Subject: Re: how to sort data based on other sorted data
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Sat, 12 Jan 2008 19:35:20 GMT
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Tom McGlynn <tam@milkyway.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:
> On Jan 10, 3:51 pm, placebo <willie.mad...@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> try Craig Markwardt's multisort
>>
>>> http://astrog.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/arrays.html#MULTI SORT
>>
>> Brian,
>>
>> The multisort method works quite well.
>>
> ...
>
> Multisort works fine and knowing Craig will work very robustly
> but I don't think you need to have any limit on
> the number of columns. Below is a routine that should
> be able to handle an arbitrary number of columns and rows...

Hi Tom, thanks for the interesting contribution. I think the essence of BIGSORT and MULTISORT are similar, namely to build up a surrogate sort key. MULTISORT does it with strings and BIGSORT does it with integers. Clearly sorting by integers will be faster.

Incidentally, the MULTISORT limitation of ten sort keys was purely arbitrary, and it would be trivial to extend. But honestly, who would need so many sort keys? It's like the people who shop for cameras these days based on megapixels...

Craig