
Subject: Is ANA dead?

Posted by [Aaron Birenboim](#) on Fri, 12 Oct 2001 16:38:18 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Is ANA dead? (It is/was a free alternative to IDL)
The Lockheed WWW sites seem to have dropped it.

If it is dead, is there another IDL/MatLab/PV-Wave like
free alternative that seems to have widespread support?
(I want high-likelihood that the package will be around
in a few years)

--

Aaron Birenboim | Black holes are where G-d divided
Albuquerque, NM | by zero.
aaron@boim.com |
boim.com/~aaron | -Steven Wright

Subject: Re: Is ANA dead?

Posted by [Amara Graps](#) on Sat, 13 Oct 2001 13:07:09 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Aaron Birenboim wrote:

>

> Is ANA dead? (It is/was a free alternative to IDL)
> The Lockheed WWW sites seem to have dropped it.

One of the authors of ANA is Louis Strous. Maybe ask him?
(Search in Google) I don't know if he is still at Lockheed.

Amara

--

Amara Graps, PhD | Max-Planck-Institut fuer Kernphysik
Heidelberg Cosmic Dust Group | Saupfercheckweg 1
+49-6221-516-543 | 69117 Heidelberg, GERMANY
<http://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/dustgroup/~graps>

"Never fight an inanimate object." - P. J. O'Rourke

Subject: Re: Is ANA dead?

Posted by [pit](#) on Sat, 13 Oct 2001 19:17:23 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Amara Graps <Amara.Graps@mpi-hd.mpg.de> writes:

> Aaron Birenboim wrote:

>>

>> Is ANA dead? (It is/was a free alternative to IDL)

>> The Lockheed WWW sites seem to have dropped it.

>

> One of the authors of ANA is Louis Strous. Maybe ask him?

> (Search in Google) I don't know if he is still at Lockheed.

No, he's not. He went back to the Netherlands, and left solar physics :-(

Pit

--

Dr. Peter "Pit" Suetterlin

<http://www.astro.uu.nl/~suetter>

Sterrenkundig Instituut Utrecht

Tel.: +31 (0)30 253 5225

P.Suetterlin@astro.uu.nl

Subject: Re: Is ANA dead?

Posted by [James Tappin](#) on Mon, 15 Oct 2001 10:51:25 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Peter Suetterlin wrote:

>

> No, he's not. He went back to the Netherlands, and left solar physics :-(

The other author is Dick Shine. Both are still listed on the whos-who page of Imsal.

James

--

```
+-----+-----+-----+
| James Tappin      | School of Physics & Astronomy | O__ |
| sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk | University of Birmingham    | -- V' |
| Ph: 0121-414-6462. Fax: 0121-414-3722      |      |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

Subject: Re: Is ANA dead?

Posted by [hcp](#) on Thu, 18 Oct 2001 09:17:54 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Given the existence of this thread and the parallel one
"Any cross-platform IDL alternatives?" I'm going to boringly re-direct

everyone to the list I keep of free alternatives to IDL that I keep [1] at <http://www.met.ed.ac.uk/~hcp/idletc.html>

It doesn't mention anything that hasn't already been hashed over already, but I can confirm the general feeling that R and Yorick are the most useful alternatives. Of course, neither is anything like a direct replacement. As I see it, the pros and cons are as follows -- I also list some "features" which are neither clear pros nor cons, but should be taken into consideration.

R

===

Pros

- * Actively cross-platform
- * Developing fast
- * large group of developers
- * good system for add-on packages and linking C/Fortran code
- * Huge number of plotting and statistics features
- * HDF5 support (http://www.met.ed.ac.uk/~hcp/hdf5_1.4.7.tar.gz)

Cons

- * Slow to execute (compared to IDL and Yorick)
- * No geographical maps
- * Image processing and display limited.
- * NetCDF support poor (only works with very old files)

Features

- * GPL license
- * Linguistically unique, with an odour of lisp.

Yorick

=====

Pros

- * fast execution (almost as good as IDL)
- * zoomable plots
- * NetCDF support
- * A one-man effort: clear and simple design philosophy.

Cons

- * A one-man effort: development is slow.
- * No HDF5 support

* Mostly for Unix (I think there are Mac/Doze ports but I don't know how actively they are used)

Features

- * rather old-fashioned (static) C/Fortran linking. It works OK, though.
- * Linguistically like C with array operations -- the latter are more flexible and well-thought-out than in IDL.
- * BSD-like license

Anyway, I hope this is of help to someone! I'm using R at the moment, mainly for the HDF5 support. (Hello, RSI! HDF5! Sometime before 2004 would be good :-))

All the best

Hugh

[1] "Maintain" is too strong a word.

--

=====

Hugh C. Pumphrey | Telephone 0131-650-6026
Department of Meteorology | FAX 0131-650-5780
The University of Edinburgh | Replace 0131 with +44-131 if outside U.K.
EDINBURGH EH9 3JZ, Scotland | Email hcp@met.ed.ac.uk
OBDisclaimer: The views expressed herein are mine, not those of UofE.

=====