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Subject: sorting column arrays

Posted by [googlegroups](#) on Fri, 30 Jun 2006 11:16:31 GMT

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I have a data set which looks something like this:

|     |   |     |   |        |
|-----|---|-----|---|--------|
| STD | 1 | -97 | 0 | 808960 |
| STD | 2 | -97 | 0 | 813056 |
| STD | 3 | -97 | 0 | 817152 |
| STD | 4 | -97 | 0 | 821248 |
| STD | 5 | -97 | 0 | 825344 |
| STD | 1 | -84 | 1 | 829440 |
| STD | 2 | -84 | 1 | 833536 |
| STD | 3 | -84 | 1 | 837632 |
| STD | 4 | -84 | 1 | 841728 |
| STD | 5 | -84 | 1 | 845824 |
| STD | 1 | -71 | 2 | 849920 |
| STD | 2 | -71 | 2 | 854016 |
| STD | 3 | -71 | 2 | 858112 |
| STD | 4 | -71 | 2 | 862208 |
| STD | 5 | -71 | 2 | 866304 |

and so on.

The data is currently stored in a 1 by 3000 string array (I have read the data in line by line). I am intending to extract the data further using

```
FOR i=0,n_elements(array)-1 DO BEGIN
  new_array[*,i] = strtrim(strsplit(array[i], /extract),2)
END
```

I'd like to sort the data by the third column as a first priority, then using the fourth if data can be sorted further, then the second (you know, like in Excel and the like).

Could anyone point me in the right direction on this? (Also I'd appreciate any tips on avoiding that FOR loop.)

Many thanks  
Dave Higgins

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