Subject: Re: randomn problem
Posted by Paolo Grigis on Mon, 12 Mar 2007 09:07:42 GMT

The problem does not lie with randomn, but with
stddev. If you compute it using double precision
instead, the problem should solve itsef. Example:

a=fltarr(3e7)
a[0:3e7/2]=1.

print,stddev(a)
    0.528791
print,stddev(a,/double)
    0.50000000

Ciao,
Paolo

askemer@gmail.com wrote:
> Hi all,
>
> I was playing around with randomn and noticed some weird behavior:
>
> IDL> print, stddev(randomn(seed, 1e7))
>
> I consistently get back numbers around ~0.992. I've tried it on a
> different computer, and the result was not exactly the same, but
> similar. If I change 1e7 to 1e8, the problem gets worse, and I get
> ~0.853. I've tried the syntax with floats, integers, and longs, and I
> still get the same answer. Does anyone know what could be going on?
>
> -Andy
>