Subject: last array index subscript
Posted by Chad Bender on Thu, 23 Jan 2003 17:50:30 GMT

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Hi --

Is there a way in IDL to directly reference the last element of a vector
without first determining how many elements the vector contains?

For example, something like:

n=N_Elements(my_array)
value=my_array[n-1]

except without having to make the call to N_Elements. Granted, avoiding
the N_Elements call probably doesn't save a lot of time. But I figured
that with all of the complicated syntax that IDL accepts, there might be a
direct way to do this. The Bldg Apps guide says you can extract a
subarray from some element e to the end of the array like this:

subarray=my_array[e:*]

So it seems to me that IDL knows what that last index is. I tried
something like:

value=my_array[*-1], but (not unexpectedly) this caused a syntax error.

I figure that what I want is probably impossible, but if anyone knows how
to do it your advice is appreciated.

Thanks
Chad Bender