
Subject: Re: Sorting a matrix

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Fri, 01 Mar 2013 16:28:07 GMT

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On 3/1/13 7:45 AM, Mats L  fdahl wrote:

> 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?

>

I've done something like this before by generating a single unique index... something like this:

```
matrix = [[4,5,6], [4,6,8], [2,3,4], [4,6,7]]
```

```
matrixshape = size(matrix, /dimen)
```

```
; this gives you the range of each column:
```

```
matrixord = lonarr(matrixshape)
```

```
for i=0l,matrixshape[0]-1 do matrixord[i,*] = ord(matrix[i,*])
```

```
ordmax = max(matrixord, dimen=2)
```

```
; what do you need to multiply by to get a unique range?
```

```
column_multiply = [reverse(product(reverse(ordmax[1:.*]+1), /int,  
/cumul)), 1]
```

```
; create a unique key and sort on it
```

```
sortkey = total(matrixord * rebin(column_multiply,matrixshape, /sample),  
/int, 1)
```

```
newmatrix = matrix[* , sort(sortkey)]
```

```
IDL> print, newmatrix
```

```
2   3   4  
4   5   6  
4   6   7  
4   6   8
```

You'll need ORD(), which is part of JBIU which is currently inaccessible because I'm in the process of moving domains. But here's a stub:

```
function ord, values

nvalues=n_elements(values)
sortvalues = sort(values)
uniqvalues = uniq(values[sortvalues])

nuniq = n_elements(uniqvalues)
ordlist = lindgen(nuniq)

; this is basically the histogram(total(/cumulative)) trick
h = histogram(uniqvalues,bin=1,min=0,reverse=ri)
outp = lonarr(size(values, /dimen))
outp[sortvalues] = ordlist[ri[0:nvalues-1]-ri[0]]

return, outp

end
```
