

**NAME**

**votsort** – Extract the main positional columns from a VOTable

**SYNOPSIS**

**votsort** [*-opts*] votable.xml

**OPTIONS**

The *votsort* task accepts the following options:

**-h, --help**

Print a help summary to the terminal and exit. No processing is done following this flag.

**-c *N*, --col *N***

Sort by column number *N* (0-indexed).

**-d, --desc**

Sort in descending order.

**-f *FORMAT*, --fmt *FORMAT***

Output format of sorted table. See description below for list of formats.

**-o *NAME*, --output *NAME***

Output name of sorted file, if not specified results are written to stdout.

**-s, --string**

Perform a string sort of the columns.

**-t *N*, --top *N***

Print the top *N* rows of the sorted table.

**-i *N*, --indent *N***

XML indention level when writing a new XML document.

**-n, --noheader**

Suppress header information for formats other than XML and FITS.

**-N *NAME*, --name *NAME***

Sort by column with the name=*NAME* attribute.

**-I *ID*, --id *ID***

Sort by column with the id=*ID* attribute.

**-U *UCD*, --ucd *ucd***

Sort by column with the ucd=*UCD* attribute.

**DESCRIPTION**

The *votsort* task is used to sort the rows of a VOTable either by explicit column number (i.e. the *-c* flag), as a simple string sort (i.e. the *-s* flag), or by an explicit 'name', 'id' or 'ucd' attribute of the <FIELD> elements (the *-N*, *-I* and *-U* flags respectively). By default, columns are sorted in ascending order, the *-d* flag can be used to force a descending sort of the column.

Output is written to the stdout unless the *-o* flag is used to name a specific output file. By default, a new VOTable will be written, the *-f* flag can be used to specify a new format. Allowed formats include:

*vot* A new VOTable  
*asv* ASCII-separated (i.e. whitespace) values.  
*bsv* Bar-separated values.  
*csv* Comma-separated values  
*tsv* Tab-separated values

*html* Standalone HTML document (entire table)  
*shtml* Single HTML table  
*fits* FITS bintable  
*ascii* ASV alias  
*xml* VOTable alias  
*raw* VOTable alias

For formats such as CSV that normally include column headers, the *-n* (or *--noheader*) flag may be used to suppress this header. The FITS file produced will be an MEF containing a bintable extension for each VOTable "<TABLE>" element. Column types and names in this case come from the VOTable "<FIELD>" attributes.

If no input file is specified the VOTable will be read from the stdin, results will be written to stdout unless the *-o* (or *--output*) names an output file. The task will only process a single VOTable and may not be used to convert multiple files in a single call.

## RETURN STATUS

On exit the **votsort** task will return a zero indicating success, or a one indicating an error.

## EXAMPLES

- 1) Sort a VOTable based on first column

```
% votsort test.xml
% votsort http://generic.edu/test.xml
% cat test.xml | votsort -o sort_test.xml
```

A string sort will be done automatically if this is a string-valued column, otherwise a numeric sort is done.

- 2) Sort a VOTable based on the magnitude column

```
% votsort --name=V test.xml
```

- 3) Same as above, select 10 faintest stars

```
% votsort --name=V --desc --top=10 test.xml
```

- 4) String sort based on object name, output as CSV

```
% votsort -s -f csv test.xml
% votsort --string --fmt=csv test.xml
```

## BUGS

No known bugs with this release.

## Revision History

Feb 2013 - First public release

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## SEE ALSO

votget, votinfo, votcnv, votpos, votstat