161. Anthony Skjellum, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 7000 East Ave., L-316, P.O. Box 808 Livermore, CA 94551

162. Danny C. Sorensen, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251

163. G. W. Stewart, Computer Science Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

164. Paul N. Swartztrauber, National Center for Atmospheric Research, P.O. Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307

165. Philippe Toint, Dept. of Mathematics, University of Namur, FUNOP, 61 rue de Bruxelles, B-Namur, Belgium

166. Bernard Tourancheau, LIP, ENS-Lyon, 69364 Lyon cedex 07, France

167. Hank Van der Vorst, Dept. of Techn. Mathematics and Computer Science, Delft University of Technology, P.O. Box 356, NL-2600 AJ Delft, The Netherlands

168. Charles Van Loan, Department of Computer Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

169. Jim M. Varah, Centre for Integrated Computer Systems Research, University of British Columbia, Office 2053-2324 Main Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1W5, Canada

170. Udaya B. Vemulapati, Dept. of Computer Science, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL 32816-0362

171. Robert G. Voigt, ICASE, MS 132-C, NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665

172. Phuong Vu, Cray Research, Inc., 19607 Franz Rd., Houston, TX 77084

173–177. Reed C. Wade, Department of Computer Science, Ayres Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1301

178. Daniel D. Warner, Department of Mathematical Sciences, O-104 Martin Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631

179. Robert P. Weaver 1555 Rockmont Circle Boulder, CO 80303

180. Mary F. Wheeler, Rice University, Department of Mathematical Sciences, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251

181. Andrew B. White, Computing Division, Los Alamos National Laboratory, P.O. Box 1663, MS-265, Los Alamos, NM 87545

182. Margaret Wright, Bell Laboratories, 600 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, NJ 07974

183. David Young, University of Texas, Center for Numerical Analysis, RLM 13.150, Austin, TX 78731

184. Earl Zmijewski, Department of Computer Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106

185. Office of Assistant Manager for Energy Research and Development, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, P.O. Box 2001 Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8600

186–187. Office of Scientific & Technical Information, P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

140. Jesse Poore, Department of Computer Science, Ayres Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1301

141. Alex Pothen, Department of Computer Science, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802

142. Yuanchang Qi, IBM European Petroleum Application Center, P.O. Box 585, N-4040 Hafrsfjord, Norway

143. Giuseppe Radicati, IBM European Center for Scientific and Engineering Computing, via del Giorgione 159, I-00147 Roma, Italy

144. John K. Reid, Numerical Analysis Group, Central Computing Department, Atlas Centre, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0QX, England

145. Werner C. Rheinboldt, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

146. John R. Rice, Computer Science Department, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

147. Garry Rodrigue, Numerical Mathematics Group, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550

148. Donald J. Rose, Department of Computer Science, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706

149. Edward Rothberg, Department of Computer Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

150. Axel Ruhe, Dept. of Computer Science, Chalmers University of Technology, S-41296 Goteborg, Sweden

151. Joel Saltz, ICASE, MS 132C, NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665

152. Ahmed H. Sameh, Center for Supercomputing R&D, 1384 W. Springfield Avenue, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

153. Michael Saunders, Systems Optimization Laboratory, Operations Research Department, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

154. Robert Schreiber, RIACS, Mail Stop 230-5, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffet Field, CA 94035

155. Martin H. Schultz, Department of Computer Science, Yale University, P.O. Box 2158 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

156. David S. Scott, Intel Scientific Computers, 15201 N.W. Greenbrier Parkway, Beaverton, OR 97006

157. Lawrence F. Shampine, Mathematics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275

158. Andy Sherman, Department of Computer Science, Yale University, P.O. Box 2158 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

159. Kermit Sigmon, Department of Mathematics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

160. Horst Simon, Mail Stop T045-1, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035

119. John G. Lewis, Boeing Computer Services, P.O. Box 24346, M/S 7L-21, Seattle, WA 98124-0346

120. Jing Li, IMSL Inc., 2500 Park West Tower One, 2500 City West Blvd., Houston, TX 77042-3020

121. Heather M. Liddell, Center for Parallel Computing, Department of Computer Science and Statistics, Queen Mary College, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, England

122. Arno Liegmann, c/o ETH Rechenzentrum, Clausiusstr. 55, CH-8092 Zurich, Switzerland

123. Joseph Liu, Department of Computer Science, York University, 4700 Keele Street, North York, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3

124. Robert F. Lucas, Supercomputer Research Center, 17100 Science Drive, Bowie, MD 20715-4300

125. Franklin Luk, Department of Computer Science, Amos Eaton Building - #131, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY 12180-3590

126. Thomas A. Manteuffel, Department of Mathematics, University of Colorado - Denver, Campus Box 170, P.O. Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217-3364

127. Consuelo Maulino, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Escuela de Computacion, Facultad de Ciencias, Apartado 47002, Caracas 1041-A, Venezuela

128. James McGraw, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, L-306, P.O. Box 808, Livermore, CA 94550

129. Paul C. Messina, Mail Code 158-79, California Institute of Technology, 1201 E. California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91125

130. Cleve Moler, The Mathworks, 325 Linfield Place, Menlo Park, CA 94025

131. Neville Moray, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, University of Illinois, 1206 West Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801

132. Dianne P. O'Leary, Computer Science Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

133. James M. Ortega, Department of Applied Mathematics, Thornton Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22901

134. Charles F. Osgood, National Security Agency, Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755

135. Chris Paige, McGill University, School of Computer Science, McConnell Engineering Building, 3480 University Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2A7

136. Roy P. Pargas, Department of Computer Science, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-1906

137. Beresford N. Parlett, Department of Mathematics, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

138. Merrell Patrick, Department of Computer Science, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706

139. Robert J. Plemmons, Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science, Box 7311, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC 27109

98. Don E. Heller, Physics and Computer Science Department, Shell Development Co., P.O. Box 481, Houston, TX 77001

99. Nicholas J. Higham, Department of Mathematics, University of Manchester, Grt Manchester, M13 9PL, England

100. Charles J. Holland, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Building 410, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC 20332

101. Robert E. Huddleston, Computation Department, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, P.O. Box 808, Livermore, CA 94550

102. Ilse Ipsen, Department of Computer Science, Yale University, P.O. Box 2158 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

103. Barry Joe, Department of Computer Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1, Canada

104. Lennart Johnsson, Thinking Machines Inc., 245 First Street, Cambridge, MA 02142-1214

105. Harry Jordan, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309

106. Bo Kagstrom, Institute of Information Processing, University of Umea, 5-901 87 Umea, Sweden

107. Malvyn H. Kalos, Cornell Theory Center, Engineering and Theory Center Bldg., Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3901

108. Hans Kaper, Mathematics and Computer Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Bldg. 221, Argonne, IL 60439

109. Linda Kaufman, Bell Laboratories, 600 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, NJ 07974

110. Robert J. Kee, Division 8245, Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, CA 94551-0969

111. Kenneth Kennedy, Department of Computer Science, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77001

112. Thomas Kitchens, Department of Energy, Scientific Computing Staff, Office of Energy Research, ER-7, Office G-236 Germantown, Washington, DC 20585

113. Richard Lau, Office of Naval Research, Code 111MA, 800 Quincy Street, Boston Tower 1, Arlington, VA 22217-5000

114. Alan J. Laub, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106

115. Robert L. Launer, Army Research Office, P.O. Box 12211, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

116. Charles Lawson, MS 301-490, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109

117. Peter D. Lax, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University, 251 Mercer Street, New York, NY 10012

118. James E. Leiss, Rt. 2, Box 142C, Broadway, VA 22815

77. Lars Elden, Department of Mathematics, Linkoping University, 581 83 Linkoping, Sweden

78. Howard C. Elman, Computer Science Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

79. Albert M. Erisman, Boeing Computer Services, Engineering Technology Applications, ETA Division, P.O. Box 24346, MS-7L-20 Seattle, WA 98124-0346

80. Geoffrey C. Fox, Northeast Parallel Architectures Center, 111 College Place, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-4100

81. Paul O. Frederickson, NASA Ames Research Center, RIACS, M/S T045-1, Moffett Field, CA 94035

82. Fred N. Fritsch, L-316, Computing and Mathematics Research Division, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, P.O. Box 808, Livermore, CA 94550

83. Robert E. Funderlic, Department of Computer Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27650

84. K. Gallivan, Computer Science Department, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

85. Dennis B. Gannon, Computer Science Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

86. Feng Gao, Department of Computer Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1W5, Canada

87. David M. Gay, Bell Laboratories, 600 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, NJ 07974

88. C. William Gear, NEC Research Institute, 4 Independence Way, Princeton, NJ 08540

89. W. Morven Gentleman, Division of Electrical Engineering, National Research Council, Building M-50, Room 344, Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0R8

90. J. Alan George, Vice President, Academic and Provost, Needles Hall, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

91. John R. Gilbert, Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, 3333 Coyote Hill Road, Palo Alto CA 94304

92. Gene H. Golub, Department of Computer Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

93. Joseph F. Grcar, Division 8245, Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, CA 94551-0969

94. John Gustafson, Ames Laboratory, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

95. Per Christian Hansen, UCI*C Lyngby, Building 305, Technical University of Denmark, DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark

96. Richard Hanson, IMSL Inc., 2500 Park West Tower One, 2500 City West Blvd., Houston, TX 77042-3020

97. Michael T. Heath, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, 4157 Beckman Institute, University of Illinois, 405 North Mathews Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801-2300

57. Bill L. Buzbee, Scientific Computing Division, National Center for Atmospheric Research, P.O. Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307

58. Donald A. Calahan, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

59. John Cavallini, Deputy Director, Scientific Computing Staff, Applied Mathematical Sciences, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585

60. Ian Cavers, Department of Computer Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1W5, Canada

61. Tony Chan, Department of Mathematics, University of California, Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

62. Jagdish Chandra, Army Research Office, P.O. Box 12211, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

63. Eleanor Chu, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1

64. Melvyn Ciment, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20550

65. Tom Coleman, Department of Computer Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

66. Paul Concus, Mathematics and Computing, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720

67. Andy Conn, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, P.O. Box 218, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

68. John M. Conroy, Supercomputer Research Center, 17100 Science Drive, Bowie, MD 20715-4300

69. Jane K. Cullum, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, P.O. Box 218, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

70. George Cybenko, Center for Supercomputing Research and Development, University of Illinois, 104 S. Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801-2932

71. George J. Davis, Department of Mathematics, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA 30303

72. Tim A. Davis, Computer and Information Sciences Department, 301 CSE, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-2024

73. Donald J. Dudziak, Department of Nuclear Engineering, 110B Burlington Engineering Labs, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7909

74. Iain Duff, Atlas Centre, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0QX, England

75. Patricia Eberlein, Department of Computer Science, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260

76. Stanley Eisenstat, Department of Computer Science, Yale University, P.O. Box 2158 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

ORNL/TM-12318

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

1. B. R. Appleton
2. K. R. Bennett
3. T. S. Darland
4. E. F. D'Azevedo
5. J. M. Donato
6–10. J. J. Dongarra
11. G. A. Geist
12. M. R. Leuze
13. E. G. Ng
14. C. E. Oliver
15. B. W. Peyton
16–20. S. A. Raby
21. C. H. Romine
22–26. T. H. Rowan
27. W. A. Shelton
28–32. R. F. Sincovec
33–37. R. C. Ward
38. P. H. Worley
39. Central Research Library
40. ORNL Patent Office
41. K-25 Applied Technology Library
42. Y-12 Technical Library
43. Laboratory Records Department - RC
44–45. Laboratory Records Department

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

46. Cleve Ashcraft, Boeing Computer Services, P.O. Box 24346, M/S 7L-21, Seattle, WA 98124-0346
47. Donald M. Austin, 6196 EECS Bldg., University of Minnesota, 200 Union St., S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455
48. Robert G. Babb, Oregon Graduate Institute, CSE Department, 19600 N. W. von Neumann Drive, Beaverton, OR 97006-1999
49. Lawrence J. Baker, Exxon Production Research Company, P.O. Box 2189, Houston, TX 77252-2189
50. Jesse L. Barlow, Department of Computer Science, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802
51. Edward H. Barsis, Computer Science and Mathematics, P.O. Box 5800, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM 87185
52. Chris Bischof, Mathematics and Computer Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439
53. Ake Bjorck, Department of Mathematics, Linkoping University, S-581 83 Linkoping, Sweden
54. Jean R. S. Blair, Department of Computer Science, Ayres Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1301
55. Roger W. Brockett, Pierce Hall, 29 Oxford Street, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138
56. James C. Browne, Department of Computer Science, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712

management of scientific software. *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software*, 11(4):313–355, December 1985.

[2] S. Deerwester, S. Dumais, G. Furnas, T. Landauer, and R. Harshman. Indexing by latent semantic analysis. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, 41(6):391–407, September 1990.

[3] J. Dongarra and E. Grosse. Distribution of mathematical software via electronic mail. *Communications of the ACM*, 30(5):403–407, May 1987.

[4] J. Dongarra and B. Rosener. NA-NET numerical analysis net. Technical Report ORNL/TM-11986, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN, December 1991.

[5] S. Feldman, D. Gay, M. Maimone, and N. Schryer. A Fortran-to-C converter. Computer Science Technical Report 149, AT & T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ, May 1990.

[6] M. Kent. The numerical analysis net. Technical Report 85, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zurich, January 1988.

[7] A.A. Pollicini, editor. *Using Toolpack Software Tools*. Kluwer Academic, 1989.

mote execution may be a better use of resources from both the distributor's and user's point of view. `Toolpack` [7], a large collection of Fortran software tools, and `f2c` [5], a Fortran-to-C translator, are logical candidates for this remote execution service. Users, instead of downloading, installing, and executing these programs, could submit suitable input and have a machine at a remote server site execute the programs and return the output.

Another proposed capability will allow users to add their own servers to the collection of servers globally available through `xnetlib`. Any `xnetlib` user could then access this contributed software by adding the appropriate server to his active server list. This feature will greatly expand the amount of software available through `xnetlib`.

We also plan to expand the scope of the `xnetlib` system. In the future `xnetlib`'s distributed repository will include more non-mathematical software and more reports. Additional software and document collections will be linked into `xnetlib`'s existing collection.

Starting with LAPACK, `xnetlib` began distributing entire libraries. This service will be extended to other libraries.

`Xnetlib` already provides fast and easy access to a large collection of mathematical software. In the future `xnetlib` will provide greatly expanded capabilities and will be much closer to being a complete problem-solving environment.

6. Summary

Software distributed by `netlib` comes with the disclaimer that "anything free comes with no guarantee". In contrast to commercial vendors like NAG and IMSL, `netlib` offers no support beyond whatever documentation contributing authors choose to provide with their code. These caveats also apply to `xnetlib`.

On the other hand, both `netlib` and `xnetlib` provide free, easy access to a large body of high-quality code, and the phenomenal growth of `netlib` over the past eight years attests to the value of this service. We hope that `xnetlib`, by making this high-quality code even more accessible, will encourage software developers to make their codes freely available and will make good programming easier for the scientific computing community.

Acknowledgements

`Xnetlib` is the product of the efforts of many people. Ken Bateman, David Belt, Shirley Browne, Jennifer Finger, Tracy Gangwer, Stan Green, Brian LaRose, Sharon Lewis, Keith Moore, Andrew Pearson, Jon Richardson, Bill Rosener, and Andrea Van Hill all made valuable contributions to the design, development, and testing of various versions of `xnetlib`. We also thank the many users of early versions of `xnetlib` for their constructive comments and for their patience.

7. References

[1] R. F. Boisvert, S. E. Howe, and D. K. Kahaner. GAMS - A framework for the

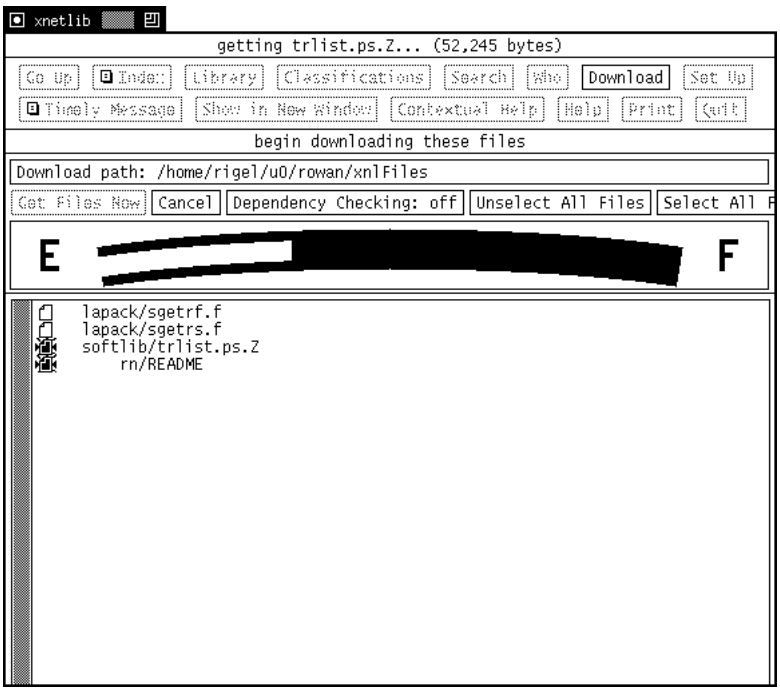

Figure 5: Downloading the selected routines.

4. Getting started

Xnetlib requires release 4 (or later) of X11 and the Athena widget libraries as supplied by MIT. The executable for the xnetlib client requires approximately 200 kilobytes on a Sun SPARCstation2. The locally cached indexes occupy zero to 850 kilobytes depending on how many index files are cached.

The first step in installing xnetlib is to obtain the source code for the xnetlib client. The software for the xnetlib client is itself available from both xnetlib and netlib, so a simple way to obtain the source is to send the message **send xnetlib.shar from xnetlib** to netlib@ornl.gov. Netlib will respond by sending a shar file containing all necessary source code and documentation. Xnetlib is also available by anonymous ftp from cs.utk.edu in the pub/xnetlib directory. The xnetlib distribution includes an Imakefile so installation is normally trivial if the X Window System has been configured properly on the client machine.

Xnetlib is easily customized. One common customization at multi-user sites is to have a single cache of index files so indexing information can be shared by all local users.

5. Plans

Plans are already under way to expand xnetlib. One major addition will be the capability of remote execution. Many useful utility programs are large, making distribution tedious, or are more expensive to build than to execute. In such cases, allowing re-

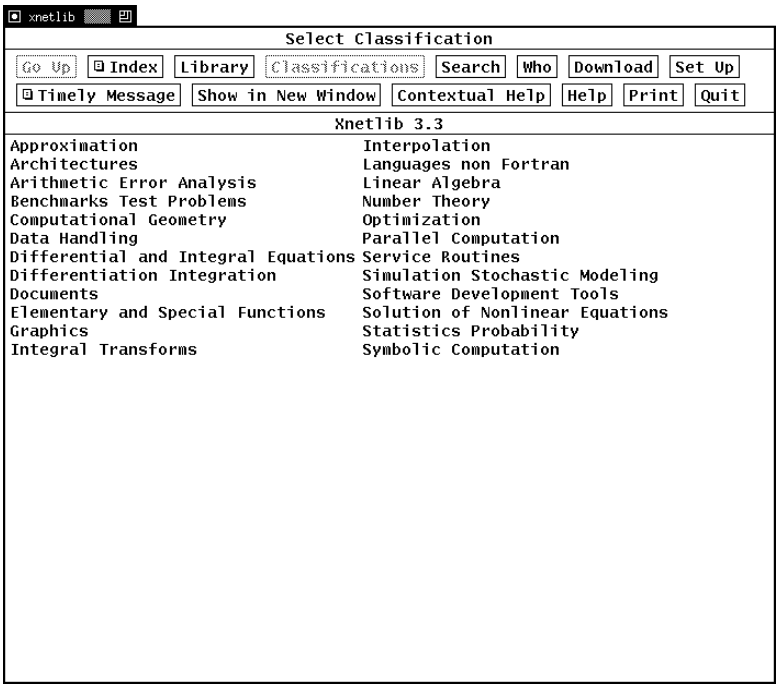

Figure 4: Classification menu.

A user may also wish to **search** by keyword instead of viewing the contents of a particular library. In this mode, descriptions of files are searched by a keyword string the user provides. The keyword search can be a search on the intersection or union of the words in a search string, a literal search for an exact string (with or without case sensitivity), or a fuzzy search based on the latent semantic indexing technique [2]. Latent semantic indexing uses statistical analysis to find useful matches that may not be uncovered by other types of searches. In contrast, the fuzzy search capability in WAIS is based on an heuristic rather than statistical approach.

Clicking on the **download** button causes **xnetlib** to display a list of selected software and documents. Clicking on the **download path** button allows a user to change the directory to which files will be downloaded. The **dependency checking** button is a modal switch. If **dependency checking** is off **xnetlib** will send only the selected routines. If it is on, **xnetlib** will send the selected routines and any routines that they call. If the user is satisfied with the selection list and the target directory, he should click on **get files now** to initiate the transfer. Figure 5 shows the downloading of selections made from the LAPACK, SOFTLIB, and PN libraries. These three libraries reside in repositories at separate sites. The selected files will appear in the specified directory, usually within a few seconds.

The **who** command allows a user to search the NA-NET White-pages [4 ,6], a database containing information about individuals interested in numerical analysis and other disciplines. For simple searches the user need only enter an individual's last name. The **modify search** feature can be used for more elaborate searches and the **modify listing** feature can be used for controlling the form of the output.

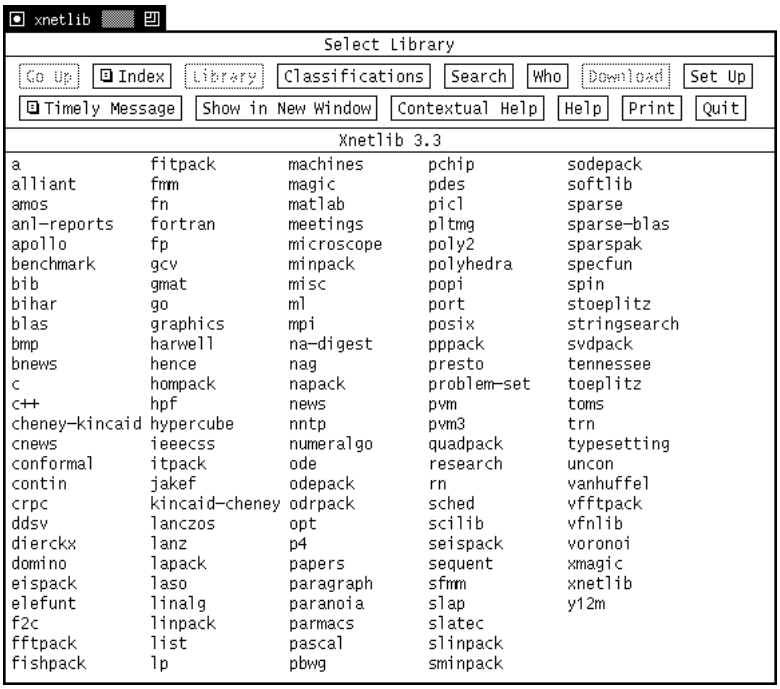

Figure 2: Library menu.

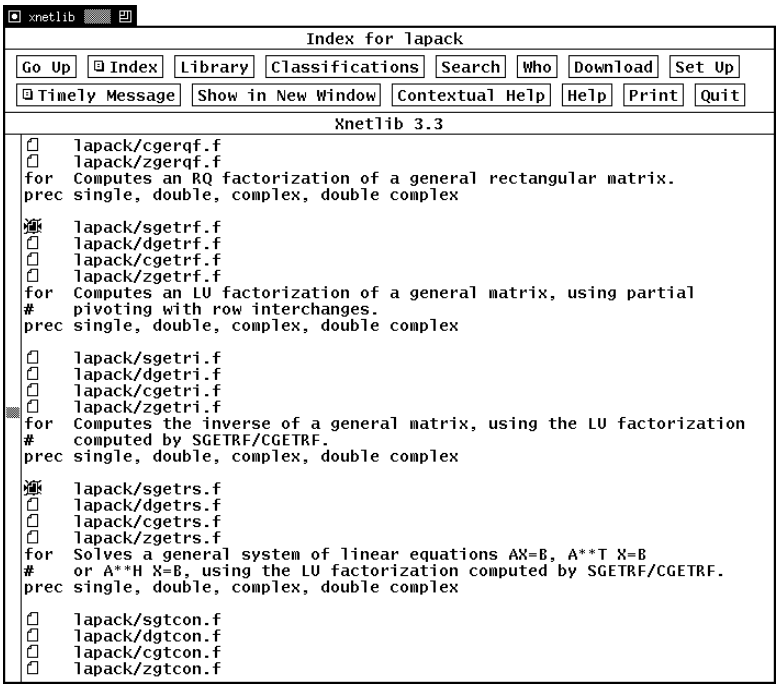

Figure 3: LAPACK index.

client and server, requested indexes are cached locally. Frequently requested information can therefore be quickly retrieved from local cache instead of repeatedly retrieved from the remote server. Other requests are passed to the server via sockets. Section 3 describes the use of the interface in more detail.

3. Features

`Xnetlib` features and capabilities include:

- Access to a distributed repository
- Searching by a software libraries list
- Searching by software classifications
- Searching by keyword
- Software and document retrieval
- Access to the NA-NET WWW-pages
- Online help

Many Internet sites have sizable collections of documents or software. It is both unnecessary and undesirable to require that these collections reside at a single site. `Xnetlib` gives users access to a distributed repository of software and documents by establishing socket-based links with the repository sites. Users have access to any or all of these repositories through a single interface.

`Xnetlib` users control which sites are linked into the distributed repository using the **set up** button. Current repository sites include `netlib@ornl.gov`, `spark.brl.mil`, and `softlib@rice.edu`. Clicking on the **timely message** button displays news about individual repository sites and clicking on the **index** button displays their general indexes.

Clicking on the **library** button shows the libraries that are available through `xnetlib`. Figure 2 shows a unified list of software and documents available at the repositories of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Rice University, and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

Clicking on a library name lists the contents of that library. For example, clicking on **lapack** displays a partial listing of LAPACK's contents (Figure 3). The complete contents list of LAPACK is too large to fit in the window, but the provided scrollbar allows the user to scroll through the rest of the list. Clicking on the box adjacent to a routine name selects that routine for future downloading. In Figure 3 the user has selected **sgetrf** and **sgetrs** from the LAPACK library.

The **classification** feature allows a user to narrow a search. The classification of the `xnetlib` software libraries is based on the GAMS [1] classification system, augmented to include classifications other than mathematical software. Selecting **linear algebra** causes the names of the libraries with linear algebra software to be displayed (Figure 4).

Portability The system's implementation should be as portable as possible.

Accessibility The system should be accessible to a large number of users.

No existing software and document retrieval systems satisfied these requirements. `Ftp` and `archie` are fast and portable but are not sufficiently flexible in their searching or record keeping capabilities. In addition, in `archie` the indexing mechanism and the large volume of accessible material make fully up-to-date indexing information impractical. `Gopher` is geared to browsing through the Internet rather than to retrieval of materials, while `WAIS` is better suited for retrieval of documents than for retrieval of software.

`Archie`, `gopher`, and `WAIS` have different goals than `xnetlib` and should not be regarded as competitors. Their use can, in fact, be complementary. For example, `gopher` can be used to provide improved accessibility to `netlib` and `xnetlib`.

Figure 1 shows the basic configuration of the `xnetlib` system. The system consists

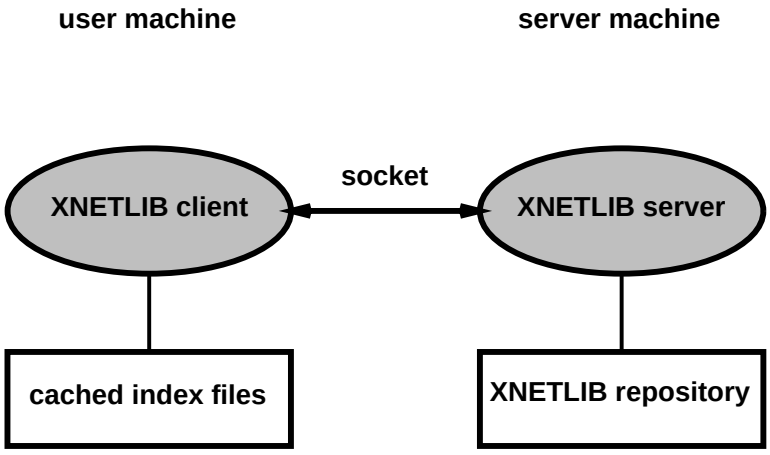

Figure 1: `Xnetlib` configuration.

of the `xnetlib` server process running on machines at the repository sites, `xnetlib` X client processes running on users' local machines, and TCP/IP socket-based communication links between these clients and servers.

`Xnetlib`'s server process runs continually at an `xnetlib` repository site, listening for incoming requests from `xnetlib` client processes. Typically, the `xnetlib` server runs on the same machine and accesses the same software repository as the `netlib` server. Upon receiving a request, the `xnetlib` server determines the nature of the request and responds by transferring the appropriate file from the repository to the `xnetlib` client process.

The `xnetlib` client running on the user's local machine provides an X Window interface to the `xnetlib` repository. It is programmed in C, using the Athena widget libraries. This interface makes searching through the software and document collection easy. For example, an `xnetlib` user can view the contents of any library simply by clicking a button. Other commands, such as keyword searching or requesting software, also require just a few button clicks. To avoid unnecessary communication between the

Xnetlib is a new software distribution tool recently developed at the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The goal in developing xnetlib was to provide Internet users faster and easier access to netlib's large collection of software, data, and documents. Unlike netlib, which uses e-mail to process requests for software, xnetlib uses an X Window interface and socket-based communication between the user's machine and the xnetlib server [1] machine to process software requests. This enables users to search through a large distributed collection of software easily and to retrieve requested software in seconds.

1. Background

Xnetlib's predecessor, netlib, grew from a need to have a quick and easy method for distributing small pieces of mathematical software. Netlib services began in 1985 at two sites, Argonne National Laboratory and AT&T Bell Laboratories, and distributed software from about 30 libraries. For additional information about netlib's operation and use see the introductory paper by Dongarra and Grosse [3].

One of the changes since netlib's introduction has been the transfer of netlib services from Argonne National Laboratory to Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Also, the availability on netlib of the netlib program itself has enabled many other sites to set up their own software repositories. [2] The netlib software collection has now grown to well over 100 libraries. The number of software requests sent to netlib also has grown dramatically. The most heavily used netlib server, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, processed over 150,000 requests last year.

2. Overview

We based xnetlib's design on the following requirements:

Speed. Retrieving software should take seconds, not minutes as typically required by e-mail.

Usability. The user interface should make searching through a large collection of software and documents easy.

Organization. The system's repository should be a moderated collection, with up-to-date indexes, and a database organized to facilitate searching and ease of retrieval. The repository may be distributed over several sites.

Record keeping. The system should have the capability of logging requests so updates and corrections can be reported to users.

Security. The system should be secure from accidental or intentional misuse.

---

[1] Throughout this paper, *server* refers to the process handling software requests and not to the X display server.

[2] Send the message **send index** or **send sites from netlib** to netlib@ornl.gov to receive a list of netlib sites.

SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION USING XNETLIB

Jack J. Dongarra
Thomas H. Rowan
Reed C. Wade

Abstract

Xnetlib is a new tool for software distribution. Whereas its predecessor **netlib** uses e-mail as the user interface to its large collection of public-domain mathematical software, **xnetlib** uses an X Window interface and socket-based communication. **Xnetlib** makes it easy to search through a large distributed collection of software and to retrieve requested software in seconds.

Contents

1 Background 1
2 Overview 1
3 Features 3
4 Getting started 6
5 Plans 6
6 Summary 7
7 References 7

ORNL/TM-12318

Engineering Physics and Mathematics Division

Mathematical Sciences Section

SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION USING XNETLIB

Jack J. Dongarra [†‡]
Thomas H. Rowan [‡]
Reed C. Wade [†]

[†] Department of Computer Science
University of Tennessee
107 Ayres Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-1301

[‡] Mathematical Sciences Section
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P.O. Box 2008, Bldg. 6012
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6367

Date Published: June 1993

Research was supported by the Applied Mathematical Sciences Research Program of the Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, and by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Army Research Office under contract DAA03-91-C-0047.

Prepared by the
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831
managed by
Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Inc.
for the
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
under Contract No. DE-AC05-84OR21400