

# Maybe Fortran isn't dead?

James F. Epperson

February 17, 2022

After I retired I was speaking with the young man hired to fill my position, and we were talking about various computer languages—he had just come off a post-doctoral appointment in which one of his tasks was to write very sophisticated and complicated numerical codes. He was very outspoken about script-based interpretive languages (such as MATLAB or Python) being very slow compared to compiled languages (such as Fortran). This followed an experience in which a referee for a paper I submitted for publication to an engineering journal suggested that I should test my codes on a “fast” language, specifically citing Fortran.

So maybe Fortran ain't really dead?

Accordingly, I have installed GNU-Fortran on my laptop, and intend to spend a non-trivial amount of time writing, testing, and evaluating Fortran versions of many of the codes and algorithms in the text. Stay tuned ...