Subject: Re: IDL random number generator
Posted by tandp on Wed, 21 May 2003 02:54:23 GMT

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> influenced by the temperature. I'll admit, it's a subtle difference, but
> if you were doing serious scientific work using those random numbers,
> it's one you should worry about when designing the program.

For scientific work a pseudorandom number generator should be sufficient
as long as it is well designed, i.e. has cycle longer than the number of
values it will be rquired to generate and generates data that has a
prescribed mean (usually zero). It should conform to the probablility
distribution it is designed for. A random number generator of values from
a uniform distribution should be verifiable as generating data with a zro
mean and have a frequency spectrum indistiguishable from white noise.