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Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?  
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Fri, 06 Jun 2008 21:15:38 GMT  
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```
> cx = n_elements(wx)
> cy = n_elements(wy)
> nx = n_elements(bigarr[*,0])
> ind = transpose(rebin(wy,cy,cx))*nx + rebin(wx,cx,cy)
> res = bigarr[ind]
```

You don't have to use nx.  
res = bigarr[rebin(bigx,75,10000),rebin(bigy,10000,75)]

Note that you must have the same number of elements in every subscripted dimension.

Read [http://www.dfanning.com/code\\_tips/asterisk.html](http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/asterisk.html)

Jean

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Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?  
Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Sat, 07 Jun 2008 13:12:26 GMT  
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```
> So I want to pull out a small subsection from within a larger idl
> array. I want to do something like this:
>
> bigarr = findgen(500,100000)
> bigx = [indgen(50)+100,indgen(25)+200]
> bigy = indgen(10000)+50000
>
> res = bigarr[bigx,bigy]
```

In the particular case above, I would expect that this would be most efficient:

```
res = [bigarr[100:149,50000:59999], bigarr[200:224,50000:59999]]
```

Of course, that's only going to work when you know a priori that everything will be in a relatively small number of chunks.

-Jeremy.

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Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?  
Posted by [Conor](#) on Mon, 09 Jun 2008 12:56:28 GMT

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On Jun 7, 9:12 am, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:

```
>> So I want to pull out a small subsection from within a larger idl
>> array. I want to do something like this:
>
>> bigarr = findgen(500,100000)
>> bigx = [indgen(50)+100,indgen(25)+200]
>> bigy = indgen(10000)+50000
>
>> res = bigarr[bigx,bigy]
>
> In the particular case above, I would expect that this would be most
> efficient:
>
> res = [bigarr[100:149,50000:59999], bigarr[200:224,50000:59999]]
>
> Of course, that's only going to work when you know a priori that
> everything will be in a relatively small number of chunks.
>
> -Jeremy.
```

Interesting, thanks!

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Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?

Posted by [Conor](#) on Mon, 09 Jun 2008 13:02:19 GMT

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On Jun 6, 5:15 pm, Jean H <jghas...@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca> wrote:

```
>> cx = n_elements(wx)
>> cy = n_elements(wy)
>> nx = n_elements(bigarr[:,0])
>> ind = transpose(rebin(wy,cy,cx))*nx + rebin(wx,cx,cy)
>> res = bigarr[ind]
>
> You don't have to use nx.
> res = bigarr[rebin(bigx,75,10000),rebin(bigy,10000,75)]
>
> Note that you must have the same number of elements in every subscripted
> dimension.
>
> Readhttp://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/asterisk.html
>
> Jean
```

On second thought, I'm now thoroughly confused. I don't understand

this bit:

```
res = bigarr[rebin(bigx,75,10000),rebin(bigy,10000,75)]
```

obviously `rebin(bigx,75,10000)` and `rebin(bigy,10000,75)` give you two arrays with exactly opposite dimensions, so I don't understand how you can index `bigarr` with these two arrays. Also, I'm not even sure what IDL is doing when you index an array like that. My first thought was that this was the equivalent of:

```
res = bigarr[ [rebin(bigx,75,10000),rebin(bigy,10000,75)] ]
```

But that obviously can't be the case because since they have different dimensions, you can't concatenate the two arrays. So how does IDL pull out an array index in your above example?

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Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?

Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Mon, 09 Jun 2008 15:34:29 GMT

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On Fri, 6 Jun 2008 09:50:33 -0700 (PDT), Conor wrote:

> So I want to pull out a small subsection from within a larger idl  
> array. I want to do something like this:

```
>  
> bigarr = findgen(500,100000)  
> bigx = [indgen(50)+100,indgen(25)+200]  
> bigy = indgen(10000)+50000
```

```
>  
> res = bigarr[bigx,bigy]
```

```
>  
> However IDL doesn't like that and says:
```

```
>  
> % All array subscripts must be same size. Var = BIGARR  
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$  
>
```

You may want to try this command:

```
res = bigarr[bigx,bigy,0]
```

IDL accepts arrays of different size as subscripts, if at least one of the subscripts is a scalar. Here the "0" addresses an "extra" dimension. Since this extra dimension is of size 1, it is degenerated in the result. Array `res` has two dimensions, 75x10000.

Heinz

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Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?  
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Mon, 09 Jun 2008 17:12:49 GMT  
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Conor wrote:

```
> On Jun 6, 5:15 pm, Jean H <jghas...@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca>
> wrote:
>>> cx = n_elements(wx)
>>> cy = n_elements(wy)
>>> nx = n_elements(bigarr[:,0])
>>> ind = transpose(rebin(wy,cy,cx))*nx + rebin(wx,cx,cy)
>>> res = bigarr[ind]
>> You don't have to use nx.
>> res = bigarr[rebin(bigx,75,10000),rebin(bigy,10000,75)]
>>
>> Note that you must have the same number of elements in every subscripted
>> dimension.
>>
>> Readhttp://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/asterisk.html
>>
>> Jean
>
> On second thought, I'm now thoroughly confused. I don't understand
> this bit:
>
> res = bigarr[rebin(bigx,75,10000),rebin(bigy,10000,75)]
>
> obviously rebin(bigx,75,10000) and rebin(bigy,10000,75) give you two
> arrays with exactly opposite dimensions, so I don't understand how you
> can index bigarr with these two arrays. Also, I'm not even sure what
> IDL is doing when you index an array like that. My first thought was
> that this was the equivalent of:
>
> res = bigarr[ [rebin(bigx,75,10000),rebin(bigy,10000,75)] ]
>
> But that obviously can't be the case because since they have different
> dimensions, you can't concatenate the two arrays. So how does IDL
> pull out an array index in your above example?
```

Ah, I guess you are right... I was typing too fast (and the no-error didn't warn me..)

it should have been:

```
IDL> help, bigarr[rebin(bigx,75,10000),transpose(rebin(bigy,10000,75))]
```

So, `rebin(bigx,75,10000)` replicates your 75 entries 10 000 times.  
`rebin(bigy,10000,75)` replicates the 10 000 entries 75 times. Now,  
`transpose(rebin(bigy,10000,75))`, well, transposes it so the two  
subscript now have the same dimensions. At last, for each corresponding

index in both subscripts, the value of bigArr is returned.

Was i posted was working because there are the same number of elements in both subscripts... though the combination was wrong and therefore it returns the wrong result..

Sorry for the confusion!  
Jean

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Subject: Re: Array indexing: what is IDL doing?  
Posted by [Conor](#) on Tue, 10 Jun 2008 14:16:41 GMT  
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On Jun 9, 11:34 am, Heinz Stege <public.215....@arcor.de> wrote:  
> On Fri, 6 Jun 2008 09:50:33 -0700 (PDT), Conor wrote:  
>> So I want to pull out a small subsection from within a larger idl  
>> array. I want to do something like this:  
>  
>> bigarr = findgen(500,100000)  
>> bigx = [indgen(50)+100,indgen(25)+200]  
>> bigy = indgen(10000)+50000  
>  
>> res = bigarr[bigx,bigy]  
>  
>> However IDL doesn't like that and says:  
>  
>> % All array subscripts must be same size. Var = BIGARR  
>> % Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$  
>  
> You may want to try this command:  
> res = bigarr[bigx,bigy,0]  
>  
> IDL accepts arrays of different size as subscripts, if at least one of  
> the subscripts is a scalar. Here the "0" addresses an "extra"  
> dimension. Since this extra dimension is of size 1, it is degenerated  
> in the result. Array res has two dimensions, 75x10000.  
>  
> Heinz

Hmm... this does work! It seems very strange though. Seems like a rather arbitrary rule...

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