
Subject: Re: Strange array indexing quirk?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 12 Aug 2011 03:58:43 GMT
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Beaker writes:

```
> I stumbled across this strange behaviour:
>
> foo = indgen(2,2)
> print,foo[0,10]
> < gives an error, since the second index is out of range>
>
> however,
>
> indx = indgen(5)
> print,foo[0,indx]
>    0
>    2
>    2
>    2
>    2
>
> Does anyone have any insight into why this happens? I'd expect the
> second line to also throw an error. A lot of the inner workings of IDL
> seem pretty arcane and hard to guess at before you try things...
>
> I was being lazy/naughty and using a catch statement to detect when an
> index went out of range, which I knew would happen very occasionally
> and was trying to avoid the performance hit of checking for it every
> time. This round off instead of an error behaviour made sure that plan
> didn't work!
```

This is a famous IDL quirk. If you would prefer to have an error thrown in this situation, use the compile option STRICTARRSUBS:

Compile_Opt STRICTARRSUBS

Looking up that compiler option will also point you to information about array subscripts. (At least it will in the IDL 7 on-line help.)

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
