Subject: Re: Is it an IDL bug or feature? Posted by chase on Thu, 26 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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>>>> "Liyun" == Liyun Wang <Liyun.Wang.1@gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:

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

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

Liyun> IDL will complain about subscript being out of range. But watch this:

IDL> b = 1 IDL> a = b([2],[1],[2]) Liyun> or IDL> a = b([[2],[1],[10],[30]]) Liyun> or even IDL> a = b([[2],[,1],[10],[30]], [[20],[12],[70],[20]])

Liyun> What do you think IDL will respond? Will it issue a syntax Liyun> error message? Wrong! As long as the subscript indices of a Liyun> \*scalar\* variable, like b here, are arrays with the same Liyun> dimension, IDL does not care nor complain, no matter how many Liyun> array elements you give. Do you consider this to be a potential Liyun> bug or a feature of IDL?

It is not a bug. The specific behaviors are clearly documented features in Chapter 5 of the "IDL User's Guide" (version 3.5 and version 4, perhaps earlier too) under the subsections "Subscript Examples" and "Array Subscripts".

It does seem unfortunate the behavior seems inconsistent. I find that both behaviors are useful.

Chris

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