
Subject: Inconsistency: "sort" on UNIX <-> Windows
Posted by [Daniel Luebbert](#) on Fri, 07 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

I've been using the "sort" routine to sort an 2D-array by increasing values of its first column.

The "sort" routine seems to behave differently in the UNIX and the Windows versions of IDL5.3.

Here is a little test routine I wrote:

```
.*****  
,  
pro test_sort  
data = [[1,3], $  
        [2,5], $  
        [1,4], $  
        [4,7], $  
        [1,2] $  
        ]  
  
print,"original: "  
print,data  
print,"sorted: "  
print,data[*],sort(data[0,*])  
end  
.*****  
,
```

The result on UNIX (Linux) is what I would expect:

```
.*****  
,  
original:  
  
    1    3  
  
    2    5  
  
    1    4  
  
    4    7  
  
    1    2  
  
sorted:  
  
    1    3
```

1	4
1	2
2	5
4	7

```
*****
;
```

BUT: The result on Windows is different:

```
*****
;
original:
  1  3
  2  5
  1  4
  4  7
  1  2
sorted:
  1  2
  1  4
  1  3
  2  5
  4  7
*****
;
```

In other words: The "sort" routine on Windows doesn't preserve the original order of entries which have the same value (see the 3 "1"-values in my test data), but apparently rearranges them in a random way.

What I'd like to know is:

How can it be that such a basic routine behaves differently in different implementations of IDL?

And, more importantly: can anybody tell me how to make the Windows-version of "sort" behave correctly, without writing my own routine for sorting?

Thanks for any hint,

Daniel

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Dr. Daniel Luebbert
Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory (SSRL)
Bldg. 137, Mailstop 69, 2575 Sandhill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA
Phone: (650) 926-4010 FAX: (650) 926-4100
luebbert@slac.stanford.edu
