

---

Subject: Re: N\_ELEMENTS and WHERE: Scalar or Array ?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 29 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Rose (rmlongfield@my-dejanews.com ) writes:

> Hi All, I keep making the same mistake with N\_ELEMENTS so I decided  
> to write and ask if anyone has found a solution. I use WHERE to find some  
> zeroes in a data set which I want to exclude in further processing. Problem  
> is that sometimes they are all zeroes. Using a simple :  
>  
> non\_zero\_xvalues = WHERE (subarray1 GT 0)  
> IF(non\_zero\_array EQ -1) ...  
>  
> gets me into trouble because, when it is an array, I get an error. If I use  
> N\_ELEMENTS(non\_zero\_array) there is always at least one element, whether it  
> is -1 or something else. I don't like ignoring the 'something else' value  
> just because it is the only one. Is the answer another IF statement or some  
> sort of error control?

The second positional parameter of the WHERE function is  
an output variable that holds the "count" of the number  
of elements found that meet the WHERE criteria. So the  
proper sequence of commands looks something like this:

```
index = WHERE( array GT 0, count)
IF count GT 0 THEN ....
```

Cheers,

David

-----  
David Fanning  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Phone: 970-221-0438  
E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

---