Subject: Re: Platform recommendation/tradeoffs? TIME_TEST
Posted by Russ Welti on Fri, 14 Apr 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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There is an IDL routine, called TIME_TEST, which I have used to compare IDL running on 6 different (Unix) CPUs here in my department, and it was very convenient. I made a color plot of the results, which showed that my machine was one of the slowest ones, and will use that to justify a CPU upgrade to my SPARC LX...! [You should have seen the DEC Alpha OSF]

It is easy to do if you already have access to one of the machines which you are curious about.

I agree that a compounded list of many different machines all together would be a nice reference.

P.S. Anyone running or considering running IDL on a PowerMac should go get the free extension for speeding up floating point operations. It made a 20% improvement in our Mac's speed running most scientific applications. The Mac is now faster than my SPARC on many operations. Thanks go to Fred:

> You might get a higher speed on the PowerMac if you would install
> a new floating point math library (made by Apple). It's called MathLib.
> Ask or read about it in a comp.sys.mac.* newsgroup. (I don't know the
> details as I don't have a PowerMac. The only thing I do know is that
> the MathLib in ROM is ``slow'' when it comes to transcendental functions...
> The software patch, i.e., the MathLib extension, solves the speed problem.)
>
> Good luck,
> Fred. (walsteyn@fys.ruu.nl)

Russ Welti
University of Washington
Molecular Biotechnology
PO Box 352145
Seattle, WA 98195
rwelti@u.washington.edu
(206) 685 3840 voice (206) 685 7344 FAX
http://chroma.mbt.washington.edu/graphics/gif/russ.gif