
Subject: Re: Sort without loops
Posted by [Ian Dean](#) on Thu, 18 Aug 2005 13:28:09 GMT
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Thanks to you all it works well.

"Ian Dean" <ian.d.dean@baesystems.com> wrote in message
news:4302fc84\$1_1@glkas0286.greenlnk.net...

```
> 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 conmvrt 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  
>  
>
```
