
Subject: Re: Sorting with IDL... Please give me any suggestions!!!

Posted by [yp](#) on Thu, 21 Dec 2006 15:28:59 GMT

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If 'nm' is a string array and 'sr' is a float array, what data type is 'gr' or your [nm,sr] ?

You should read the data in a structure. See READ_ASCII and ASCII_TEMPLATE helps.

Something like this:

```
template = { VERSION: 1.0, $  
             DATASTART: N, $  
             .  
             .  
             .  
             FIELDNAMES: ['nm','sr']. $  
             FIELDLOCATIONS : LONARR[2], $  
             FIELDGROUPS: [0,1] }
```

```
data=RAED_ASCII(filename, template=template)
```

You have to learn how to create this template via read_ascii (or use either build_ascii_template or transread routines)

Then sort the 'sr' field and extract the index. x=sort(data.sr)

```
name=data.nm(x)
```

```
score=data.sr(x)
```

There are many different ways of reading mixed data types (search this group, you can find numerous examples and also read through David Fanning's website).
