Subject: Re: basic array-structure understanding question Posted by Jean H. on Wed, 19 Nov 2008 16:47:10 GMT

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- > thanks Marc! the knot is coming undone..
- > it's a pity that IDL does not associate the two arrays. But I guess
- > nobody's perfect :) (or is there a way to TELL IDL to associate them?)
- > cheers for the explanation. I'll go hunt around for some more of
- > David's articles on this topic.
- > juls

As Marc pointed it out, the link is very easy to conceptualize... select the index on array A and select the corresponding data on array B!

```
A = [0,1,1,0,1] ;a mask
B = [1,2,3,4,5] ;some data
goodIndex = where(A eq 1)
print, B[goodIndex]
==> 2,3,5
```

Now, be careful when you do a subscription using where. Your code will miserably fail in case there is no valid subscript!

ex:

```
A = [0,1,1,0,1] ;a mask

B = [1,2,3,4,5] ;some data
```

badIndex = where(A eq 3)
print, badIndex
==> -1
print, B[badIndex]
==> ERROR!

so, unless you are 100% sure that there is ALWAYS a valid index, you should first search for the index, make sure there is at least 1 valid one, and then do the subscription!

Jean