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Subject: Re: IDL as programming language?  
Posted by [scisoft](#) on Mon, 05 Sep 1994 16:43:51 GMT  
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William Thompson (thompson@orpheus.gsfc.nasa.gov) wrote:  
: abz@waikato.ac.nz writes:  
: >Speed. Some of us Grads are running some really time consuming programs  
: >(large arrays, large loops). How does IDL compare with (say) FORTRAN in  
: >general, speedwise? (my impression is that it's pretty slow, but I could  
: >be wrong...)  
: Loops are very slow. On the other hand, you usually can do it without  
: loops in IDL. If you can't, there's always CALL\_EXTERNAL or LINKIMAGE.

Another alternative is the IDL and PV-Wave interface to the optimized and parallelized math library that our company sells. Dr. Thompson is certainly correct that  $A=B*C$  is a faster matrix multiple than the equivalent nested loops, but CALL GEMM(A,B,C) is about three times faster than that even on a single-CPU box. On the multi-processors, we're unbeatable.

[scisoft@well.sf.ca.us](mailto:scisoft@well.sf.ca.us) for more information, end of plug.

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