
Subject: Re: "clamping" an array to a maximum value?
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 22 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Martin Schultz <mgs@io.harvard.edu> writes:

> Yup,
>
> that's what I really intended to say/write. BTW: How about a "last
> element" operator? I very often need something like
> subdata = data[:,0:n_elements(data[0,:])-1]
> which is not very aesthetic ;-) is it? It would just be great if one
> could write something like
> subdata = data[:,0:(*)-1] or anything with a similar short syntax
> In this case the parantheses would serve to distinguish between "all
> elements" and "last element". That's probably a little dangerous. Anyone
> with a better idea?

Yes, yes, a billion times yes! A billion is about the number of times
I could have used this capability.

Some present-day scripting languages allow you to supply negative
subscripts, to indicate indexing from the end rather than the front of
the array. data[-1] would indicate the last element, data[-2] the
second to last, etc. Powerful, but maybe **too** powerful.

Craig

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