
Subject: Unexpected array subscript truncation
Posted by [M. Katz](#) on Mon, 30 Nov 2009 21:03:10 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Here's an interesting little array trick I discovered by accident. It doesn't give an error message where I would expect one! Try this:

* As a warm-up enter this and see that IDL does complain.

```
a = intarr(3,3)
a[0,5] = 1
```

* Now try to set it as follows, with an array of y-index values.

```
a[0,[0,5]] = 1
print, a
  1   0   0
  0   0   0
  1   0   0
```

No complaint! In fact, IDL quietly truncated the 5 down to its highest allowed value, which is 2.

It also works like this:

```
a[:,[0,9]] = 3
```

is equivalent to

```
a[:,[0,2]] = 3
```

The same truncation happens with x indices as well.

I suppose there could be some cases where this would not be the desired behavior. Any thoughts? Am I missing something?

-M.
