Subject: Re: IDL, PV-Wave, Matlab, Khoros
Posted by thompson on Thu, 21 Jan 1993 15:59:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

In article <1jjo6jINN1tn@usenet.INS.CWRU.Edu>, at913@cleveland.Freenet.Edu (Mirko Vukovic) writes...

(stuff deleted)

> Programs written in IDL can be 30-60 times slower than equivalent programs
> written in FORTRAN, but if one uses extensive array manipulation facilities
> execution improves tremendously (factors of 10).

(rest deleted)

Actually our experience has been that, depending on the problem and how the IDL code is written, IDL routines are just about as fast as an equivalent FORTRAN routine. The secret seems to be the use of loops. If you can write your code without any DO loops--and a lot of times you can--then IDL's performance is just about the same as a FORTRAN routine. If you need to use loops, then performance suffers greatly from the need to reinterpret the commands over and over again.

A lot of times I've seen less experienced IDL programs use loops when there were ways to avoid them--I've been guilty of it myself.

Bill Thompson