
Subject: Re: New behavior of n_elements?

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2017 21:13:23 GMT

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I suspect that whether the index is LONG or INT is irrelevant, and the problem is that your DATES array doesn't have 1440 elements

```
IDL> dates = fltarr(1439)
```

```
IDL> print,dates[1439]
```

```
% Attempt to subscript DATES with <INT    ( 1439)> is out of range.
```

On Friday, July 14, 2017 at 3:43:37 PM UTC-4, [laura...@gmail.com](#) wrote:

> Hi,

>

> I have been using n_elements forever to get the number of elements in an array, which is then used to index a loop. Today, I find the values returned are LONGs instead of plain INTs. I don't care, but when I use them as array indices, they are rejected:

>

> % Attempt to subscript DATES with <LONG (1439)> is out of range.

>

> If I change the value to a regular INT there's no problem. Has anyone seen this behavior? My first thoughts were that the value came back as a LONG if it was too big for an INT, but 1440 isn't.

My next thought was that maybe it was because the array contained DOUBLES, so I converted them to FLOATs, but still got a LONG back. I have never seen this behavior before. The documentation for n_elements only says that it

>

> Returns the number of elements.

>

> with no specification of the type of the returned value.

>

> I'm baffled. I don't see any reason you can't use a LONG as an array element number anyway.

>

> Thanks,

>

> Laura
