
Subject: Re: sorting the chars in a string
Posted by [lasse](#) on Mon, 11 Feb 2008 15:02:34 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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 = 'sfbvvaedfvtrgvsvdvrnbnyhtfc'  
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
