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Subject: Re: MacOSX: Xgrid+IDL Anyone?

Posted by [Jonathan Greenberg](#) on Fri, 09 Jan 2004 01:15:25 GMT

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Steve:

No answers for you but keep us up to date on this -- I was pretty amazed Apple created that software -- it seems like such a no-brainer for the next "great app" -- real distributed computing on a user-friendly machine (a la seti@home). I'm hoping they make the programming libraries easy enough that ANY app can be easily ported to take advantage of the system.

--j

On 1/8/04 1:08 PM, in article 20040108140819354-0700@news.colorado.edu, "Steven V. Penton" <spenton@colorado.edu> wrote:

> Ok, so Xgrid on MacOSX is cool, but it doesn't seem to  
> work with IDL. I've tried all the thread tweaks but I  
> couldn't get a serious Poly\_2d call to work. I can get  
> Xgrid to pass around the IDL process to the fastest machine,  
> but no luck otherwise. Has anyone else tried ?? Am I  
> being naive to think that the threaded pieces of  
> IDL should work?  
>  
> Steve P.

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Subject: Re: MacOSX: Xgrid+IDL Anyone?

Posted by [Paul Woodford](#) on Fri, 09 Jan 2004 03:45:11 GMT

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In article <20040108140819354-0700@news.colorado.edu>, Steven V. Penton <spenton@colorado.edu> wrote:

> Ok, so Xgrid on MacOSX is cool, but it doesn't seem to  
> work with IDL. I've tried all the thread tweaks but I  
> couldn't get a serious Poly\_2d call to work.

I've not used it, but based on the discussion on Apple's sci-tech mailing list, Xgrid is really for running multiple programs, not multiple threads from one program. In other words, if you have a bunch of independent IDL runs, Xgrid will distribute them over the machines that you have.

Paul

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Subject: Re: MacOSX: Xgrid+IDL Anyone?  
Posted by [Steven V. Penton](#) on Mon, 12 Jan 2004 02:21:27 GMT  
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Ok, so I guess I was naive in hoping that the threads would be distributed via Xgrid. I've been sending idl tasks that benefit from parallel processing to multiple machines with tcsh+ssh for years, I was just hoping Xgrid could steroid my wimpy processor, I guess not. Anyway, here is the friendly response I received from Apple. Steve

Steven,

Thanks for the feedback. Xgrid does not distribute each thread to a different machine. The idea behind Xgrid is that you can run multiple instances of your application, and each instance should have a different set of arguments. I believe that you could get Xgrid to use more machines with your IDL application if you use a file list argument with more than one file -- each machine will get a different file. However, this may require restructuring your IDL application so that each file causes the idl executable to load a different set of data, and process it in a single thread. If you need to be able to communicate between each of the threads, then Xgrid may not be suitable for your particular situation.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Thanks,  
The Xgrid Team

In <cpwoodford-9A405D.22450908012004@corp.supernews.com> Paul Woodford wrote:

> In article <20040108140819354-0700@news.colorado.edu>,  
> Steven V. Penton <spenton@colorado.edu> wrote:  
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