Subject: Re: data comparison Posted by Mark Hadfield on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 03:08:24 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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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

Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoea tatou" m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz

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