

Data Type question / Sort

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Hi

I'm trying to prep some values for a multi-column sort in an array. The array contains something like 300,000 by 10 values. I've seen quick sort routines that can sort on a single value, but not perform sorts within the initial sort.

My idea was to concatenate all my values into a single value and then sort on it. The problem I'm facing is that my numbers would have to be on the order of $\sim 10E+18-1$ long.

The way the routine works is it looks at the numbers in each column whose length is fixed and never has a situation where there are leading zeros to cause problems.

```
Col 1 Col 2 Col 3 Col 4 Col 5 Col 6
Row x: aaa bbb cc dddd e fff
```

I only need to arrange based on these 6 columns not the entire 10 in the array.

My problem is when I create a number like aaabbbccddddefff it appears to have problems with the "efff" portion. I checked each individual component (which I'm multiplying by some $1nnnn$ where n is some number of zeros – and they all work fine, its just once I tried to add things. Its like it drops values off. I have the variables defined as Double which I thought would work.

Any thoughts?