
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)) produces:  
> 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 faaaar 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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Reimar Bauer

Institut fuer Stratosphaerische Chemie (ICG-I)
Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de

a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

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