Dear Tim,

My experience with the IDL thread pool is that for certain type of
operations in ENVI, the thread pool is actually slowing things down.
The most notable example was a "Sum data bands" operation in ENVI
which executed extremely slow. After disabling the thread pool (cpu,
TPOOL_NTHREADS=1), the operation executed several times faster. Maybe
some IDL internals that decide on when to use or not to use the thread
pool, performed poorly in the case.

Another approach on parallelizing your process is to use the
IDL_IDLbridge which allows you to spawn multiple IDL session which can
run on different cores. You may want to have a look at my process
manager, which uses this technique to distribute processing tasks over
several bridges. You can get the code here:
 ftp://sc:image1@ftp.alterra.nl/pub/adewit/process_manager.zi p

Allard de Wit