Subject: Variable stride in array indices
Posted by bowman on Fri, 07 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

We haven't had a good argument about IDL syntax lately, so I thought I would ask why IDL does not allow variable stride in array indices. For example, if

zz = z[0:5:2]

then zz would contain [z[0], z[2], z[4]].

I realize that this kind of thing can be done with array subscript lists such as z[[0, 2, 4]], but this can be awkward for multidimensional arrays. It is also necessary to *store* the lists of subscripts, and I believe that implementation through indirect subscripts must be slower than implementing strides through direct iteration (i.e., internal compiled DO loops).

Any comments?

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