
Subject: Re: Normal Distributed Random Numbers

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Tue, 04 Sep 2001 21:24:07 GMT

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Kay Bente wrote:

>

> Hi

> I have to create arrays with normal distributed random numbers, but with

> variable FWHM (Full width half max/standard deviation sigma?).

> I want to add normal distributed noise to an image, so that the values

> differ around a mean value.

> In IDL there is a procedure to create such arrays RandomN, but you can't

> change the FWHM and I can't find what FWHM the normal distribution there

> has.

For a normal distribution, $FWHM = 2 * \sqrt{\ln(2)} * (\text{standard deviation})$

RandomN produces a distribution with a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1.0. Therefore, to create an array with a desired mean value and a desired value for FWHM, use:

`array = mean + fwhm*RandomN(Seed, N)/(2*sqrt(ln(2)))`
