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Subject: Re: [Q]: ID analog to FORTRAN "sign" function  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 12 Oct 2000 20:50:59 GMT  
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"Dick Jackson" <dick@d-jackson.com> wrote in message  
news:8MkF5.12\$953.172@read1...

> Do I dare offer one more? Subscript lookups seem faster than arithmetic  
> operations, making this one faster, more compact and no less cryptic! :-)  
>  
> Return, Abs(a) \* ([-1, 1])[b GE 0]

Good one!

> A bit faster still, if you know the expected type of a and b, to avoid an  
> extra type conversion:  
>  
> Return, Abs(a) \* ([-1.0, 1.0])[b GE 0]

I think that's a little \*too\* clever. I just tried multiplying a float array  
with 10<sup>7</sup> elements by 1 and then by 1.0. Time taken = 0.52 seconds in both  
cases.

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