
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" <lan.d.dean@baesystems.com> wrote in message

news:[4302fc84\\$1_1@glkas0286.greenlnk.net](mailto: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 commvert 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

>

>