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Subject: Re: Array assignment problems  
Posted by [steinhh](#) on Sat, 21 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <7355qm\$mqo\$1@nnrp1.dejanews.com> seanr@possys.com writes:

```
> IDL> displayImage[i,0,0] = BytScl(reform(image[i,*,*]), Max=maxThresh,  
[..]  
> IDL> displayImage[0,0,i] = BytScl(reform(image[*,* ,i]), Max=maxThresh,  
Min=minThresh)  
  
> why does the first (displayimage[i,0,0]) not work, but the second does?
```

Remove the reform() statement in the first one, and it works.  
Apparently, IDL tries to match up existing dimensions starting from  
the leftmost. So, the fact that you've lost the \*last\* dimension  
(as in the last example) doesn't matter, but it does matter if you  
loose the first one, since the one moving up is way too big!

```
> If I enter it as displayimage[i,*,*] =... then it works, but this is a much  
> slower assignment.
```

This syntax matches up elements by their one-dimensional index. I.e.,  
displayimage[i,\*,\*] (on the left hand side) uniquely identifies (and  
indeed generates!) a series (vector) of one-dimensional indices, which  
are used to store each of the (ordered) element on the right hand  
side, regardless of their dimensional organization (i.e., it could be  
a 7-dimensional array with the same number of elements). The giveaway  
is that this works:

```
IDL> displayimage[i,*,*]=(image(i,*,*))(*)
```

Regards,

Stein Vidar

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