
Subject: Re: Array indexing problem

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Wed, 28 Jan 2004 22:11:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

"Roy" <roberson_1@yahoo.com> wrote in message
news:c0a9aee5.0401281200.400888f1@posting.google.com...
> Is there any existing code that will catch the below IDL simple
> example? Input a and b must be an array.
>
> Input is an array:
> IDL> b=[4]
> IDL> a=[0,1,2]
> IDL> print,a[b]
> 2
> This should give me an error.

This is how array subscripting works in IDL, when the subscript is an array.
To quote the IDL Manual "Building IDL Applications", Chapter 5, "Using
Arrays as Subscripts":

"If an element of the 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."

If the subscript variable has just one elements, then you can do this
instead

```
IDL> print, a[b[0]]  
% Attempt to subscript A with <LONG ( 4)> is out of range.  
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

since b[0] is a scalar. You can do this even if b is a scalar.

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>
