
Subject: User selectable lower array bound?

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 02 Aug 2001 21:47:03 GMT

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Hey there,

Is it just me, or would anyone else find useful the ability to define arrays in IDL such that the lower bound is **not** always zero? Sorta like:

```
x = FINDGEN( 11, LOWER = -5 )  
or  
y = DBLARR( 100, LOWER = 1 )
```

so that accessing elements such as `x[-4]` or `y[100]` are o.k.?

I know this can be done now with judicious use of proxy indices, e.g.

```
FOR i = -5, 5 DO BEGIN  
  ix = i + 5  
  PRINT, x[ ix ]  
  ....do other stuff with negative i's....  
ENDFOR
```

but sometimes this makes code hard to follow (or explain to someone who's never used the code before) in direct correspondence with a physical process.

It seems like such a simple thing to be able to do (with default action being start at index 0) although I'm sure the amount of work required to implement this would be horrendous. Still, it *shur* would be nice.....

paulv

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Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
 Alexander Pope.