
Subject: ENVI Rep

Posted by [oe2v](#) on Mon, 16 May 1994 15:49:25 GMT

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id AA33740; Mon, 16 May 1994 17:48:47 +0200

Cc: turet@carson.u.washington.edu

Hi there,

Phil Turet writes:

> What's the scoop on ENVI anyhow? I'm working with a group that just got
> a beta version for the Mac; I'd like to hear anything about the background
> of the program, what are its antecedents, who wrote it, is it a joint
> venture. I've read the sales brochures and it must be pretty powerful
> to get \$7K for it. Thanks, and thanks for this newsgroup.

Stephen Strebel answers:

> ENVI is being created by Creaso, the German reseller and supporter of
> IDL. Its pretty large, and runs on top of IDL. Currently it doesn't
> seem to be a runtime version, ie: if it crashes it leaves you in IDL.
> very good to work with. (Yet we are having problems getting it running
> correctly)
> The whole package is designed to let you do image processing without
> having to write any code. Yet you can write your own IDL routines and just
> plug them into ENVI. But like I said, I haven't played with it much, so
> I cannot say how well it runs, etc.

> Its definitely worth taking a look at, and they did some neat stuff
> with the GUI too.

As I know for sure, ENVI is not created by CREASO, it is a product of a company called BSC (Better Solutions Consulting) in some cooperation with RSI. One of the authors is Fred Kruse of the University of Boulder/Colorado. This appears to be the reason why there is some strong spectral analysis tools in ENVI. As far as I know, many people who were involved in the development of SIPS (the Spectral Image Processing System), which is another IDL tool for processing of hyperspectral data (i.e. AVIRIS, GERIS etc.), participated in the creation of ENVI. While SIPS could be aquired free of charge (only an license agreement had to be signed), ENVI is set up commercialy.

Our group, which mainly deals with hyperspectral image data, too, was a beta tester of ENVI and currently uses Version 1.01. Despite some bugs and functional gaps, which are more or less normal for a first version, I would say it's worth the money.

What I understood from our close cooperation with CREASO there is also some hope, that strong user requests will be implemented in a not too distant time. So there is a good

chance to get some influence on the future shape of it. By the way there is two versions, a runtime option which does not allow IDL to be run without ENVI, and a so called development option, where ENVI is called from and exited to the IDL command line.

I hope this is of some interest and help to you. If you want to discuss some more details, please contact me.

Peter

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