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Subject: Ice and Wind: Standing on the Arctic Ocean  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 May 2012 05:38:39 GMT  
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Folks,

A number of people have sent me e-mails over the years, after reading something on my web page, suggesting that maybe I ought to "write a book." You will be happy to know (or, maybe not) that I have taken your suggestions seriously. Today I announce a new book that has nothing whatsoever to do with IDL, except that it was an IDL friend who got me into this mess in the first place.

In fact, it was here, in the IDL newsgroup, where I first announced that I really needed to "get out of town." The next thing I knew, Ben Tupper had fixed me up with a group of oceanographers heading up to the Arctic Ocean. When I checked the weather the day Ben called, it was -35 degrees F, with a wind chill of -65 degrees. Good God! I meant a sunny beach in Greece where nobody spoke English!

So anyway, the result is a long essay about the month I spent in the Arctic Ocean with these scientists. The book is what we call long-form journalism, which means the story is too long for a magazine article or essay, and too short for a book. It is fast becoming my favorite kind of reading on my Kindle.

The book, Ice and Wind: Standing on the Arctic Ocean, is an E-book and is formatted for the Kindle, the iPad/iPhone/Nook/Etc and the computer (in PDF format). (The iPhone is a great place to read these kinds of articles, while you are waiting for your next meeting to get started.) I've priced the book at half the cost of a cup of coffee, and you enjoy it for approximately twice as long. It will take you about an hour to read the story, more or less.

You can find the book (in whatever format you need) in the E-Books section of the Coyote Store:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/store/index.php>

My plan, if all goes well, will be to make this book available at the Kindle Store and other locations where people typically buy E-books.

I hope you buy it, and I hope you enjoy it. In any case, I'd love

to hear from you about it. I have several more books in mind if this one strikes a chord with anyone. :-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

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Subject: Re: Ice and Wind: Standing on the Arctic Ocean  
Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Mon, 14 May 2012 10:07:51 GMT  
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Hi David,

It took me a bit longer to read through. The reason for that are not the burning chops but hyperactive children.

Well, it is absorbing to read about people that are miles away from my research field and do their research even more miles away, and still find a lot of similarities. I'm each one of us has had "his" Christensen, Belzile and Olivo in his lab. What most researchers don't have is a "David" lending a hand and then putting down in nice words experiences that should be not forgotten (yes, that's because we mostly forget about the plots and data that come out of such research quite quickly). I'm very jealous that I haven't had yet a David in my lab and probably will not have a proper story put down black on white for my family and friends to read about. I also find the social relationships that build up in such extreme environments very very interesting. Should have studied sociology or something that finishes with "-ology".

I found you book very well written and made me see through your eyes landscapes that I would otherwise probably never be able to see/live.

Or... does anybody need a pair of hands in the Arctic?

Essential resume': can cook (Italian... with a German attitude), have some experience with surface electron microscopes (not that anybody care up there) and I can sometimes make funny jokes (depending on the environment they may be found funny or not, but of such things David has already given a nice overview!).

Cheers,

Helder

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Subject: Re: Ice and Wind: Standing on the Arctic Ocean  
Posted by [DavidF\[1\]](#) on Mon, 14 May 2012 20:24:02 GMT

Helder writes:

> Well, it is absorbing to read about people that are miles away from my research field and do their research even more miles away, and still find a lot of similarities. I'm each one of us has had "his" Christensen, Belzile and Olivo in his lab. What most researchers don't have is a "David" lending a hand and then putting down in nice words experiences that should be not forgotten (yes, that's because we mostly forget about the plots and data that come out of such research quite quickly).

Thanks for the very nice review. I appreciate it very much.

I'm still having trouble selling this book (the price has been lowered to \$0.99, on sale for \$0.49 and I can still count the number of friends and family I have on one hand. :-)

So, here is what I am going to do. I'm going to assume I am the only one on the planet who owns an e-reader (too depressing to assume I'm the only one on the planet who likes to read), and I am going to GIVE AWAY this damn book to anyone willing to read it. That's right. You heard me. I can't possible become a writer until someone reads something I've written, so I'm willing to give this away. (I'd offer to pay you to read it, but, you know, that's not going to happen in my current marriage.)

So, here is your chance. You can download this book, for free, in PDF format here:

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/pdf/standing\\_on\\_the\\_ocean.pdf](http://www.idlcoyote.com/pdf/standing_on_the_ocean.pdf)

You can also purchase the book for your iPhone, iPad, Nook, Sony or Kindle from my web page in the E-Books section of my store for less than half a buck:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/store>

Or, you can get it from Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B008198GQW>

Or, you can get it from Barnes & Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/standing-on-the-ocean-david-fanning/1110737355>

My favorite way of reading books is to use the Kindle App on my iPhone, which gives me access to all my Kindle books, except that all the pictures are in color. Much handier to carry my phone than my Kindle.

Happy Reading!

Cheers,

David

P.S. Did I mention that Coyote's retirement pension (basically a beer fund) is funded \*entirely\* with book proceeds?

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