
Subject: Re: Sorting with IDL... Please give me any suggestions!!!

Posted by [Braedley](#) on Thu, 21 Dec 2006 15:24:10 GMT

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Your problem is that you cannot concatenate a string array that doesn't contain only number strings with a number array. That's beside the fact that you're concatenating them improperly. Not a bad idea to store them in a structure.

```
file='score.txt'
lines=file_lines(file)
temp=strarr(2, lines)
openr, lun, /get_lun, file
readf, lun, temp
free_lun, lun
nm=temp[0, *]
sc=float(temp[1, *])
inds=sort(sc)
nm=nm[inds]
sc=sc[inds]
```

```
print, 'The Scores:'
for i=0, lines-1 do print, nm[i], sc[i]
```

And that's that

Braedley

DirtyHarry wrote:

> I am trying to learn the sort function in IDL. I would like to sort the
> final grades of my students in this semester.

>

> Jung 75

> Hyun 98

> Ji 95

> Young 92

> Chun 88

> Dong 89

> Joo 87

> Won 82

> Du 86

> Jin 84

>

> I saved these data in 'score.txt' file. I checked the sort function in

> IDL online help. The explanation was only for 1 dimensional array, but

> it was not useful for me. I just made a simple code like this, but it

> didn't work properly.

>

```
> -----
> pro grade
>
> nm = strarr(10)
> sr = fltarr(10)
> gr = [nm, sr]
> file='score.txt'
> openr, lun, file, /get_lun
> readf, lun, gr
>
> PRINT, 'Scores in sorted order: ', sr[sort(sr)]
> print, gr, free_lun, lun
>
> end
>
> -----
> I got a 'input conversion error' message and a blue arrow at line 8.
> Please let me know what to do. Give me any suggestions. Thanks.
```

Subject: Re: Sorting with IDL... Please give me any suggestions!!!

Posted by [yp](#) on Thu, 21 Dec 2006 15:28:59 GMT

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If 'nm' is a string array and 'sr' is a float array, what data type is 'gr' or your [nm,sr] ?

You should read the data in a structure. See READ_ASCII and ASCII_TEMPLATE helps.

Something like this:

```
template = { VERSION: 1.0, $
             DATASTART: N, $
             .
             .
             .
             FIELDNAMES: ['nm','sr']. $
             FIELDLOCATIONS : LONARR[2], $
             FIELDGROUPS: [0,1] }
```

```
data=RAED_ASCII(filename, template=template)
```

You have to learn how to create this template via read_ascii (or use either build_ascii_template or transread routines)

```
Then sort the 'sr' field and extract the index. x=sort(data.sr)
name=data.nm(x)
score=data.sr(x)
```

There are many different ways of reading mixed data types (search this

group, you can find numerous examples and also read through David Fanning's website).
