
Subject: Re: Sort without loops

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 14:24:28 GMT

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Ian Dean wrote:

> Hi All,
> I have a large string array (~100000 elements) that need sorting on two
> fields within each string.
>
> e.g. array=['F;100', 'ABC;6', 'DE;2', 'DE;10', 'DE;1']
>
> Order required is a) sort items to left of ';' followed by b) sort items
> numerically to right of ';'
> This would produce:
> ABC;6 DE;1 DE;2 DE;10 F;100
>
> A simple sort (sort(array)) procudes:
> ABC;6 DE;1 DE;10 DE;2 F;100
>
> The only way I've found is to convert the RH part to I4.4 format within a
> loop and search on the new values:
>,
> for j=0, n_elements(array)-1 do begin
> parts=strsplit(array[j], ',', /extract)
> RH=string(fix(parts[1]), format='(I4.4)')
> new[j]=parts[0]+RH
> endfor
> order=sort(new)
> ...
> i.e.
> new array is F;0100 ABC;0006 DE;0002 DE;0010 DE;0001
> which is then sorted correctly.
>
> Is there a clever way of sorting on two fields like this without using a
> loop. The above algorithm is faaaaar slower than just using sort.
>
> I hope I have made this as clear as mud.#
>
> In expectation,
> Ian
>
>

probably n_sort is what you want.

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/n_sort_dbase.pro.html

cheers

Reimar

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html
