

Folks,

I am making progress on my new book. A draft is finished. All the chapters have been spell-checked. And I have had a quick read through the entire book, fixing things as I went. Now the real fun begins: chasing errors!

If you have downloaded one of the book chapters from my web page, you have been invited to participate in the Feedback Frenzy, wherein people get to read a chapter and unload (metaphorically, of course) on what an idiot the author is. More points are scored with wit than invective, but I'm willing to take any kind of feedback to make this book better. :-)

If you would like to participate, I am happy to have you. You can find a table of contents for the book here:

[http://www.dfanning.com/misc/guide\\_toc.pdf](http://www.dfanning.com/misc/guide_toc.pdf)

Contact me and let me know which chapter you would like to review. I'll send it to you, when you return it with comments, you can select another, etc. There are 11 chapters in the book.

My goal would be to have 8-10 people look at each chapter, so the chapter you prefer may not be available. I'll do my best to see you get what you want, but the earlier you respond, the better your chances are.

Here are the things I am looking for:

1. Typos (lots of these, I am sure)
2. Code that doesn't work as described in the book. (You will need to download the very latest Coyote Library release to check the book's code. You can find it at <http://www.dfanning.com/programs/coyoteprograms.zip>.)
3. Badly explained or poorly written explanations, or anything that in your opinion I have just gotten wrong.
4. Figures that are missing, strange, or have other problems.
5. Any unresolved cross-reference, or a cross-reference to something that doesn't seem to exist.
6. Evidence of bad jokes, ill-temper, or dubious cultural

sensitivity.

7. Anything you think I have missed that should have gone into a chapter.

What I am NOT looking for:

1. Effusive praise. Please be as critical as possible. You will not hurt my feelings in any way.
2. Bad page breaks. These are always resolved right before the book goes to print.

Thank you very much for your help. This kind of book cannot be, and would not be, written without the unbelievable support of the IDL community. I greatly appreciate it.

Cheers,

David (first\_name AT coyote's place of residence)

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Book Editors Needed. Apply Within  
Posted by [Anne Martel](#) on Thu, 06 Jan 2011 17:09:46 GMT  
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Hi David,

I am an old IDL user (since version 4) and have always found your books to be extremely useful. I would like to edit a whole chapter but time is very tight at the moment and I have too many other commitments. However I would love to go over the section on PCA for images - this is one of my main research interests and the primary reason I use IDL (the matrix notation sucks but memory management is sooo much better than matlab's). If a partial commitment doesn't work for you then please just correct 1 error - it is PrinciPAL components analysis, not principle components analysis!

All the Best,

Anne

On 1/4/2011 5:40 PM, David Fanning wrote:

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> Cheers,  
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> David (first\_name AT coyote's place of residence)  
>

-----  
Anne L Martel, PhD

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Subject: Re: Book Editors Needed. Apply Within  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Jan 2011 17:13:32 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Anne Martel writes:

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> error - it is PrinciPAL components analysis, not principle components  
> analysis!

Aaaauughha! My fingers still use 7th grade spelling! :-)

I'll send you the chapter. Thanks. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
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