
Subject: basic array-structure understanding question
Posted by [julia.walterspiel](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 14:21:27 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

hi everybody

This is what does not get into my head:

I have one array containing my data.
I have a second array containing the times when the data was collected.
They have the same lenght.

I put them into one structure because we all like structures and I learned about their advantages.

now:

IN SHORT are those arrays linked somehow? in other words: when working with a structure, does IDL know which value matches the corresponding date, given the data and the date array have the same length. Are those arrays somehow connected or are they completely independent from each other?

IN LONG: if I want to get e.g. all the data from all Januarys from 2000 to 2007, can I do it somehow like

```
all_jan = structure.data (where(structure.time EQ 200?01??????) )..  
then it would automatically "select" only the right values. (and then  
I would have to make a separate array of the corresponding dates, make  
those two new arrays a structure so that I can plot data vs. date all  
in one?)
```

or do I have to do it via some indexing, like:

```
all_jan = where (structure.time EQ 200?01??????) )
```

and then apply the index to my array of data?

jeez, i'm real slow on the uptake here.. sorry for bothering you with such simple questions, but can anybody help me undo this big knot in my brain?
cheers,
juls
