
Subject: sorting string arrays - non alphabetic and user defined order

Posted by [rkombiyil](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 2006 10:34:16 GMT

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Fellow Uber-idlers,

I am terrified/mortified/petrified and stupified by this problem.. I am too lazy and try to do as much text processing and unixing from within IDL .. with as little user intervention as possible :-)

Maybe this is too obvious for you ubergeeks, I guess my greycells don't have many pathways...

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Say, I have a list of names stored in this way:

```
namelist=['Daddy','Groggy','Ally','Curry','Emmy','Bully','Jo ckey','Hippy','Itchy','Fluffy']
```

I have another list of names, which

1. may/may not contain all the names in the above list.
2. and this list is ouput (and alphabetically sorted by default) from IDL. But I want to sort this array the way I want, for example, comparing to 'namelist'.

For example: IDL sorted list is:

```
mylist=['Emmy','Fluffy','Itchy','Jockey']
```

I want to reorder 'mylist' comparing to 'namelist' to ['Emmy','Jockey','Itchy','Fluffy'] and also reset the indices to [0,1,2,3] instead of [4,9,8,6]

I hope I made sense.. That is

```
* take 'mylist'
** compare with 'namelist'
*** order names in 'mylist' in the same way as in 'namelist' accounting
for missing names
**** reset indices starting from 0 in the reordered list
```

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I tried couple of different permutations and combinations using stregeex and such, but I screw up when it comes to resetting indices in the reordered list :(I think pointers is the way to go, but I haven't learned pointers in IDL.

Any suggestions or advice appreciated!

Thanks in advance,

~rk
