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Subject: Re: Blazing FAST!!! FFT's for IDL

Posted by [David McClain](#) on Thu, 30 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Correction, the 2-D scaling should have been reported as  $2n^2 \log_2 n$ . FYI, 75 MButterflys/sec corresponds to  $128^2$  images undergoing 2-D FFTs at roughly video frame rates....

- DM

David McClain <dmcclain@azstarnet.com> wrote in message  
news:se64n3q1ni716@corp.supernews.com...

- > I have some sources available on request to perform very, very, fast 1-D and
- > 2-D FFT's, forward and inverse, single and double precision. The speed
- > derives from a multithreaded manager written in C++ that calls on the Intel
- > Math Kernel implementation of 1-D FFT's. It is multithreaded because we
- > typically use dual and quad Pentium and Xeon machines. The manager code
- > sniffs out how many processors you have and spawns worker threads to match.
- > The arrays are then divided up between the different processor threads. The
- > IDL interface is quite simple, consisting of some data prep code and a bunch
- > of CALL\_EXTERNAL's.
- >
- > We have been using this system for several years now. The Intel MKL expects
- > arrays in power of 2 size, unlike IDL, but it runs roughly 10-100 times
- > faster than IDL's routines the last time I checked about a year ago. It
- > properly scales as  $n \log_2 n$  for 1-D and  $2n \log_2 n$  for 2-D  $n$  square arrays
- > (2-D arrays need not be square). IDL's routines scale quite dreadfully as
- > something on the order of  $n^2 (\log_2 n)^2$  which implies some kind of tree
- > search on each Butterfly operation (???). Their routine is nice if you need
- > arbitrary array sizes, but power of 2 can always be used anyway: the
- > resulting spectrum is simply an interpolated spectrum at the intermediate
- > frequencies.
- >
- > On an old quad-Pentium II machine running at 200 MHz, the FFTX routines in
- > this package performed at roughly 75 MButterflys/sec. IDL ran about 3
- > MButterflys/sec.
- >
- > If you are interested just drop me a line. The latest Intel MKL has been
- > sped up to roughly twice its former speed (the speed tests quoted were
- > performed on the old version of the MKL). It is available separately, and
- I
- > believe, still free, from Intel Corp.

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