
Subject: IDL program runs faster on slower CPU

Posted by [Deckard++](#); on Sun, 16 Mar 2014 22:15:04 GMT

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Hi,

I have this very strange performance problem that I can't quite figure out. I have a rather complex minimization problem for which I use the MPFIT library. I run my code on two machines:

- MacBook Pro with 4 CPU Intel Core i7 @ 2.3 GHz, 8 GB of RAM, IDL 7.1.1, Mac OS 10.9.2
- Dell workstation with 12 CPU Intel Xeon @ 2.9 GHz, 48 GB of RAM, IDL 8.2, Scientific Linux 6.5

Strangely, the code runs about 4 to 5 times faster on the MacBook Pro. The code is strictly identical, with the same starting point, and it finds exactly the same result in the same number of iterations. I also mention that the program does not rely on disk access that could slow things down: all the data is in memory.

The only difference that I see is the IDL version, but I wouldn't expect this to be the problem. I assume it is a more complicated problem, but I have no precise idea of what it is. Any advice on this subject? Thanks a lot for your help.

Cheers,

-- Arthur;

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