

Visual programming language and matlab

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A few weeks ago I posted a message asking about porting matlab functions to open-source alternatives (to save money on matlab licenses). After much study and deliberation (and the surprise finding that I could install matlabs MATLAB Compiler Runtime free onto all my computers) I've decided to go the route of compiling stand-alone matlab functions, rather than switching to an open source option.

The original post can be viewed here: >http://groups.google.ca/group/sci.image.processing/browse_frm/thread/10fe355722696d95/5ac1dd9fe36983ef?lnk=gst&q=heit#5ac1dd9fe36983ef

The question that came up repetitively was how to make this user friendly. Most of our matlab routines are intended to be used as "modules" under control of a mater script. Since all of our matlab functions are controlled entirely from command-line options, we were thinking that it may be ideal to use some sort of visual scripting/programming language to control the functions. Aside from making things more user friendly, custom routines could be easily created simply by scripting existing functions together in new ways. This sort of system would be hugely beneficial, as we are currently swamped with hundreds of matlab "master scripts" where people have written matlab functions to string together other previously written matlab functions to do whatever analysis they are trying to do.

The biggest downside of this method would be the need to pass data between functions in the form of temporary files, but then again, the amounts of data we are currently processing already requires the use of temp files so this wouldn't change things much.

Has anyone implemented this type of control over matlab functions? Does anyone know of a good virtual scripting/programming language that would be good for controlling such command-line functions. For that matter is "visual scripting" the correct term for what I want to do*

*by visual scripting, I mean that each function is represented by an icon. You drag the icons into order, connect outputs to inputs via drawing lines. Often, info is entered into the icons to control variables. LabVIEW kinda works in this fashion, I think olympus has

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image acquisition software that also works in this manner.

Once again, money is a bit of an issue, so open source or inexpensive packages would be preferred.

Thanx

Bryan

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