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Subject: Re: array subscripts

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 17 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Martin Schultz (mgs@io.harvard.edu) writes:

> PPS: And while we are at it... One of the most useful tips I got from  
> David's book (so far) was the A[n:\*] syntax to extract ranges from n to  
> end. I am really grateful for this!

I've been using this for so long I can't really remember  
where I learned it, but I suspect it was from Ray Sterner's  
unpublished (so far) IDL manuscript. He has dozens of  
useful subscripting tips like this. :-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Phone: 970-221-0438, Toll-Free Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Kevin Ivory wrote:

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> Perhaps you read the IDL manual? The book 'Building IDL Applications'

> has a chapter about 'Array Subscripts' with a section about 'Subscript

> Ranges'. ;-)

>

> By the way, the book is online:  
> [ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/idl\\_5.1.1/info/docs/building.pdf](ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/idl_5.1.1/info/docs/building.pdf)  
> See page 62.  
>  
> Cheers,  
> Kevin

Thanks for pointing me to the right manual, Kevin. As I now understand, the idea behind passing two or more "explicit" index arrays as subscripts is to extract individual elements of an array, not a rectangular domain.

Hence, A=INDGEN(10,10)  
      B=A[ [1,2,3],[4,5,6] ]  
returns A1,4 , A2,5 , and A3,6

whereas C=A[ [1,2,3], 4:6 ]  
returns A1,4 A2,4 A3,4  
      A1,5 A2,5 A3,5  
      A1,6 A2,6 A3,6  
(or the transposed form?)

I guess, this is one of those cases, where one gets into the habit of certain things, and then you start wondering why things are not laid out the way you need them. I must recognize, there are other people using IDL for different purposes than me ;-)

Thanks again,  
Martin.

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> has a chapter about 'Array Subscripts' with a section about 'Subscript  
> Ranges'. ;-)

Perhaps. But like most IDL users, I consider IDL so intuitively  
easy to use that reading the manuals is probably a waste  
of time. :^)

Actually, that is not quite true. I use the on-line help  
a LOT. In fact, I probably use it more now (when I am  
supposed to be an IDL "expert") than I did when I didn't  
have a clue. But, I have to admit, the IDL documentation is  
not the first thing that comes to mind when I think of  
"pleasure reading". :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. To be completely serious for a moment. I find the  
IDL documentation to be MUCH better organized and  
easier to use than it used to be. Although it is still  
written a little too much from a computer software-centric  
point of view for my taste (and needs), it is generally  
on par with most of the documentation sitting on my shelf.

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See page 62.

Cheers,  
Kevin

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