
Subject: Is it an IDL bug or feature?

Posted by [Liyun Wang](#) on Wed, 25 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

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

```
IDL> b = 1
```

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

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

```
IDL> b = 1
```

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

or

```
IDL> a = b([[2],[1],[10],[30]])
```

or even

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

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

Wrong! 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?

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Liyun Wang          |          Voice: 301-286-3126
G1 Building 26, SOHO EAF |          FAX: 301-286-0264
NASA, GSFC, Code 682.3 |          Liyun.Wang.1@gsfc.nasa.gov
Greenbelt, MD 20771   |http://orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov/~lwang
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