens wrote:

> Do you have an URL for that ANA?

<http://ana.lmsal.com/>

--

Ivan Zimine | ivan.zimine@physics.unige.ch
Dpt. of Radiology | (+41 22) 372 70 70
Geneva University Hospitals |

Subject: Re: IDL vs. matlab

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 13 Apr 2001 15:33:56 GMT

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Aaron Birenboim <aaron@shimi.swcp.com> writes:

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Another IDL-like program is Yorick.

<ftp://wuarchive.wustl.edu/languages/yorick/yorick-ad.html>

I believe it is a little more optimized than ANA, and has lots of

languages don't take off is that there's no established code base like
the Astronomy Library for IDL. They would need a translator or a
compatibility mode.

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: IDL vs. matlab

Posted by [marc schellens\[1\]](#) on Sat, 14 Apr 2001 17:41:57 GMT

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thanks!

marc

Subject: Re: IDL vs. matlab

Posted by [hcp](#) on Tue, 17 Apr 2001 08:23:00 GMT

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In article <onu23sbyqj.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>, Craig Markwardt
<craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> writes:

|>

|> Aaron Birenboim <aaron@shimi.swcp.com> writes:

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I have a list of free alternatives to IDL at

<http://www.met.ed.ac.uk/~hcp/idletc.html>

Further suggestions welcome.

All the best

Hugh

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OBDisclaimer: The views expressed herein are mine, not those of UofE.

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Subject: Re: IDL vs. matlab

Posted by [Aaron Birenboim](#) on Tue, 24 Apr 2001 16:09:37 GMT

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Marc Schellens <m_schellens@hotmail.com> wrote:

: Aaron Birenboim wrote:

:>

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Aaron Birenboim
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<http://boim.com/~aaron>
