
Subject: Re: Would you consider this a bug?
Posted by [thompson](#) on Wed, 30 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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David Kastrup <dak@mailhost.neuroinformatik.ruhr-uni-bochum.de> writes:

> After doing

> a=[3,4,5]

> a[[2,1,0]] = a

> a will be set to [3,4,3]

> One has to write

> a[[2,1,0]] = a + 0

> in order to get the more correct seeming [5,4,3].

> Would you think this a bug?

The same correct results could also be obtained with the statement

$$a[[2,1,0]] = a[[0,1,2]]$$

I certainly would consider this a bug. I think I can understand how it comes about, though. Evidently the contents of A are being updated directly as it loops through the expression on the right side of the equation. On the other hand, if one puts A+0 on the right side of the equation, it generates a temporary array to store the results before placing them in the correct places on the left side of the equation, so the left side doesn't get changed midway in the process.

The solution would be that

1. If the variable on the left is indexed, AND
2. The same variable is on the right, THEN
3. Store the expression on the right in a temporary array.

William Thompson
