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Subject: Re: indexing arrays with arrays  
Posted by [GeoffS](#) on Tue, 07 Aug 2007 19:25:08 GMT  
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The only way I know to do that is using an "array of indices" to index into the source array. For example, the answer to your specific problem would be to create an array containing:

```
indexes = [0,1, 1,2, 2,3, 3,4, 4,5]
```

then the extraction statement is simply:

```
extract = res[indexes]
```

The extraction statement should be pretty efficient as it uses implicit loops inside the IDL interpreter/VM. If you need to extract the same elements many times, then this would be a reasonable solution, but if you need an efficient/loopless way to create the 'indexes' array then it probably won't help you.

Cheers,

Geoff S.

On Aug 7, 8:39 am, Conor <[cmanc...@gmail.com](mailto:cmanc...@gmail.com)> wrote:

> It seems to me that a highly useful syntax for IDL would be something  
> like this:

```
>  
> res = randomu(seed,10)  
> start_ind = indgen(5)  
> end_ind = start_ind + 1  
>  
> extract = res[start_ind:end_ind]
```

> In this case, I would envision extract being a 10 element array.

> Namely, it would be the equivalent of:

```
>  
> extract = [res[start_ind[0]:end_ind[0]], res[start_ind[1]:end_ind[1]],  
> res[start_ind[2]:end_ind[2]], etc...]
```

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