
Subject: Re: Specification for a new array slicing function
Posted by [Jack Saba](#) on Thu, 20 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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> Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

>> My suggestion would be something a bit more like the native
>> Fortran 9X syntax (not that I actually *know* exactly how that
>> syntax works!) , e.g.:
>> a(0:5:2, :, 5:9) would be translated into
>> arex(a,[0,5,2],-1,[5,9])

The Fortran standard is [Start]:[End][:Stride]. ":" without preceding or following numbers means all elements; any or all of Start, End, or :Stride can be left off and would default to first element, last element, :1, respectively.

I don't see why a new function, whatever it's called, should be needed to handle this. It looks (from the user perspective) like a simple extension of the current IDL syntax for array sectioning. And, again from at least this user's perspective, Sect=a[0:5:2, :, 5:9] is preferable to Sect=AS(a,[0,5,2],-1,[5,9]), which is nowhere near as easy to remember or obvious-looking.
