
Subject: Re: sorting the chars in a string
Posted by [Spon](#) on Mon, 11 Feb 2008 16:23:34 GMT
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elwood wrote:

- > Excellent!
- > Thank you!
- > A minor variation on the below-
- > what if I want to split a string into a string array in which each
- > element is one character?
- > I think I can figure out a lengthy way to do it if I first convert the
- > string to byte.
- > BUT
- > strjoin will knit a string array back together, but is there a way to
- > use strsplit to rip off each char,
- > one by one and put them into a string array?
- > Something like the following perhaps;
- > x="abdcf"
- > arrayofchars=strsplit(x,','./regex,/extract)
- >
- > -the above doesnt work, it returns an empty string :-(

```
new_string_array = string(transpose(tmp[sort_inds]))
```

- >
- > On Feb 11, 9:02 am, Lasse Clausen <la...@lbnc.de> wrote:
- >> On 11 Feb, 15:39, elwood <epolo...@uwsp.edu> wrote:
- >>
- >>> I've been trying to think of a simple way to alphabetically sort an
- >>> individual string
- >>
- >>> Say I have the string x="abdcf"
- >>> Is there a way to sort it and return a new string which is in correct
- >>> alphabetical order,
- >>> and/or reverse alphabetical order.
- >>
- >>> Maybe its obvious, but I havent worked with strings too much in IDL
- >>> and I cant seem to find
- >>> a way to do this (strsplit and stregex somehow??)
- >>
- >>> Thanks,
- >>> Elisha
- >>
- >> Hi there,
- >>
- >> convert the string to an array of bytes, like so
- >>
- >> test = 'sfbvvaedfvtrgvsdvrbyhtfc'

```
>> tmp = byte(test)
>>
>> This conversion happens according to the ASCII table, if I am not
>> mistaken, which connects a number to a character in ascending order,
>> on my machine a = 97, b = 98 and so on. Then sort that byte array and
>> build up the string again.
>>
>> sort_inds = sort(tmp)
>> new_string = string(tmp[sort_inds])
>> print, new_string
>>
>> That works, use REVERSE() if you want the sorting done from z-a.
>>
>> Cheers
>> Lasse Clausen
```
