
Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Mon, 09 Jun 2008 15:34:29 GMT
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On Fri, 6 Jun 2008 09:50:33 -0700 (PDT), Conor wrote:

> So I want to pull out a small subsection from within a larger idl
> array. I want to do something like this:

```
>  
> bigarr = findgen(500,100000)  
> bigx = [indgen(50)+100,indgen(25)+200]  
> bigy = indgen(10000)+50000
```

```
>  
> res = bigarr[bigx,bigy]
```

```
>  
> However IDL doesn't like that and says:
```

```
>  
> % All array subscripts must be same size. Var = BIGARR  
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

```
>  
You may want to try this command:  
    res = bigarr[bigx,bigy,0]
```

IDL accepts arrays of different size as subscripts, if at least one of the subscripts is a scalar. Here the "0" addresses an "extra" dimension. Since this extra dimension is of size 1, it is degenerated in the result. Array res has two dimensions, 75x10000.

Heinz
