
Subject: Re: IDL time test with a PowerMac G4
Posted by [pford1955](#) on Fri, 08 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <b13L3.5294
\$cPf.197315584@news.telia.no>,
roy.hansen@triad.no (Roy E. Hansen) wrote:
> In article <gurman-
0410991751060001@barkochba.nascom.nasa.gov>,
> gurman@gsfc.nasa.gov (Joseph B. Gurman) wrote:
>
>> Running IDL 5.2 without any special
Velocity Engine (Altivec) plugins
>> or other mods, a G4/450 running Mac OS 8.6
with 128 Mbyte of memory and a
>> 20 Gbyte Western Digital (stock) Ultra ATA
hard drive gets the following
>> results on time_test2:
>>
> snip - snip
>
>> 4.73333=Total Time,
0.096772401=Geometric mean, 23 tests.
>
> Running time_test2 on my P-II 400 laptop
produces the same total time
> (4.7300 seconds, see below). I though the new
G4 was a > 1 Gflops machine
> excellent for numerical stuff but, this small
comparison indicates that my standard
> PC is equally fast.... Is there something I am
missing here, or is'nt the new G4 as
> fantastic as announced? Well, to answer my
self - I fooled myself by studying the total
> time from time_test2. By studying test 20 in
time_test2 (forward and inverse 1D FFT)
> the test looks like this:
>
> G4/450: 20 0.150000 131072 point
forward plus inverse FFT
> G3/350: 20 0.300000 131072 point
forward plus inverse FFT
> Alpha500: 20 0.243165 131072 point
forward plus inverse FFT
> P-II 400: 20 0.550000 131072 point
forward plus inverse FFT
>
> So it may be that the G4 is a supercomputer

after all.....

>

> --RoyH

>

Roy, yes you did miss something. As stated in the introduction to the test: "without any special Velocity Engine (AltiVec) plugins or other mods..." The Gflop range applies only to AltiVec instructions. Your results are like saying MMX is no good because my application, which doesn't use them, shows no improvement in graphics. The G4 is only marginally faster than the G3 in floating point math without AltiVec. Both are faster than a Pentium series at the SAME CLOCK SPEED, but Pentium are clocked higher! While IDL is going to support AltiVec, I don't believe it is the case here. Now if you want to dump on Apple for slow disk drives and slower graphics, you might have a point. (I'm not so sure about the graphics now days, I believe it on par with Wintel machines.

Regards

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