Subject: Is ANA dead? Posted by Aaron Birenboim on Fri, 12 Oct 2001 16:38:18 GMT

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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-liklihood 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

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# 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

--

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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

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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 Sterrenkundig Instituut Utrecht http://www.astro.uu.nl/~suetter

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P.Suetterlin@astro.uu.nl

Subject: Re: Is ANA dead?

Posted by James Tappin on Mon, 15 Oct 2001 10:51:25 GMT

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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

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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 anyting 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-patform
- \* 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.  * Lingustically 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.
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