
Subject: Re: V6.0 indexing change

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 13 Aug 2003 00:45:58 GMT

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Andrew Cool wrote:

> Wayne Landsman <landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov> wrote in message
news:<3F39035C.8070409@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov>...

>

>> I haven't installed V6.0 yet myself but I have been informed by Mike

>> Corcoran of a change that can break some existing code.

>>

>> Formerly, if one had a structure, say `a = {x:indgen(10)}` which was

>> accessed by a 1 element vector, say `i = [3]`, then the result `a.x[i]`

>> would be a scalar. In V6.0, however, the result is now a 1 element

>> vector.

>>

>> I have to say that the V6.0 method makes more more sense -- subscripting

>> with a 1 element vector should return a 1 element vector. But it can

>> break existing code because logical tests such as

>>

>> `if a.x[i] EQ 3 then stop`

>>

>> will no longer work. The fix is simple enough (set `i = i[0]` first)

>> but users might want to fix the code before upgrading to V6.0.

>>

>

> You sure about this? Yes, a 1 element vector is now returned, but

> your example

>

> `if a.x[i] EQ 3 then stop`

>

> works just fine for me under the 6.0 Beta (Win2000), as does

>

> `if a.x[i[0]] EQ 3 then stop`

And for me under 6.0 final (Win 2000). But then this...

```
IDL> if [1] eq 1 then print, 'comparison is OK'
```

...works (ie prints out the message) under IDL 6.0 and 5.6. In other words an if statement doesn't seem to care if its condition is a scalar or a 1-element array. News to me!

Still, Wayne's warning is correct: there may be cases where the new, improved structure indexing in 6.0 will break code.

--

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