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Subject: Re: What is the algorithms of sort function and where function?

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 31 Mar 2006 01:14:11 GMT

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kuyper@wizard.net wrote:

> Daegal wrote:

>> Hi, IDLers~

>>

>> I want to know the algorithm which is used in sort and where.

>> How much fast is that functions comparing with C and Fortran functions

>> if there are similar functions in C and Fortran even if I don't know

>> that language at all.

>

> I can't answer your main question, nor the implied side issue about

> Fortran. However, I can tell you about C. The C standard library does

> contain a sorting function, called qsort(). It's name is derived from

> the QuickSort algorithm. but the standard does not require that it

> actually use that algorithm. QuickSort is not an especially

> sophisticated algorithm, but there are algorithms that are a lot

> slower, and in theory you have no guarantee that qsort() doesn't use

> one of those slower algorithms. In practice, of course, you can

> reasonably expect that it does used the QuickSort algorithm.

>

> I gather that much of IDL's source code is written in C; the SORT

> routine might use qsort().

>

Remember there isn't much "algorithm" to WHERE -- it just finds the indices of the elements which aren't zero.

SORT uses underlying system sorting routine and can be slightly different on the various platforms.

-Mike

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