Subject: Re: Intel iMac IDL performance
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 28 Feb 2006 20:55:49 GMT
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On Tue, 28 Feb 2006 14:28:26 -0600, Kenneth Bowman wrote:

> In article <pan.2006.02.27.22.35.29.385927@as.arizona.edu>,
> JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> wrote:
>
>> Good news. Can you try running your benchmark a few time, Ken? Rosetta
>> is not an emulator, but a caching code translator. When it encounters
>> code it has already translated, it simply uses its cached version of
>> that, which should run somewhat faster, so it's not unusual to have the
>> second and later runs of a given benchmark speed up. Can you also run:
>>
>> IDL> time_test3
>>
>> a few times? On my PB G4, that takes 3.6s/0.13s total/geom. mean.
>> Sadly, I expect the iBook Intel/MacBook Pro to beat these numbers even
>> under Rosetta. One other good one to try:
>>
>> IDL> a=randomu(sd,100L*!CPU.TPOOL_MIN_ELTS) IDL> t=systime(1) &
>> a=sqrt(a)/(a>0.5) & print,systime(1)-t
>>
>> which shows how well the threading is working on ~40MB of data. On my
>> PBG4, this takes 1.8s.
>>
>> Thanks,
>>
>> JD
>
> Hi, JD.
>
> I ran JD's benchmark, along with time_test3 and my personal benchmark.
> The results are summarized here:
>
> http://idl.tamu.edu/mac_bench.php
>
> I ran all tests 3 times. Variations between individual runs was at the
> 10% level. (Re-running did not produce significant changes in speed.)
>
> The Intel iMac is faster than my (relatively new) PowerBook G4, but slower
> than a high end G5 desktop.
>
> Multi-threading on the quad-processor G5 seems to work quite well.
>
> I ran a few other non-IDL tests. TeX, with the TeXshop front-end, is
> amazingly fast.

Thanks, Ken. As anticipated, it seems the PBG4 is worse at running IDL PPC code than an emulated Intel Core Duo at 20% higher clock speed. Ouch. You might add (Rosetta) or something to that Intel iMac column in case your link turns up on Google for the ever popular "Intel iMac benchmark" search. Also, can you list the IDL version? When 6.4 or 6.3.x or whatever comes compiled for Intel, we can re-do things. My bet: faster than the quad-G5 in time_test3, slower (but not by much) in my thread-heavy test. Makes me want to find someone to revive the IDLSPEC of years past. Anyone?

JD
