Dagli script a linguaggio di programmazione

Una GUI per il team di produzione

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Milano, 24 Giugno 2019
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Introduction to TRE ALTAMIRA
TRE ALTAMIRA

The global leader in satellite radar data processing for the measurement of ground and structural movements
TRE and ALTAMIRA have joined forces to become the largest InSAR group worldwide, as part of the CLS Group company.

Our History

TRE and ALTAMIRA join together to become TRE ALTAMIRA with main offices in Milano, Barcelona and Vancouver.

TRE ALTAMIRA is a routine provider of nation-wide databases of InSAR measurements using Sentinel-1 imagery.

is a global company and pioneer provider of space-based solutions. It works in six strategic areas of activity: from sustainable fisheries management, maritime surveillance, fleet management, to environmental monitoring, energy & mining and space & ground systems.
~5,000,000 km² analysed everywhere in the world

120,000 Satellite Radar Images Processed

1 mm Precision on single displacement measurements

600+ InSAR Projects in different market sectors

SAR satellites Past and Present Ready for future platforms

International Patents on radar data processing
SqueeSAR® DespecKS® Double-Geometry Corner Reflectors

Facts
We provide deformation maps with millimetric precision using a technique called SqueeSAR®.

Deliverables are in shapefiles format.

Generally shapefile contains millions of points with hundreds of attributes.
For every measurement we provide: geolocalization (lat, lon, height), annual deformation rate, acceleration, standard deviations and all the displacement.

This huge amount of data must be displayed and edited in MATLAB.
WHY MATLAB?
» Most of the employees learnt MATLAB at university (a well known tool)
» We need high computational performances.
» We need to easily display/interact data while process them
» We need to develop complex tool; we need a programming language
» Mathworks customer care
» A large community of developers (also important events such as: MATLAB expo, Advisory Board)
» Many online how2/training resources
MATLAB ... A LONG JOURNEY
All users initially developed independently its own tool and set of MATLAB functions.

No standardization, no proper comments into functions, no documentation, no common best practices

Many functions for the same action with slightly different results
moving toward ... a tool for production

» Remove duplicated functions
» Organize code in an homogenous way
  • Set up a repository with proper guidelines for users
  • Organize function in modules with a version
  • Create collection of modules into releases

» Oblige data scientist to use a code repository (CVS, git)
» It is forbidden to edit production code
» Oblige data scientist to test the code in an extensive way
» Work in a team
Function are collected in module (libraries) with a proper version number. A release in production is a collection of modules version. Any release has a xml configuration file to specify the release modules. The MATLAB path is set automatically choosing the production release.
**findFunction** is a tool to retrieve function thanks to some keywords. The documentation is build automatically from some comments added to the code.
A web-app to drive the team into repository and versioning (CVS and git command suggestions, mail notifications, version numbers stored into database)

... a tool for production
Some MATLAB GUI were created to let code deploying automatic and easy.
Switch_path and switch_stable are tools that let the user change the release used in a MATLAB session; the MATLAB path is updated automatically.
using MATLAB … as a programming language

» A powerful editor (even for GUI developing)
» Debugging tools
» Profiling tools
» Tests
» A large community of developers (also important events such as: MATLAB expo, Advisory Board)
» Easy to learn
» Mathworks customer care
» Training opportunities

→ We need a programming language to develop a challenging project as GUI factotum ←
GUI FACTOTUM
From scripting to a professional user interface
Users will not need to learn MATLAB scripting/developing
Users are more focused on the quality of the products
The need to see/inspect results during the processing
Product creation is guided and for sure:
  • more standardized
  • actions are register/logged
GUI factotum

Millions of points must be displayed and processed. The GUI must be optimized to guarantee good performances.
Code must reflect this model

Function naming follows a rigid schema

No direct access to MODEL data (GET/SET)

Unit and integrity tests

Code must be re-used easily
New events could be triggered during the execution.

Users shouldn't interact with GUI while it is reacting to a user action.

All the code necessary to execute the required action.

Now users can understand the required action is completed.

We must TEST the GUI!
handlesFactotum=benchmark_GUIfactotum(f_benchmark_xml);
MATLAB is the “tool” of the production team
MATLAB is a “programming language”
It is mandatory to set tools/procedures for development and deployment
Work always in team

Conclusions and Next steps

Next steps are usually driven by important events such as MATLAB expo or MAB

- Move to the cloud (AWS EC2 and S3)
- Use MATLAB Coder to improve performances
- Move to MATLAB OOP?
- Move to App Designer and/or Live Editor?
- Use MATLAB Compiler?
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