
Subject: Access array elements with String

Posted by [humanumbrella](#) on Mon, 14 Jul 2008 15:16:28 GMT

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Hello all,

Another issue - perhaps one of you has encountered this before. It's sort of a neat problem. I'm attempting to build array subscripts on the fly based on user input. IE the number of static/variable elements is changing, which allows the user to pick different axes to plot. Nevermind all that.

Anyway, let's say a user wants a particular axis to be variable. In this case, the dataset array where I'm attempting to pull values from would contain a *, to get all these elements. Unfortunately, I do not know in advance which dimension of the array I will be using, so I am attempting to build the subscript based on a string.

This was my original thought:

```
a = dindgen(5,5,5)
```

```
b = ['3','3','3']
```

```
print, a[b]
```

but this just returns a[3], a[3], a[3]

So, I figured I'd do it this way:

```
c = '3'
```

```
print, a[c,c,c] -- This works!
```

Now for the gold,

```
d = '*'
```

```
print, a[c,c,d] -- error - can't convert string-> long
```

so I get an idea-- maybe I'll just use the ascii value for the asterisk.

```
d = String(42b)
```

```
print, a[c,d,d] -- error - can't convert string-> long
```

Any thoughts ?

Thanks in advance

--Justin
