
Subject: Re: Oh No...

Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Wed, 18 Apr 2007 19:21:35 GMT

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```
> IDL> a[(a=2*findgen(10))]=1 & print, a
>   1.00000   2.00000   1.00000   6.00000   1.00000
>   10.0000   1.00000   14.0000   1.00000   1.00000
```

Isn't that what you would expect from in-place modification of an array? At first, `a[a[0]]==a[0]` is set to 1, then `a[a[1]]==a[2]` is set to 1, then `a[a[2]]==a[1]` is set to 1, not `a[4]`, because `a[2]` has been changed by a previous operation. `a[a[3]]==a[6]` is set to 1, also `a[a[4]]==a[8]`, then IDL's rules regarding array subscripts kick in and all the other subscripts cause `a[9]` to be set to 1.

The question is, should this kind of expression be illegal, or cause a warning, or should the language define a less confusing behaviour? Or at least be consistent across versions and platforms?

chl
