## Subject: Strange arrary indexing quirk?
Posted by Matt Francis on Fri, 12 Aug 2011 01:12:58 GMT

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 occaisonally 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!