

State of Octave

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However, there are still many challenges for the future.

- MATLAB (constantly moving target, not the best language, etc.)
- User expectations
- Funding
- Maintainer burnout
- ...

How Many Users?

Because Octave may be freely redistributed, it's impossible to know precisely how many people are using Octave. My guess is in the hundreds of thousands.

- We don't get good download info from the GNU project.

- Mailing list activity seems stable
(400–700 help list messages per month)
- IRC activity seems to be increasing
(People talk a lot when Jordi is around, not as much otherwise)
- Approximately 500 Open bug reports

Since the meeting last year in Montreal:

- 57 different contributors made 1801 commits
- 28 of them made only 1 or 2 changes
- the top 14 contributors made 1694 commits
- the top 7 contributors made 1501 commits



Missing Features

- Classdef classes (handle and value)
- Packages (+dir names in the load path)
- containers.Map class (handle class)
- InputParser class (handle class)
- MException objects (handle class)
- cdflib interface (package)
- netcdf interface (package)
- hdf (4 and 5) functions (packages)

Missing Features

- Camera viewpoint functions
- Volume visualization
- Foreign function interface
- Java interface
- COM and Active X
- .NET
- Serial port device functions

The Octave Developer Community

- We have a diverse developer community
- Currently growing but still rather small (we'd love to have more participation)
- Most contributors make a few small changes and move on
- We must work to include more people in the community

Needs of the Developer Community

- Bug tracking
- Release management
- Web site hackers
- Mailing list maintenance
- Support via the `help@octave.org` mailing list
- Core language interpreter development
- Domain specialists: signal processing, image processing, control systems design, graphics, GUI development, etc.
- ...

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- **Nine** student projects this summer

- We have hundreds of thousands of users but very little direct funding. Is that what should be happening?
- Having a large user community expecting to get something for free from a small developer community is not sustainable.

- Independently wealthy developer
- Research project/government grant
- A few large donations from a small number of benefactors
- Many small donations from users
- Selling binary distributions (pay what you want?)
- Selling support contracts