
Subject: Re: Astronomys` Sixth Neighbour Needs Help

Posted by [jjbezair](#) on Tue, 29 Jul 2003 13:34:22 GMT

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In article <c2959ed8.0307281353.1ea32426@posting.google.com>, astronomer <touser2001@yahoo.com> wrote:

[snip]

> I am sure they will come in handy since the other procedures I have to
> do are all procedures on arrays.
> I am at the same time updating old versions of the program by
> implementing the changes, trying to understand the changes, and trying
> to continue the program to get some science done (but now everytime I
> add something to the program I can't help feeling that it must be
> soooo inefficient! someday I'll laugh (or cry) upon reviewing my
> code).
>

Keep in mind that if you are writing software that you will be using in your own analysis (as opposed to software that will be distributed and used by other people too) that the goal is always to minimize the total amount of time the analysis takes you (including writing the software!). I always have to catch myself from trying to optimize code just for the sake of optimizing code (I have a hidden computer programmer geek side in addition to my physicist geek side). A very wise collaborator gave me an excellent guideline that I'm sure shaved months off of my thesis time. Only work on making code run faster while you are waiting for it to finish running and have nothing else to work on. This time has been specially set aside by the computer gods for you to work on optimization.

regards,
Jeff Bezaire

>
> Thanks everyone!!!
>
> Bruno
> Astronomy PhD Student
> University of Florida

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