
Subject: Re: data comparison

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 03:08:24 GMT

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angela wrote:

```
> I am trying to extract specific values from an array, datax (string
> array[1,300]).
> When I type the command
>
> print,datax GE 100
>
> it works fine and it gives me the correct answer. But when I type
>
> print,datax GE x
>
> where x has been defined in the program earlier as 100 and is an
> integer array[1]
> the result is -1 which is wrong since there are values in this array
> that are greater or equal than 100.
> Does anyone have an idea what is going on?
```

You have been bitten by a common pitfall. The clue is that x is a single-element array, not a scalar. The result of an arithmetic or comparison operation between two arrays of different length is an array with the shorter length, eg

```
IDL> help, fltarr(10)+fltarr(5)
<Expression>   FLOAT   = Array[5]
```

So when you do

```
IDL> print,datax GE x
```

you are comparing the first elements of datax with the first element of x and discarding the rest. Try

```
IDL> print,datax GE x[0]
```

or

```
IDL> x = x[0]
IDL> print,datax GE x
```

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