
Subject: Re: error with sort

Posted by [landsman](#) on Mon, 10 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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If you are worried about what SORT does to equal values, you might instead want to use the program `bsort.pro`, available at

`ftp://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/pub/pro/misc/bsort.pro`

This procedure ensures that equal values are always maintained in the initial order, i.e.

```
IDL> print,bsort([1,1,1,1,1])
      0      1      2      3      4
```

One place where this procedure is useful is when you are sorting on more than one parameter. For example, suppose you have a set of temperature and pressure measurements (T, P), and want the primary sort to be by temperature -- but whenever temperatures are equal, you want the values sorted by pressure. One can do this as follows:

```
i1 = sort(P)           ;Secondary sort on pressure
i2 = bsort(T[i1])      ;primary sort on temperature
```

and `i2` will give the desired indexing.

Of course, `BSORT` will be slower than the intrinsic `SORT` function.

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