Subject: Re: Array indexing "Feature"
Posted by Andrew Cool on Thu, 13 Dec 2001 00:10:55 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Paul van Delst wrote:
>
> Craig Markwardt wrote:
>>
>> Andrew Cool <andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au> writes:
>>
>>> Hi All,
>>>
>>> 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:
>>
>> See "Using Arrays as Subscripts" in the manual. I believe this
>> behavior has been true since the dawn of SYSTIME().
>
> Huh. How 'bout that?
>
> IDL> a = indgen(10)
> IDL> x=[-100,3, 4, 5]
> IDL> print, a(x)
> 0 3 4 5
>
> but only for array subscripts,
>
> IDL> print, a[-100]
> % Attempt to subscript A with <INT (-100)> is out of range.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> Seems logical....<insert chirping cricket sounds here>.....in an IDL sorta way.
>
> paulv
>

Thanks David, Craig & Paul...

I did actually search every which way through the online v5.4 "Help"

before posting the query.

Thanks to Jeff, I've gone back to my *paper* v4.0 User's Guide and found on 5-5 that :-

"If an element of a subscript array is less than or equal to zero, the first element
of the subscripted variable is selected. If an element of the subscript is greater
than or equal to the last subscript in the subscripted variable (N,above), the last
element is selected."

Sounds fair - if only they'd keep that text in the bloody Help!

But what sort of person attempts to subscript an array without checking the bounds
in the first place? Sounds like sloppy practice to me.

Anyways, Y'all have a good Christmas. I'll be thinking of you Paul, freezing your
buns off in Yankee Land while prawns & cold beer are Order of the Day back in OZ.

Cheers,

Andrew

---------- ---------
Andrew D. Cool .->-.
Electromagnetics & Propagation Group `-<-'
Surveillance Systems Division Transmitted on
Defence Science & Technology Organisation 100% recycled
PO Box 1500, Salisbury electrons
South Australia 5108

Phone : 061 8 8259 5740 Fax : 061 8 8259 6673
Email : andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au
---------- ---------