
Subject: Re: idl-pvwave differences?

Posted by [jlaw](#) on Thu, 14 Dec 1995 08:00:00 GMT

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In article l81@onramp.arc.nasa.gov, Peter Sharer <sharer@argus.arc.nasa.gov> writes:

> This newsgroup seems to be primarily focused on idl issues, despite its title.
> Our group already owns idl and is considering purchasing pvwave as well. Before
> we do so I want to learn what, if any, would be the advantages to owning both
> packages. I checked the idl faq and found only a history of the relationship
> between idl and pvwave, but no technical description of their differences. Is
> there a good reason to own both?

When I looked into this(about 2 & half years ago, and not at this site)

there did not seem to be any important differences.

There are different (user and supplied)library functions/procedures between the two, so it depends just

what you actually use. PV-WAVE also provides the IMSL routines. (Another code library. I didn't see the need for this as we already had NAG.)

There were major differences in the coding of WIDGET applications - when we moved from PV-WAVE to IDL I had to relearn how to do widgets. (Actually, what happened was we had PV-WAVE N-1. When they released PV-WAVE N all my widget code broke horribly. About that time IDL approached us with a cheap offer and a demo version. It was way easier to rewrite my widgets for IDL M than PV-WAVE N. Guesss which route we took.)

The question to ask is:- What can I get (that I need) from PV-WAVE that I do not get (but need)from IDL. Ask it the other way round as well. THEN ask if it is worth the extra few bucks.

Oh yes, all my NUMERICAL code ported straight over with no(thats NO) work. It was just the gee-whiz interface that had the trouble. I think there are also some interesting differences between the plotting and imaging routines. Read the manuals, CHECK THE KEYWORDS ALLOWED. NOthing important from what I remember.

Imagine. you are in the restaurant. Do you have the beef madras or the beef vindaloo?

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