Subject: Re: LIST performance
Posted by Mark[1] on Sun, 07 Nov 2010 20:14:16 GMT
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A while back I wrote an MGH_Vector class that performs much the same function as IDL 8's LIST (random-access container for heterogeneous data). For the simple problem of accumulating a bunch of n floats then saving the results to an array, the MGH_Vector is slower than simple array concatenation for small n and faster for large n, as you'd expect, the crossover occurring at around n = 25,000. In some quick and dirty tests I just ran, MGH_Vector outperformed LIST by a factor of 2.4 from n = 10^4 to 10^6, then at n = 10^7 MGH_Vector stayed linear, but LIST started working the paging file and then ran out of memory. (To be fair to the LIST class, the amount of memory that IDL 8 has available in GUI mode on win32 is pitifully small at 512 MiB. I could switch to the console mode, but I'm afraid I can't be bothered.)

You'd think the ITT programmers could do a better job of programming an extensible list class than little old me.