Subject: Re: kind of bewildered Posted by John-David T. Smith on Mon, 24 Sep 2001 15:34:26 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

```
Lasse Clausen wrote:
> Lasse Clausen wrote:
>>
>> I have the following code:
>> IDL> .run
>> - data=['12.04','13.04','14.04']
>> - A= FLOAT(DATA[WHERE(DATA EQ FLOAT('13.04'))])
>> - print,size(FINDGEN(10.)+A)
>> - end
>> % Compiled module: $MAIN$.
>>
          1
                  1
                          4
                                  1
>> Why the hack do I not get an vector of size 10?!
> Ok, i noticed that A is not a scalar but a array with just one entry.
> can i 'cenvert' such an one-dimensional array into a scalar?
```

For those of you feeling similarly overwhelmed by the subtle distinction between scalars and 1-D unit length arrays, be consoled by the following words of wisdom from one of RSI's ace designers:

<<<<<<<<<<<<

If I were designing IDL over, there would be no scalars, just arrays of various dimensionality. 1-element arrays would use the IDL scalar implementation internally for efficiency, but the user would not see this. Too bad though --- IDL already exists, and this ship sailed long before I became involved with it...

JD