
Subject: Re: machine dependant sort & other IDL mysteries
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 2003 15:30:37 GMT
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"Mark Servetus" <markservetus@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:16cf4e47.0302060605.45ddc357@posting.google.com...
> Just got done debugging a case of the machine dependant sort method
> (many thanks to pvwave) when the values being sorted are identical.
> (XP vs. 2000, fyi)
>
> Since IDL is marketed as machine independent, I would have expected a
> note in the reference that SORT may not produce same results in some
> cases. Then I would have expected a /FIFO or something flag which,
> when used, would guarantee cross machine congruence.
>
> Since neither of those things was provided, I am now suspicious of
> other methods.
>
> Does anyone have any advice that would ease my worries?

Try BSORT from the Astronomy library:

<http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch-bin/getpro/library01.html?BSORT>

The problem is that SORT does not maintain original subscript order for
equal input values. On different IDL platforms, the order of sorted equal
values may be different. See the Google history on this topic:

<http://groups.google.com/groups?q=bsort&meta=group%3Dcomp.lang.idl-pvwave>

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>
