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Subject: Subscripting arrays.

Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Thu, 02 May 2013 19:40:07 GMT

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So someone showed me this and I'm trying to wrap my head around it. Sorry if it's already posted, I didn't know how to begin to search The Group for it...

Create an array:

```
a = intarr(3)
```

Using IDL 8, subscript with 4 (ie. an index that's too large and should be out of bounds)

```
a[4]=3
```

Obviously, this crashes.

Conversely subscript with a negative index:

```
a[-1]=2
```

does what you expect.

But, now subscript the array, WITH an array:

```
a[[4]]=2
```

voila. It works, and simply truncates to the last element of the array... Spooky. Now do that with a negative index:

```
a[[-1]]=4
```

Like before, it works. But now, it doesn't wrap the index, but rather truncates to the first element of the array.

Hmm.. I can't tell if this is the designed behavior, because I have a hard time describing it --- it's easier to show it.

All the best,  
Russell

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