
Subject: Re: How do you sort an array in IDL?

Posted by [Robert S. Hill](#) on Thu, 02 Apr 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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On Thu, 2 Apr 1998, Robert A. Lematta wrote:

> Does anyone know how to sort an array in idl (ala excell) while preserving
> the order of the other columns. For example, if I have a 10 by 10 array
> with the second column being time, how do I sort the entire array by time and
> have the values in the other columns follow. Like you'd do a sort in a
> spreadsheet. Please reply to lematta@spawar.navy.mil. Many thanks in advance.
> I've tried to figure out the sort function but I don't think it works on arrays with more than one
row or column.

You can do it with IDL's clever subscripting syntax:

Set up test data:

```
IDL> a = reverse(indgen(10))
% Compiled module: REVERSE.
IDL> b=indgen(10)+100
IDL> arr = transpose([[a],[b]])
IDL> print,arr
  9  100
  8  101
  7  102
  6  103
  5  104
  4  105
  3  106
  2  107
  1  108
  0  109
```

Sort on column 0:

```
IDL> col = arr(0,*)
IDL> s=sort(col)
IDL> arr2 = arr(*,s) ; sort on column, but apply sort to rows
IDL> print,arr2 ; voila
  0  109
  1  108
  2  107
  3  106
  4  105
  5  104
  6  103
  7  102
  8  101
```

9 100

Bob

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