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Subject: Interesting article in Nature

Posted by [penteado](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 23:24:09 GMT

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It is not everyday that choosing IDL over other languages gets discussed in Nature:

"The algorithms to be incorporated were varied, and included codes for estimating snow coverage, grain size and absorption of solar radiation by dust and black carbon. They had been written in IDL, a specialized programming language used by many researchers. Geographers, remote sensing experts and software programmers contributed.

Most computer scientists would assume that such a system would take years, not weeks, to develop. The algorithms would presumably have to be rewritten in a standard language such as C++, Java or Python, or one that could run on a fast computer system or infrastructure, such as Google's MapReduce model.

But, in my experience, there is no need to rewrite scientific algorithms for bigdata systems. Rewriting only increases the barriers to communication between scientists and computer engineers. Rewriting can also introduce costly errors."

From

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/493473a>

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