
Subject: Subscripting arrays.

Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Thu, 02 May 2013 19:40:07 GMT

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So someone showed me this and I'm trying to wrap my head around it. Sorry if it's already posted, I didn't know how to begin to search The Group for it...

Create an array:

```
a = intarr(3)
```

Using IDL 8, subscript with 4 (ie. an index that's too large and should be out of bounds)

```
a[4]=3
```

Obviously, this crashes.

Conversely subscript with a negative index:

```
a[-1]=2
```

does what you expect.

But, now subscript the array, WITH an array:

```
a[[4]]=2
```

voila. It works, and simply truncates to the last element of the array... Spooky. Now do that with a negative index:

```
a[[-1]]=4
```

Like before, it works. But now, it doesn't wrap the index, but rather truncates to the first element of the array.

Hmm.. I can't tell if this is the designed behavior, because I have a hard time describing it --- it's easier to show it.

All the best,
Russell

Subject: Re: Subscripting arrays.

Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Mon, 06 May 2013 13:37:59 GMT

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On 5/3/13 4:09 PM, rryan@stsci.edu wrote:

> A ha. Sounds reasonable, but I'm not sure why it's "designed" this way, but c'est la vie. I passed your response on to the friend, who groaned. We nearly said (in unison), I never pay much attention to those compiler options.

>

> Thanks!

> Russell

There are times when I think this is the best feature ever. There are also times when I swear profusely at it. What would be really cool would be if you could switch it on and off for a particular indexing operation at runtime, but I'm sure that would be a nightmare to implement!

-Jeremy.
