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Subject: Re: float function unexpectedly slow  
Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Thu, 13 Mar 2014 00:31:19 GMT  
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On Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:25:46 AM UTC+11, Craig Markwardt wrote:

> On Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:56:44 PM UTC-4, timoth...@gmail.com wrote:

>

>> Anyway to get to the point one thing I have discovered this morning is that the built in float() function seems to be unexpectedly slow.

>

>

>

> When I try your sample code on my iMac and Linux machine (both x86\_64), both Python and IDL are about the same speed. In fact for me IDL is 3-10% faster!

>

>

>

> Craig

Hmm interesting. Just out of curiosity what kind of CPU do you have and how many cores does it have?

The IDL documentation says: This routine is written to make use of IDL's thread pool, which can increase execution speed on systems with multiple CPUs.

I have 6 cores maybe its costing more time than its saving with that many cores.

The other question would be what version of python and idl are you using? I'm using IDL 8.2 and Python 3.2.2 on Windows 64-bit

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