In article <landsman.677172308@trifle> landsman@trifle.trifle.gsfc.nasa.gov (Wayne Landsman) writes:

. . .
> Some day in the future, computers may understand human speech and we
> will be able to directly tell them to "Normalize these two spectra and
> then plot their difference" or "Set all the negative values of this image
> to 0 and display using a logarithmic color table".

This may not be so far-fetched...at the annual Gov't Technology
Conference here in Sacramento, DEC was demonstrating some
state-of-the-art multi-media database that could understand continuous
speech commands by means of a neural network hardware board. I didn't
see the demo myself but apparently it was quite impressive, the DB
could retrieve data, images, and sound with English and Japanese
sentences, and did not have to be trained to the speaker.
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Any opinions expressed are my own; they do not represent the DWR