
Subject: Re: behavior of arrays

Posted by [David Kastrup](#) on Thu, 20 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Jack Saba <jack@icesat1.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:

```
> But more often than not, I WANT the extra dimension to be lost,
> or at least I want IDL to be willing to ignore it where appropriate.
> Consider this unrealistic example that nevertheless illustrates a
> problem that occurs all too often in IDL:
>
> IDL> x=findgen(100)
> IDL> ijk=where(x eq 10)
> IDL> for i=ijk,99 do print, i
> % Expression must be a scalar in this context: I.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> I could have written i=ijk[0],99, or i=REFORM(ijk),99 to avoid the
> error. But it shouldn't be necessary -- this should be handled
> transparently.
```

It is handled transparently. If you want a scalar, write `ijk[0]`.
This works even where `ijk` is **indeed** a scalar.

This is, BTW, about the only way to check for the result of "where" in a useful way:

```
w = where(x)
if (w[0] lt 0)
```

```
...
```

```
--
```

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