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Subject: Re: Is it an IDL bug or feature?

Posted by [hahn](#) on Thu, 26 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Liyun Wang <Liyun.Wang.1@gsfc.nasa.gov> wrote:

> Hi,

> In a process of debugging our IDL codes, we found an interesting case which you  
> may want to be aware of. Consider this:

[snip]

> IDL> b = 1

> IDL> a = b([2],[1],[2])

[snip]

> What do you think IDL will respond? Will it issue a syntax error message?

> Wrong!

IDL works as described in the manual: User's manual p 5-5, formula  
beginning with V(S) =

> As long as the subscript indices of a \*scalar\* variable, like b here,  
> are arrays with the same dimension, IDL does not care nor complain, no matter  
> how  
> many array elements you give. Do you consider this to be a potential bug or a  
> feature of IDL?

The reason for this feature is to save time when doing image  
processing: Imagine a 512x512 array of luminance values and  
use these to address a color lookup table. Some luminance  
values may be missing or out of range in this example. Thus  
you save lots of processing time (for subscript checking)  
when the top and the bottom element of the lut are set to the color of  
missing value.

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> =====  
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