
Subject: Re: negative indices, am I missing something here?

Posted by [Lajos Foldy](#) on Fri, 02 Nov 2012 21:39:46 GMT

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On Friday, November 2, 2012 8:51:56 PM UTC+1, d.rowe...@gmail.com wrote:

> IDL 8 brought negative indices for arrays. Great, love them. However, I am getting strange results.

>

>

>

> IDL> a = indgen(3,5)

>

> IDL> print, a[*, -1]

>

> 12 13 14

>

>

>

> Good, that is what I thought I should get.

>

>

>

> IDL> print, a[*, [3,1,4]]

>

> 9 10 11

>

> 3 4 5

>

> 12 13 14

>

>

>

> Also, this looks right to me.

>

>

>

> So why doesn't this work?

>

> IDL> print, a[*, [3,1,-1]]

>

> 9 10 11

>

> 3 4 5

>

> 0 1 2

>

>

>

> Is this the expected behavior? Or a bug?
>
>
>
> Mac 10.8.2 IDL 8.2.1

Array subscripts are always clipped. From IDL help:

"If an element of the subscript array is less than or equal to zero, the first element of the subscripted array is selected. ...

Note: Because of the confusion between the clipping of array subscripts and the use of negative indices (see the next section), it is best to avoid using code that relies on this clipping behavior."

regards,
Lajos

Subject: Re: negative indices, am I missing something here?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 02 Nov 2012 21:53:27 GMT
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fawltlanguage@gmail.com writes:

> Array subscripts are always clipped. From IDL help:
>
> "If an element of the subscript array is less than or equal to zero, the first element of the
subscripted array is selected. ...
>
> Note: Because of the confusion between the clipping of array subscripts and the use of
negative indices (see the next section), it is best to avoid using code that relies on this clipping
behavior."

You can think of it as karmic justice for sins of the past. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: negative indices, am I missing something here?
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 02 Nov 2012 22:26:57 GMT
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On 11/2/12 3:53 PM, David Fanning wrote:

> fawltlanguage@gmail.com writes:
>
>> Array subscripts are always clipped. From IDL help:
>>
>> "If an element of the subscript array is less than or equal to zero, the first element of the
subscripted array is selected. ...
>>
>> Note: Because of the confusion between the clipping of array subscripts and the use of
negative indices (see the next section), it is best to avoid using code that relies on this clipping
behavior."
>
> You can think of it as karmic justice for sins of the past. ;-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
>

Might be a good idea to use

```
compile_opt strictarrsubs
```

to catch these cases.

Mike

--

Michael Galloy
www.michaelgalloy.com
Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (<http://modernidl.idldev.com>)
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: negative indices, am I missing something here?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 02 Nov 2012 22:36:09 GMT
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Michael Galloy writes:

> Might be a good idea to use
>
> compile_opt strictarrsubs

>
> to catch these cases.

Maybe somebody can write a script to paw through 25 years
of archived programs. :-)

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: negative indices, am I missing something here?
Posted by d.rowenhorst@gmail.co on Tue, 06 Nov 2012 12:20:19 GMT
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Many thanks. I'll categorize this as a bugture (a bug inducing feature).

On Friday, November 2, 2012 6:36:08 PM UTC-4, David Fanning wrote:

> Michael Galloy writes:
>
>
>
>> Might be a good idea to use
>
>>
>
>> compile_opt strictarrsubs
>
>>
>
>> to catch these cases.
>
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>
> Maybe somebody can write a script to paw through 25 years
>
> of archived programs. :-)
>
>
>
> Cheers,

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>
> David
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>
> --
>
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
>
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>
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