Subject: Impressions of IDL on PowerMac vs. Sparc
Posted by Jeff Bloch on Tue, 31 Jan 1995 18:33:22 GMT

We have just started playing with IDL on a Power Mac (Quadra 650 with Power Mac upgrade card, (6100/66 equivalent) with 40MB of memory) and comparing it to IDL running on a Sparc LX. We have found some very interesting speed differences. Simple large array operations are a factor of two FASTER on the Power Mac than on the Sparc, yet transcendental function array operations (sin, asin, tan, etc) appear to be a factor of two SLOWER on the Power Mac. Array operations using sqrt() also appear to be faster on the Power Mac. Operations using the convol() function are also much faster on the Power Mac. On the other hand, running the standard IDL demo on each shows the Power Mac running the demo ~40% slower. The Sparc LX did not page or swap during the tests.

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