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Subject: Re: vectorising versus loops

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 22 Feb 2004 18:50:13 GMT

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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](http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/slowloops.html)

- > I know all
- > programmes are different and not every process lends itself to
- > vectorisation. However, there must be some rule of thumb, ie speed
- > going as a linear function of the number of array elements times some
- > factor.

I think the generally accepted rule of thumb is that speed increases exponentially with the number of JD Smith articles you have read.

- > Also, are there any tricks to play if you want to vectorise loops that
- > have IF statement decision in them, or any general rules for neat
- > vectorisation of looped programmes?

Oh, lots and lots of articles. A google search on "FOR loops" AND "slow" should turn up at least a week of good reading. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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