
Subject: Re: Arrays in Structures Question (newbie)
Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Thu, 09 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Mike Garrett wrote:

```
>
> Hej guys,
>
> I was writing some structures to hold some data values and I am having a
> hard time determining what is going inside IDL. Could someone explain why
> I keep gettin two values back when I am just asking for one? And why the
> values are getting switched down a level?
>
> IDL> pointdata([1]).distance([[44],[0]]) = 12
> IDL> print, pointdata([1]).distance([[44],[0]])
>    12
>    12
> IDL> pointdata([1]).distance([[44],[1]]) = 3
> IDL> print, pointdata([1]).distance([[44],[1]])
>    3
>    3
> IDL> print, pointdata([1]).distance([[44],[0]])
>    3
>    12
>
> Thanks for any help,
>
> Mike
```

Short answer:

```
IDL> pointdata[1].distance[44,0]=12
IDL> print, pointdata[1].distance[44,0]
```

Long answer:

The quantity `[[44],[0]]` in your statement is really the vector `[44,0]`. If you index an array with a vector, you get all of those elements. By the way, don't use `()` to index an array unless you're using a very old IDL. It confuses the compiler in some cases.

If you're really fond of lots and lots of punctuation, you could still do:

```
IDL> print, pointdata([1]).distance([[44]],[[0]])
```

(note carefully the difference) but hopefully I've convinced you not to.

JD

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J.D. Smith | WORK: (607) 255-6263
Cornell Dept. of Astronomy | (607) 255-5842
304 Space Sciences Bldg. | FAX: (607) 255-5875
Ithaca, NY 14853 |
