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Subject: Re: Loop Arrays

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 09 Oct 2001 19:59:39 GMT

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From: "Ken Mankoff" <mankoff@lasp.colorado.edu>

> I am interested in creating circular arrays, where subscripts that would  
> be out-of-bounds on a regular array just start indexing on the other side  
> of the array.

> I think that overloading the [] operators is not an option from my  
> understanding of IDL. Does anyone know if this is possible?

It's not possible. IDL does not support operator overloading.

> Desirable? Dumb?

Maybe. No.

You can do quite a lot with ordinary arrays using arrays of indices, eg

```
a = indgen(10)
print, a[ [0,10,20,100] mod n_elements(a)]
```

BTW another indexing extension that appeals to me is Python's use of negative indices to refer to positions relative to the end of the array, eg -1 refers to the rightmost element.

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