Subject: Re: Fast matrix filling in IDL
Posted by David Ritscher on Thu, 17 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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> Hopefully everyone is running this a few times and noting when
> the times have become "stable". Here are three sequential runs
> on a Sun Sparc 2 (IDL 5.1):
>
> IDL> test
> Time for Loop:      2.7740721
> Time for Matrix Operations:      5.2337180     ; OUT OF WHACK!
> Time for Rebin Operations:      0.16969705
> IDL> test
> Time for Loop:      2.6756930
> Time for Matrix Operations:      0.27333605
> Time for Rebin Operations:      0.16920698
> IDL> test
> Time for Loop:      2.7509290
> Time for Matrix Operations:      0.27153599
> Time for Rebin Operations:      0.16843796
```

Perhaps the first one is not out of whack, but rather, the accurate
time.
When the test is being performed a second time, the operating system has
information that is cached, thus avoiding doing part of the work
associated with the task. Particularly in big tests, I often notice
speed-ups each time, for the first few times I test something. I like
to test by completely exiting my environment, doing other things, and
coming back and repeating the test. If I'm feeling hard-core about it,
I do a reboot in between.

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