
Subject: Re: Threads in IDL 7.0

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Mon, 27 Oct 2008 16:46:29 GMT

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Bernhard Reinhardt wrote:

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> Hi,
>
> I have have read the Chapter "Multithreading in IDL" in the IDL-Help. As
> far as I can see some IDL functions use threads.
>
> Basically I want to count elements of a big array that exceed a given
> number.
>
> count=0
> for i = 0, 200000 do begin
>   if array[i] ge 10. then count++
> endfor
>
> On my dual-core computer top shows a CPU-load of about 50%. So I guess
> IDL handles this problem single-threaded.
>
> Is there a simple way to split the task. Something like
>
> ;Thread 1
> count1=0
> for i = 0, 100000 do begin
>   if array[i] ge 10. then count1++
> endfor
>
> ;Thread 2
> count2=0
> for i = 100001, 200000 do begin
>   if array[i] ge 10. then count2++
> endfor
>
> count = count1 + count2
>
> Regards
>
> Bernhard
```

Bernhard,

You can't get access to the threads directly as far as I know, you might want to read over:

http://www.ittvis.com/portals/0/whitepapers/IDL_MultiThread.pdf

basically it seems that ITTVIS thought it would be too complicated for scientists to understand and use.

It makes a certain amount of sense when you think through the complications of making things thread-safe although I think with a bit more work they could have delivered something far more useful which allows people who know what they are doing (or at least think they know what they are doing) to mess with threads.

Thanks,

Allan
