

**valofexternal()** — Obtain value of external global

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## Description

`valofexternal(name)` returns the contents of the external global matrix, vector, or scalar whose name is specified by *name*; it returns `J(0,0,.)` if the external global is not found.

Also see *Linking to external globals* in [M-2] **declarations**.

## Syntax

*transmorphic matrix*    `valofexternal(string scalar name)`

## Remarks and examples

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Also see [M-5] **findexternal()**. Rather than returning a pointer to the external global, as does `findexternal()`, `valofexternal()` returns the contents of the external global. This is useful when the external global contains a scalar:

```
tol = valofexternal("tolerance")
if (tol==J(0,0,.)) tol = 1e-6
```

Using `findexternal()`, one alternative would be

```
if ((p = findexternal("tolerance"))==NULL) tol = 1e-6
else tol = *p
```

For efficiency reasons, use of `valofexternal()` should be avoided with nonscalar objects; see [M-5] **findexternal()**.

## Conformability

`valofexternal(name)`:

<i>name</i> :	$1 \times 1$
<i>result</i> :	$r \times c$ or $0 \times 0$ if not found

## Diagnostics

`valofexternal()` aborts with error if *name* contains an invalid name.

`valofexternal(name)` returns `J(0,0,.)` if *name* does not exist.

## Also see

[M-5] [findexternal\(\)](#) — Find, create, and remove external globals

[M-4] [programming](#) — Programming functions