
Subject: $x*x$ versus x^2

Posted by [Conor](#) on Wed, 09 Jul 2008 16:32:57 GMT

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So I've been looking at execution time for various algorithms, and I found this interesting result:

```
bigarr = fltarr(1000,1000)
```

```
t1 = systime(/seconds)
```

```
t = bigarr^2.0
```

```
t2 = systime(/seconds)
```

```
t = bigarr*bigarr
```

```
t3 = systime(/seconds)
```

```
print,t2-t1
```

```
print,t3-t2
```

IDL prints:

```
0.024163008
```

```
0.010262012
```

Apparently multiplying an array by itself is twice as fast as using the caret operator! Anyone know why this is? Is it a memory issue or something?
