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**Subject:** Re: converting int array to a string  
**Posted by** [Richard French](#) **on** Wed, 21 Nov 2001 01:11:04 GMT  
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Chad Bahrmann wrote:

```
>  
> Is there an easy way to convert the following:  
>  
> x=[1,2,3,4,5,17,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,59]  
> where x is minutes in an hour for example  
>  
> to a string like:  
>  
> minutes='1-5,17,45-51,59'  
>  
> Thanks in advance,  
>  
> Chad Bahrmann
```

Chad - Not that I know of, but I think I have hacked something together before using the shift operator to tell you which elements are adjacent. For example:

```
x=[1,2,3,4,5,17,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,59]
```

```
dx=(x-shift(x,1))[1:]*]  
print,dx  
1 1 1 1 12 28 1 1 1 1 1  
8
```

; then you can figure out which ones require special attention:

```
I=where(dx ne 1)  
; the following prints the last element in a sequence that can be  
; connected by a hyphen  
print,x[I]
```

; but I think that handling all the special cases could be a nightmare!

Post your best solution! This is offered as just a start.

Dick French

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**Subject:** Re: converting int array to a string  
**Posted by** [Chad Bahrmann](#) **on** Wed, 21 Nov 2001 05:32:06 GMT  
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Thanks for the headstart...I believe I have something that works....

The function I have written below gives:

```
IDL> x=[1,2,3,5,6,7,9,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,56,59]
```

```

IDL> print, time2str(x)
% Compiled module: TIME2STR.
1-3,5-7,9,45-51,56,59

function time2str, x
dx=(x-shift(x,1))[1:*]
l=where(dx ne 1)
times=""
nl=n_elements(l)
nx=n_elements(x)
if l[0] eq -1 then times='0-59' else begin
  if l[0] eq 0 then times=trim(string(x[0]),2)(',')
  if l[0] ne 0 then
    times=trim(string(x[0]),2)+ '-' + trim(string(x[l[0]]),2) + ','
    for i=0, nl-2 do begin
      if ((l[i+1]-l[i]) gt 1) then begin
        times=times+trim(x[l[i]+1],2) + '-' + trim(x[l[i+1]],2) + ','
      endif else begin
        times=times+trim(x[l[i+1]],2) + ','
      endelse
    endfor
    if (nx-1)-l[(nl-1)] eq 1 then times=times+trim(string(x[nx-1]),2) else
$      times=times+trim(x[(l[nl-1])+1],2) + '-' + trim(string(x[nx-1]),2)
  endelse
return, times
END

```

"Chad Bahrmann" <cbahrmann@ou.edu> wrote in message

news:v8CK7.6670\$o4.14684@news.ou.edu...

- > Is there an easy way to convert the following:
- >
- > x=[1,2,3,4,5,17,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,59]
- > where x is minutes in an hour for example
- >
- > to a string like:
- >
- > minutes='1-5,17,45-51,59'
- >
- > Thanks in advance,
- >
- > Chad Bahrmann
- >
- >

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Subject: Re: converting int array to a string

Posted by mole6e23 on Wed, 21 Nov 2001 16:57:09 GMT

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> function time2str, x

Chad -

I took the liberty of adding to your program a little. Notice that if you put in:

IDL> print, time2str( [1,2,3] )

you'd get back '0-59'. My revised function below fixes this and adds support for all ranges (with a min and max keyword so you can set your time2str function up). It also removes duplicate elements, and sorts the array. I also got rid of all the calls to rtrim, and replaced them with one call to strcompress at the end.

Todd

--

```
function time2str, x
  return, getnumberrange( x, min=0, max=59 )
end ;; time2str

function getnumberrange, x, min=min, max=max
  if( n_elements( x ) eq 0 ) then return, ""

  tempX = x
  if( n_elements( min ) gt 0 ) then begin
    good = where(tempX ge min[0], ngood )
    if( ngood gt 0 ) then $
      tempX = tempX[good] $
    else return, ""
  endif

  if( n_elements( max ) gt 0 ) then begin
    good = where(tempX le max[0], ngood )
    if( ngood gt 0 ) then $
      tempX = tempX[good] $
    else return, ""
  endif

  newX = tempX[uniq( tempX, sort(tempX) )]

  ;; No unique elements, just return first element
  if( n_elements( newX ) eq 1 ) then return, strtrim( tempX[0],2 )
```

```

;; See which elements in new X differ by only 1 (they will become
;; part of a range of numbers)
dx=(newX-shift(newX,1))[1:*]

;; Get number of elements where spread is greater than 1
;; (non-contiguous elements)
l=where(dx ne 1)

outStr=""
nl=n_elements(l)
nx=n_elements(newX)

if l[0] eq -1 then outStr=string( newX[0],'-',newX[nx-1]) else begin
  if l[0] eq 0 then outStr=string(newX[0])+','
  if l[0] ne 0 then $
    outStr=string(newX[0])+'-' +string(newX[l[0]])+','
  for i=0, nl-2 do begin
    if ((l[i+1]-l[i]) gt 1) then begin
      outStr=outStr+string(newX[l[i]+1])+'-' +string(newX[l[i+1]])+','
    endif else begin
      outStr=outStr+string(newX[l[i+1]])+','
    endelse
  endfor
  if (nx-1)-l[(nl-1)] eq 1 then $
    outStr=outStr+string(newX[nx-1]) else $
    outStr=outStr+string(newX[(l[nl-1])+1])+'-' +string(newX[nx-1 ])
endelse
return, strcompress(outStr, /remove_all)
end ;; getnumberrange

```

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