

Re: What is the point of octave? (And its presumed buddy, MatLab)

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math.symbolic/2005-06/msg00060.html>

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- *From:* "Jerzy Karczmarczuk" <[karczma@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:karczma@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 22 Jun 2005 01:32:10 +0000 (UTC)
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beliavsky:

>> Julian Stoev::  
>>  
>>> Instead of solving these problems in compiled language (like Fortran),  
>>> Matlab is solving this in the interpreted language, thus gaining  
>>> programming speed and convenience.  
>  
> I think it is inconvenient to have a program stop in the middle, due to  
> a programming error, rather than at compile time. This happens to me  
> more often in an interpreted language than in Fortran 95 using MODULEs  
> for interface checking and compiling in "strict" mode.

This is a never-ending argument, we may quarrel for years... It is even worse than the disputes between the dynamic/static typing sectarians.

May Fortran give you happiness and wealth. But there \*are\* people who insist on being able to verify interactively the environment upon crash, which is difficult or impossible to achieve in compiled languages. Interpreters – in my opinion – win almost always when the efficiency is not an issue, and especially in pedagogic contexts.

And also, if somebody wants to show a minimum of professionalism after having found a system error, and wants to analyze thoroughly the context of it, to localize its sources, instead of producing a worthless collection of raw bugs.

The best would be probably a language interpreted during tests, and compiled for the final run. Matlab can do this.

Jerzy Karczmarczuk

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Posted via Mailgate.ORG Server – <http://www.Mailgate.ORG>

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