
Subject: Re: error with sort

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

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R.Bauer (R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de) writes:

```
> print,sort([1,1,1,1,1])
```

I'm pretty sure that no matter how you would order the sort of these numbers, Reimer, you would get the same answer. :-)

And, really, that's all these different numbers are saying. It doesn't matter where you **start** the sort, when values are the same, the order is irrelevant. The SORT function is obviously selecting a random number as the starting point of the sort. (In other words, to sort something you pick a number and then the next number is greater than this number, or less than this number, etc. If the number happens to be **equal** to the pick. Just put it here, it's order doesn't matter. That's what you are seeing in the pattern (or non-pattern) you are detecting. SORTs are more efficient, in general I think, when they use random numbers to pick starting locations.

Cheers,

David

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