
Subject: Re: idl speed question

Posted by [oxfordenergyservices](#) on Mon, 16 Mar 2009 10:39:21 GMT

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On 14 Mar, 22:28, Michael Galloy <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

> oxfordenergyservi...@googlemail.com wrote:

>> I have the following strange result

>

>> a=double(1.0)

>> for i=0,10000 do begin

>> for j=0,10000 do begin

>> a=a+1.0

>> endfor

>> endfor

>

>> takes 13 seconds whereas

>

>> a=double(1.0)

>> b=double(1.0)

>> c=double(1.0)

>> d=double(1.0)

>> e=double(1.0)

>> for i=0,10000 do begin

>> for j=0,10000 do begin

>> a=a+1.0

>> b=b+1.0

>> c=c+1.0

>> d=d+1.0

>> e=e+1.0

>> endfor

>> endfor

>

>> takes 60 seconds? I thought the overhead with IDL was in the loops

>> rather than the computing?

>

> The real killer for speed is number of statements (each one has to be
> interpreted). Loops are bad only because they could execute a statement
> a possibly large number of times. So in your example, the first case has
> 10001 * 10001 statements while the second has 5 * 10001 * 10001
> statements. So if the statements are doing the same amount of work, one
> would expect the second to take about 5 times more time.

>

> The conclusion: try to do more work per statement.

>

> Mike

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Ok, thanks Mike, that makes sense!
