
Subject: IDL_IDLBridge: No gain?

Posted by [dg86](#) on Sat, 10 Aug 2013 20:05:56 GMT

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Dear Folks,

I'd like to run multiple instances of a computationally expensive routine in separate threads to improve performance. I tried to achieve this by running each instance in a separate IDL_IDLBridge with the NOWAIT flag set. Disappointingly, two instances require roughly twice as long to run as one. There seems to be no benefit! What am I doing wrong?

I'm running IDL 8.2.3 64-bit on a MacBook Pro with 8 cores.

Many thanks,

David

Here's a sketch of my attempt using just two IDL_IDLBridge objects:

```
a = fltarr(640,480) + 1. ; in practice, this would be data
cmd = 'p = lmfeature(a, 0.447, 0.135)' ; the expensive routine
```

```
bridge1 = IDL_IDLBridge()
bridge2 = IDL_IDLBridge()
bridge1.setvar, 'A', a
bridge2.setvar, 'A', a ; use same data for demo
```

```
tic
bridge1.execute, cmd, /nowait
bridge2.execute, cmd, /nowait
```

```
while 1 do $
  if (bridge1.status() eq 1) or (bridge2.status() eq 1) then $
    wait, 0.1 $
  else $
    break
```

```
toc
```

```
p1 = bridge1.getvar('P')
p2 = bridge2.getvar('P')
```
