

---

Subject: Re: float function unexpectedly slow

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 13 Mar 2014 00:45:19 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:31:19 PM UTC-4, timoth...@gmail.com wrote:

> 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

Mac:

```
IDL> print, !version, !cpu
```

```
{ x86_64 darwin unix Mac OS X 7.1 Apr 21 2009    64    64}{    0
      0      2      2      100000      0
}
```

Linux:

```
IDL> print, !cpu, !version
```

```
{    0    0    4    4      100000
      0}{ x86_64 linux unix linux 8.1 Mar  9 2011    64    64
}
```

---