
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
