Subject: Are people using IMSL?
Posted by Brian Larsen on Tue, 08 Jul 2008 16:10:57 GMT

All,
I am looking through the IDL documentation and seeing more and more of
the routines that I want to use as part of IMSL, in this instance it
is random numbers from "weird" distributions. This makes we want to
get analyst, I am wondering if the experts on this list are using it?
And if not, why? Too much money? Don't need the features? Already
wrote everything you need? Using something else?

I do notice that most of the things I want (in my looking today) are a
part of the GSL, it is not too hard to write wrappers to GSL code to
make it callable from IDL but that is certainly a heck of a lot more
work than calling IMSL_xxxx.pro.

Thoughts? Comments?

Cheers,

Brian

 -- --------------
Brian Larsen
Boston University
Center for Space Physics
http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/Home/IDL

Subject: Re: Are people using IMSL?
Posted by Peter Clinch on Wed, 09 Jul 2008 07:30:32 GMT

Brian Larsen wrote:

> I am looking through the IDL documentation and seeing more and more of
> the routines that I want to use as part of IMSL, in this instance it
> is random numbers from "weird" distributions. This makes we want to
> get analyst, I am wondering if the experts on this list are using it?
> And if not, why? Too much money? Don't need the features? Already
> wrote everything you need? Using something else?

I am not an expert, but...

originally we were using PV~Wave Advantage here, which is Wave with the
IMSL extra goodies. In our particular usage, which was actually pretty

straightforward image processing, we weren't taking much advantage of the extras so when we got a good offer from RSI to change to IDL which gave us a lower annual maintenance bill we moved over and haven't missed the extras enough to want them back, but that's for straightforward image processing and relatively lightweight data crunching.

> I do notice that most of the things I want (in my looking today) are a
> part of the GSL, it is not too hard to write wrappers to GSL code to
> make it callable from IDL but that is certainly a heck of a lot more
> work than calling IMSL_xxxx.pro.

The usual dichotomy here: at some level Time == Money. If you have the money, it's probably worth spending because you can never get time back again. If you don't have the money you don't have the choice, of course. Reinventing the wheel is for either those with no choice or who have time on their hands, the latter group being something of an empty set, I suspect!

Pete.
--
Peter Clinch   Medical Physics IT Officer
Tel 44 1382 660111 ext. 33637   Univ. of Dundee, Ninewells Hospital
Fax 44 1382 640177   Dundee DD1 9SY Scotland UK
net p.j.clinch@dundee.ac.uk   http://www.dundee.ac.uk/~pjclinch/