
Subject: Re: data comparison

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Wed, 01 Jun 2005 21:44:47 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?
>
> Thank you,
> Angela
>

Why is your data array of string type? Try to convert one to the type of the other before comparison:

```
print, datax GE string(x)
```

or

```
print, fix(datax) GE x
```

Good luck,
Benjamin

Subject: Re: data comparison

Posted by [angela](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 02:25:46 GMT

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Thank you! I tried both and they still give me the same wrong answer
-1.

Any other suggestions?

Thank you for the help,
Angela

Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

> angela wrote:

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>> array[1,300]).

>> When I type the command

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>> that are greater or equal than 100.

>> Does anyone have an idea what is going on?

>>

>> Thank you,

>> Angela

>>

>

> Why is your data array of string type? Try to convert one to the type of

> the other before comparison:

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> print, datax GE string(x)

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> or

>

> print, fix(datax) GE x

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> Good luck,

> Benjamin

Subject: Re: data comparison

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

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angela wrote:

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> 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, Hoesa tatou"
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National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: data comparison
Posted by [angela](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 03:33:31 GMT
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It works!!!
Thank you so much for your help!

Angela
