Subject: Re: t-testing in IDL
Posted by Brian Larsen on Thu, 24 Jan 2008 16:03:55 GMT
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> If you are going to do stats, I'd suggest you use a statistics
> package, such as R (www.r-project.org) instead of IDL. For
> example, if a t-test is to be useful, your data must be normally
> distributed. That is very easy to test with R, and relatively
> easy to test with IDL, but once you get beyond very basic
> statistics, you'll get beyond IDL's build-in capabilities. There
> are relatively easy to use mixed effects modeling tools in R.

I agree with all of this but my issue always is that as soon as I
start mixing tools (IDL and R) things start to get confusing as well
as I seem to spend all my time doing file io instead of analysis. To
this end I started making some stats routines in IDL, some are general
purpose and some are really specific.

For this example you want to know if the data is normally distributed,
for this I like normal probability plots and the Blom Position test,
both of which I implemented in IDL (and would love fixes, feedback,
etc). There are other IDL stats resources on the web too, it would be
good to pull those together into an IDLstats package...

See:
http://people.bu.edu/balarsen/IDLdoc/
blom_position_test.pro
normal_prob_plot.pro

Cheers,

Brian

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Brian Larsen
Boston University
Center for Space Physics