
Subject: Re: IDL vs. Matlab?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 14:45:59 GMT

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Steve writes:

> I've been using Matlab for 10+ yrs, but have recently been asked to
> start coding in IDL as well. It seems as though the two are quite
> similar. What are the prime reasons (outside of ENVI compatibility)
> that one would wish to use IDL over Matlab (also, where might it fall
> short)?

Fall short!? Sir, I'm not sure you fully appreciate
who you are talking to here!

In any case, a quick trip through the archives with
"MatLab similar IDL" should provide you with plenty
of ammunition to start this shooting war again. :-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: IDL vs. Matlab?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 06 Jan 2006 15:31:13 GMT

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Steve wrote:

> I've been using Matlab for 10+ yrs, but have recently been asked to
> start coding in IDL as well. It seems as though the two are quite
> similar. What are the prime reasons (outside of ENVI compatibility)
> that one would wish to use IDL over Matlab (also, where might it fall
> short)? Thanks.

I'll assume you're not trolling....

The prime reasons for using one over the other are something that you're going to have to discover for yourself -- unless you provide more information about your needs. Otherwise, many replies mentioning specifics will likely be pretty meaningless. There are plenty of reasons for choosing one or t'other, but a good deal of them may not be important to you depending on what you need to do. Productivity/learning curve issues aside (and, IMO, that's a *big* aside), how do you usually decide the best tool/application for a task?

That (implicitly biased) decision process should be relatively language-comparison independent (e.g. from my world: Fortran vs C for science-y type number crunching codes).

paulv

--

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