Subject: Re: Array indexing "Feature"
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Thu, 13 Dec 2001 15:23:58 GMT

Andrew Cool wrote:
>   One of my colleagues has noted something apparently screwy in the
> indexing of
>   arrays.
>
>   e.g. a = indgen(10)
>   print, a(9)   -> you get 9
>   print, a(10)   -> you get an error, as expected for a zero-based
> index
>
>   but if you access the array with the index as a vector, it seems to
> truncate the index to the maximum   allowable:
>
>   print, a([10]) -> you get 9
>   print, a([666]) -> you get 9
>
>   Similarly:
>
>   print, a(-1)   -> you get an error
>   print, a([-1]) -> you get 0
>
>   This feature holds good for IDL 5.2 and 5.4 on OpenVMS and for 5.5 on
> Windows.
>
>   Where, Oh where in the manuals does it describe this?

For what it's worth, this behavior is documented in "Practical IDL
Programming" on page 30 (section 2.4 "Array Indexing").

Cheers,
Liam
Practical IDL Programming
http://www.gumley.com/