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Subject: Re: should max nuke the 2nd argument  
Posted by [liamgumley](#) on Mon, 23 Mar 2009 14:54:05 GMT  
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On Mar 23, 9:41 am, Greg Hennessy <greg.henne...@cox.net> wrote:

> The following weird thing is happening to me. Does it happen to  
> others?

```
>  
> IDL> n=215  
> IDL> id=indgen(30000)  
> IDL> nel=size(id,/n_elements)  
> IDL> help,n,nel  
> N          LONG    =    32768  
> NEL        LONG    =    30000  
> IDL> n=min(n,nel)  
> IDL> help,n,nel  
> N          LONG    =    32768  
> NEL        LONG    =         0  
> IDL>
```

>  
> I don't think that the nel variable should be reset  
> to zero after the call to min, but its early enough  
> in the morning I'd like a 2nd opinon before I try  
> to report this as a bug.

MIN is doing exactly what it is supposed to do.

From the online help:

"The MIN function returns the value of the smallest element of Array.  
The type of the result is the same as that of Array.

#### Syntax

```
Result = MIN( Array [, Min_Subscript] [, /ABSOLUTE] [,  
DIMENSION=value] [, MAX=variable] [, /NAN] [,  
SUBSCRIPT_MAX=variable])
```

Return Value: Returns the smallest array element value.

#### Arguments

Array: The array to be searched.

Min\_Subscript: A named variable that, if supplied, is converted to a long integer containing the one-dimensional subscript of the minimum element. Otherwise, the system variable !C is set to the one-dimensional subscript of the minimum element."

Cheers,  
Liam.

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Subject: Re: should max nuke the 2nd argument  
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Mon, 23 Mar 2009 15:16:01 GMT  
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>  
> IDL Version 6.4 (linux x86\_64 m64).

this is normal.

Read the help file for "min". First argument is the array, 2nd contains the location of the min value in the array... and location 0 is perfectly valid when the "array" contains only one element!

did you intent to do min([n,nel]) maybe?

Jean

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Subject: Re: should max nuke the 2nd argument  
Posted by [Greg Hennessy](#) on Mon, 23 Mar 2009 17:25:26 GMT  
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On 2009-03-23, Jean H. <[jghasban@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca](mailto:jghasban@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca)> wrote:

> did you intent to do min([n,nel]) maybe?

Yes. You would think by now that I wouldn't code till \*after\* I had my cup of tea in the morning.

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Subject: Re: should max nuke the 2nd argument

Posted by [edward.s.meinel@aero](mailto:edward.s.meinel@aero). on Tue, 24 Mar 2009 13:33:43 GMT

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On Mar 23, 1:25 pm, Greg Hennessy <greg.henne...@cox.net> wrote:

> On 2009-03-23, Jean H. <jghas...@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca> wrote:

>

>> did you intent to do min([n,nel]) maybe?

>

> Yes. You would think by now that I wouldn't code till \*after\* I had my

> cup of tea in the morning.

And in this case the simplest solution is:

```
IDL> n = n < nel
```

Ed M

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