Subject: Re: float function unexpectedly slow
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Thu, 13 Mar 2014 03:50:37 GMT
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Hi Tim,

I'm seeing the same thing that Craig sees - on my older MacBook Pro, running IDL 8.3, IDL is about 15% faster than python 2.7.6.

Speaking as someone who knows the guts of the float function, I wouldn't bother filing a bug report. The float routine (and all the other conversion routines) are just about as fast as they are going to get. This is all "Dave Stern" code, which means it is dense but super efficient. There is just a fair amount of code involved in checking the input arguments, parsing the string & looking for decimal points, exponents, etc., and then finally creating the IDL_VARIABLE and filling in the value.

I think your time would be better spent in eliminating any loops in your programs. IDL's thread pool doesn't even begin to work until you have more than 100,000 elements in your input array, so you won't see any significant boost with multiple cores until you can pass in all of your values at once.

Hope this helps.

Cheers,
Chris
ExelisVIS