
Subject: Re: vectorising versus loops

Posted by [Edd Edmondson](#) on Mon, 23 Feb 2004 09:41:33 GMT

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David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Neil writes:

>> Does anyone know what the speed increase factor is in IDL programmes

>> when going from "do loops" to full vectorisation of arrays?

> Would you believe a factor of 8100? Read it and weep:

> http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/slowloops.html

Funny, that. "I'm just an average astrophysicist" too, and last week I took my IDL program that took a *fortnight* to run and got it down to 21 seconds. That's a speed up of 55,000 times and there wasn't even a nested loop - just one loop with a bunch of IFs in it. Through use of plenty of WHEREs (dealing with each case previously handled with an IF) and a REFORM plus a HISTOGRAM it's stupidly faster.

In fact it's probably more than 55,000 times because a fair few seconds of that is needed just to read in the data file at the start.

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Edd
