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Subject: Re: Subscripting multidimensional arrays  
Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Fri, 12 Dec 2003 16:57:18 GMT  
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"Jonathan Greenberg" <[greenberg@ucdavis.edu](mailto:greenberg@ucdavis.edu)> wrote in message  
news:nwfCb.37807\$SU2.20541@newssvr29.news.prodigy.com...

> Hi all -- I was hoping to get some help with converting a vector which  
> contains the x,y,z position for a value I want to extract from a  
> multidimensional array -- I understand that using an array to subscript  
> another array requires knowing the linear subscript position. For  
example:

>  
> a =   0   10   20  
>       30   40   50  
>       60   70   80  
>  
>       90   100   110  
>       120   130   140  
>       150   160   170  
>

> I have a vector which is defined as:

> locationvector=[2,2,2]  
>

> I want to extract the value at that position (e.g.  $a[2,2,2] = 170$ ), but I  
> can't do a:

>  $a[\text{locationvector}]$  --> I apparently have to convert the locationvector to  
> that linear position. How do I do this? Does IDL have a built in  
function

> that will do this conversion, or is there an easy formula for doing this  
> conversion in ANY dimension? Thanks!  
>

> --j

The straightforward way is:

```
result=a[locationvector[0],locationvector[1],locationvector[ 2]]
```

This will work if you always have a 3D array (or do you want to be able to  
index with an array for an arbitrary size array?)

Also, your location vector should be [2,2,1] in the above example.

Cheers,  
bob

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