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Subject: Re: "Expression Must be a Scalar in this context:" error in nlinlsq function  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Aug 2012 16:23:51 GMT

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elambrid writes:

> So within the function I am using in nlinlsq, I have a common block that contains some global variables that are found within my main routine and used in my function (for simplicities sake it's called ddr). Since nlinlsq works on a "number of functions" basis you pretty much have to recast everything as 1D. I would like to check within my function if a value of one of my arrays is 0, yet the if statement keeps giving me an error of " Expression must be a scalar in this context: <BYTE Array(5)>." Below is a sketch of the code. Thanks in advance!

```
>
> pro auto_target_offset
>
> common offset_vals3,blah1,blah2,blah3,...,blah13,aoffxc,aoffyc
> ...
> solution=nlinlsq("ddr",5,3)
> ...
> end
>
> function ddr,m,r
>
> common offset_vals3 (same as above)
> ...
> if aoffxc eq 0 then w=0
> ...
> end
>
> Thanks again!
```

I would say that the variable aoffxc is a five-element byte array, when it should be a one-element scalar to use it in a boolean expression like this. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: "Expression Must be a Scalar in this context:" error in nlinlsq function  
Posted by [Erini Lambrides](#) on Tue, 28 Aug 2012 16:27:51 GMT

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> I would say that the variable aoffxc is a five-element byte array,  
>  
> when it should be a one-element scalar to use it in a boolean  
>  
> expression like this. :-)

> David

Yes I agree, so I guess what I'm confused about is nlinlsq works like a for loop where the iterations are determined by the amounts of "functions", better word would be the size of you data set. So I have all these variables that look like this e.g a=[b(0)...b(n)] How would I check if one of those values are zero, and perform a statement on them? And thank you for your speedy reply!

-Erini

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Subject: Re: "Expression Must be a Scalar in this context:" error in nlinlsq function  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 28 Aug 2012 16:37:05 GMT

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elambrid writes:

> Yes I agree, so I guess what I'm confused about is nlinlsq works like a for loop where the iterations are determined by the amounts of "functions", better word would be the size of you data set. So I have all these variables that look like this e.g a=[b(0)...b(n)] How would I check if one of those values are zero, and perform a statement on them? And thank you for your speedy reply!

If you want to check an individual element, you  
have to check an individual element!

```
variable = [0, 1, 1, 0, 4]
FOR j=0,N_Elements(variable)-1 DO BEGIN
  IF variable[j] EQ 0 THEN Print, 'variable ' + StrTrim(j,2) + $
    ' is equal to zero' ELSE Print, 'Good value'
ENDFOR
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: "Expression Must be a Scalar in this context:" error in nlinlsq function  
Posted by [Yngvar Larsen](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2012 06:23:25 GMT

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On Tuesday, 28 August 2012 18:27:51 UTC+2, elambrid wrote:

>> I would say that the variable aoffxc is a five-element byte array,

>

>>

>

>> when it should be a one-element scalar to use it in a boolean

>

>>

>

>> expression like this. :-)

>

>

>

>> David

>

>

>

> Yes I agree, so I guess what I'm confused about is nlinlsq works like a for loop where the iterations are determined by the amounts of "functions", better word would be the size of you data set. So I have all these variables that look like this e.g a=[b(0)...b(n)] How would I check if one of those values are zero, and perform a statement on them? And thank you for your speedy reply!

B = lonarr(42)

w = dblarr(42)

; ...

zero\_ind = where(B eq 0, count)

if count gt 0 then w[zero\_ind] = 0

Or simply this if you are going to do something if at least one element in B is zero:

if total(B eq 0) gt 0 then dostuff, B

--

Yngvar

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