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

Posted by [rkombiyil](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 04:42:14 GMT

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Hi Greg,

Thank you for your quick response, it is much appreciated. Your method works fine. I am afraid I left out of couple of questions related to the problem.

Is there a way to dynamically allocate arrays (varying size) ?
Specifically, this is what I am trying to do.

#1

I have a station database. This "string" array contains details pertaining to all the stations (names,locations,code etc.). Let's call this NAMELIST 'A'

#2

Now, I made a list of stations I want to look at from the above database. Let's call this NAMELIST 'B'

#3

The list of stations provided to me (NAMELIST 'C') may or may not contain all the stations in namelist 'B'

#4

I make a 1-1 string match between namelists 'B' and 'C' and extract only those stations that are present in B and C, and order C similar to B (user defined non-alphabetic)

#5

Problem is: I know the dimensions of the string array 'B' because I get to choose the stations I want from the original big database. Now, I don't know the dimensions of 'C' because it is variable, it may have same dimensions as B or less than B or none at all and the order might vary. Since, it can "ALSO" have same dimensions of B (max possible dimension), I define

```
C=strarr(n_elements(B))
```

But when the dimensions are less than that in B, there are elements with 'strlen' equal to zero. For example, C[3] maybe empty and may be

C[7] and all other elements of the array may be filled.. I want to get rid of these trailing/beginning/in between empty (zero length) elements (I know this is because of the above declaration) and make this array to have dimensions = # of non-zero elements

Is there a way to tackle such situations? I tried to index and increment the # of non-zero elements and redeclare the dimensions of C to be # of non-zero elements.. But it didn't work.. Meanwhile, I will try to modify your code to see if it works for my need.

I appreciate your time and help!
Thanks much,
~rk
