
Subject: Re: minor bug in IDL 5 poisson random numbers?
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 24 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Bruce Macintosh <bmac@igpp.llnl.gov> writes:

>
> The statement
>
> test=randomn(seed,10,poisson=50)
>
> seems to generate a
> % Program caused arithmetic error: Floating underflow
>
> on my ultrasparc/solaris system about half the time. Presumably this
> is just some minor math thing - something in an exponential is
> getting very small - but it's faintly disconcerting and causes me to
> worry about the validity of the results. Does anyone have any
> comments?

I get this error message a lot running on the Alpha and Ultrasparc platforms, when using the function MACHAR (which returns machine precision constants, especially when doing MACHAR(/DOUBLE)). So far there are no problems, but I agree that this is an upsetting error message to see, and can also hide other legitimate errors.

Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@astrog.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
