
Subject: Bizarre (?) behavior of randomu

Posted by [john.copley](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 22:01:27 GMT

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The following procedure generates 4 lines of printout each time that it's called, and lines 2-4 in any given call show up as lines 1-3 in the subsequent call. Can someone explain this behavior? It appears to be independent of nn and of kmax; in general lines 2 to kmax in any given call show up as lines 1 to (kmax-1) in the subsequent call. Why would anyone want a random number generator that behaves like this? Even doing a full reset (.fu) between calls does not prevent this bizarre behavior.

```
pro rannummers
nn=100000
kmax=4
for k=0,kmax-1 do begin
  rnum=randomu(seed,nn)
  print,rnum[0:5],format='(6f10.5)'
endfor
end
```

```
IDL> .COMPILE "F:\Sears MS calcs\rannummers.pro"
```

```
Compiled module: RANNUMMERS.
```

```
IDL> rannummers
```

```
0.76336 0.74285 0.01224 0.70948 0.30904 0.63705
0.51222 0.94041 0.49834 0.79475 0.65187 0.73592
0.58348 0.85881 0.99142 0.41052 0.06792 0.09756
0.81062 0.44180 0.53801 0.15705 0.17151 0.21726
```

```
IDL> rannummers
```

```
0.51222 0.94041 0.49834 0.79475 0.65187 0.73592
0.58348 0.85881 0.99142 0.41052 0.06792 0.09756
0.81062 0.44180 0.53801 0.15705 0.17151 0.21726
0.02177 0.22671 0.44676 0.83688 0.27362 0.39455
```

```
IDL> rannummers
```

```
0.58348 0.85881 0.99142 0.41052 0.06792 0.09756
0.81062 0.44180 0.53801 0.15705 0.17151 0.21726
0.02177 0.22671 0.44676 0.83688 0.27362 0.39455
0.96702 0.92188 0.80097 0.76380 0.90646 0.35381
```