Subject: Re: Undocumented array indexing feature?
Posted by J.D. Smith on Fri, 22 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Liam Gumley wrote:
>
> Liam Gumley wrote:
>> Here's a way to index an array I hadn't seen before:
>>
>> a = indgen(10,10)
>> x = [3,5,8,9]
>> y = [2,7]
>> print, (a[x,*])[*,y]
>>   23   25   28   29
>>   73   75   78   79
>>
>> Does anyone know where this feature (i.e. enclosing an array with
>> parentheses and appending an index) is documented? I couldn't find it in
>> my printed IDL 5.0 documentation.
>
> To answer my own question, a careful reading of Chapter 5 of 'Building
> IDL Applications' p. 60
> (ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/idl_5.2/info/docs/building.pdf)
> revealed the following:
>
> "The syntax of a subscript reference is:
> Variable_Name[Subscript_ List]
> or
> (Array_Expression)[Subscript_List]"
>
> Thanks to Bill and Craig for their replies.
>

Array indexing isn't the only place parentheses are useful...

try this sometime:

a=(b=(c=1))

Basically, parentheses just instruct the command parser to iterate as
many times as necessary to remove them all. Other examples:

print,(x=5)

It doesn't work for everything though... as evidenced by:

z=5+6*(y=8)

JD

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