Subject: Re: error using statement: If.....then Posted by Michael Galloy on Tue, 26 Jun 2007 21:30:29 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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On Jun 26, 2:55 pm, Giuseppe Giovanni Salerno <g...@cam.ac.uk> wrote:
> Hi everybody, I am new on IDL and I will be very grateful if someone
> could help me
> I have an array of value (X,Y) and I want all Y data negative equals
> X Y
> 1 84
> 2 90
> 3 14
> 4-75
> 5 - 95
> 6 -27
> so I guess the correct way to apply this filtering is working with IF
> and THEN:
> IF x LT 0 then x = 1
> but I got an error:
"Expression must be a scalar or 1 element array in this context: <BYTE</p>
> Array[2, 6]"
> How I can resolve this problem?
> Thanks in advance
> Cico
```

A couple points:

- 1. Array indices start at 0 in IDL, so the x column in your table of values should be 0..5.
- 2. The technique you are trying above (i.e. with an IF statement) also needs a FOR loop, to loop over each individual element. This is not the best technique for IDL.
- 3. Use the WHERE statement to do things like the above. How about:

```
neglndices = where(x lt 0, nNegative)
if (nNegative gt 0) then x[negIndices] = 1
```

This could be done like:

x[where(x | t 0)] = 1

if you know that there will always be some negative values in  $\boldsymbol{x}$ . (But I would always check.)

Mike

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