

Re: Image processing prototype software

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- *From:* "ImageAnalyst" <hayworth@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
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The cost of MATLAB wasn't too much of an issue for me (I fall into that class you mentioned of scientists working for large companies). The two main complaints I have against MATLAB are (1) no user interface suitable for interactively exploring and playing around with your image (which limits what many people in my company can do with it since they're not really programmers), and (2) it often takes dozens or hundreds of lines of code to do what literally took 1 or two lines in Optimas (a now defunct package that had a lot of higher level functionality in it).

ImageJ has a fairly user friendly user interface, for as much as it has, although it doesn't have much. It does have a large user community and it seems like anything I want to do is not built in and I have to go online looking for a user-written plugin that is similar to what I want and that I can adapt to fit my needs. Often these are things that I think should be already built in. (Disclaimer: I haven't used ImageJ in the past 2 years — because of that.)

MATLAB has a similar user community, which I've used more than the ImageJ one, but it seems like there are a lot of macros submitted that are half baked. There are some good ones out there but a lot of them are simple or lame like a grad student worked on them for a few minutes and thought it might be fun to upload it before it was thoroughly generalized (made generic), tested, or documented (commented).

From what I've seen at symposia, MATLAB could be the most widely used.

I think that is because universities already have it to teach linear algebra and they can just spend a few extra bucks to get the ImageProcessing Toolbox so they go with that. Reduces the learning time and cost as compared to getting a different package, even though there might be other packages out there that are better in terms of having higher level functionality. ImageJ might be the second most widely used, or it might be the first – I don't know of any stats on that.

ImageAnalyst

Re: Image processing prototype software

Bob wrote:

I think ImageAnalyst is being too hard on matlab. I think it has most of the features you mentioned. The problems he mentions are more than made up by the speed with which you can get code working and the wide availability of free code developed by users.

The main problem with matlab is that it is expensive. It's a tool for professionals and most of their customers work at companies where the cost is trivial compared with the wages they pay their engineers. They do have low cost packages for students.

Bob