
Subject: Re: error using statement: If.....then

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 26 Jun 2007 21:30:29 GMT

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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
> to 1:
> 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
> 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:

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

This could be done like:

```
x[where(x lt 0)] = 1
```

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

Mike

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