Subject: IDL, Mathematica, Matlab
Posted by Wei C. Lin on Fri, 25 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

 I am new to IDL and am wondering what the strength and weakness
of IDL are, in comparison with Mathmatica and Matlab. Does someone have
some insight?

 Thanks

Wei C. Lin

Subject: Re: IDL, Mathematica, Matlab
Posted by kspencer on Thu, 01 May 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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This question comes up every now and then. Does anyone know if it's in
the FAQ? I don't have a recent copy.

Anyway, my opinion (briefly) is this: Mathematica is primarily a symbolic-
oriented language, unlike IDL and Matlab, which much like standard program-
ming languages but treat arrays as objects. I've used both IDL and Matlab.
I think IDL is stronger for building applications and for visualization,
especially mapping, but Matlab has *much* more extensive libraries. I've
used the Matlab signal processing package and I was very impressed. Also,
I suspect that the more esoteric Matlab routines are better algorithms and
are more bug-free than IDL.

The differences between IDL and Matlab are probably narrowing, as Matlab
improves their visualization capabilities and support for programming
applications, and IDL builds up its libraries (the addition of the Numerical
Recipes routines was nice).

Kevin

Kevin Spencer
Cognitive Psychophysiology Laboratory and Beckman Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
kspencer@s.psych.uiuc.edu
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mlambert@csc.com (Michael Lambertson) writes:

> I (like wei-chen lin) am also interested in a comparison of MatLab and

> Interactive Data Language (IDL). Does anyone know of such a comparison?

> William Thompson (thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov) wrote:
> : Philippe Coujoulou <pcoujoul@eur.ericsson.se> writes:

> : >IDL is not a programming language. It is for the description of
> : >interfaces, i.e. you can use it to make different OO languages
> : >interwork.

> : >For exemple, you can write a client with java and a server with C++. And
> : >you specify the interface of your C++ objects with IDL, so that your
> : >java client can call them (using IDL).

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> : to. I believe that Wei C. Lin was asking about the Interactive Data Language
> : from Research Systems Incorporated. The correct newsgroup for that is
> : comp.lang.idl-pvwave.

> : William Thompson

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