Subject: Re: sorting the chars in a string Posted by lasse on Mon, 11 Feb 2008 15:02:34 GMT

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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 = 'sfbvvaedfvtrgvsdvrbnyhtfc'
tmp = byte(test)
```

This conversion happens according to the ASCII table, if I am not mistanken, 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