Subject: Re: Most Common IDL Programming Errors
Posted by Tom McGlynn on Thu, 10 Apr 2008 02:18:16 GMT

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One problem that I used to make all the time was to assume that WHERE
returned a match, e.g.,

```
w = where(x gt 0)
x[w] = alog10(x[w])
```

neglecting the case where the x are all negative. My programs would
always work when I tested them, and then I'd find they failed when I
tried them in the real world. The need to check finally got beaten
into me.

Another is fogetting the inherently parallel nature of array
operations, e.g., something like expecting

```
x=[0,1,1,2,2,2]
y=indgen(3)

y[x] = y[x]+1
```

to give something other than 1,1,1.

Regards,
Tom McGlynn