
Subject: Sorting a matrix

Posted by _____ on Fri, 01 Mar 2013 12:45:36 GMT

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I'd like to sort a matrix M in such a way that the order of the rows is determined by the value in the first column. When the first column values are the same, the second column should be used, etc.

Something like Craig Marquardt's multisort

(<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/down/multisort.pro>), with M[0,*] used as key1, M[1,*] as key2, etc. But without actually having to specify the keys one by one. (Never mind which index counts as the column index :o)

As the matrices I have in mind right now are integer arrays and do not have that many possible values (just -1,0,1), I thought about turning the matrix into a 1D string array with the length of each string equal to the number of columns and translating the column values into characters in the string, like A for -1, B for 0, C for 1, and then sorting the string array. But I'd prefer a more general program, in case there is one out there.

Pointers, ideas?
