Subject: Re: Huh?? Stddev went crazy! Posted by Conor on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 19:41:52 GMT

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On Apr 16, 3:31 pm, pgri...@gmail.com wrote:
> Conor wrote:
>> I'd like to see someone explain this one. My stddev function
>> apparently lost all grasp on reality?
>> IDL> print,stddev([1,2,3,4,5])
       3.07421
                   3.24566
                               3.08206
                                           3.26360
                                                      2.97446
>>
>> IDL> print,stddev([1.,2.,3.,4.,5.])
       3.07421
                   3.24566
                               3.08206
                                           3.26360
                                                      2.97446
>>
>> IDL> print,stddev([1.,2.])
       3.07421
                   3.24566
>>
>
>> IDL> print,stddev(findgen(32))
       2.99513
                   3.07421
                               3.24566
                                           3.08206
                                                      3.26360
>> 2.97446
               2.96850
                           3.04474
                                       2.66875
                                                   2.77181
>> 2.83465
                                           2.84716
>>
       2.77395
                   2.77370
                               2.87829
                                                      2.86982
>> 2.98503
               2.93160
                           2.77602
                                       2.59318
                                                   2.83169
>> 3.30869
       2.67353
                   3.15337
                               3.19076
                                           3.19499
                                                      2.96050
>>
>> 3.13871
               2.61707
                           2.77854
                                       3.12603
                                                   3.20029
>
>> Finally I did this:
>> IDL> .reset
>
>> And it returned to normal! Yeah!
>
>> IDL> print,stddev(findgen(32))
>> % Compiled module: STDDEV.
>> % Compiled module: MOMENT.
       9.38083
>> IDL> res = findgen(10,10)
>> IDL> print,stddev(res)
       29.0115
>>
>
>> I have not been able to reproduce the crazy behavior since (not that
>> I've tried very hard). Still, it's rather worrisome if the behavior
>> of a built in function isn't reliable!!
>
 Well, here I think I should point out that "stddev" is not a "built-
> function, but a "library" function (meaning it is distributed as
> a .pro file).
```

- > Hence, anybody can override it by compiling a different function
- > called stddev. On the other hand, built-in functions
- > cannot be overridden in that way.

>

> Paolo

I think you guys have solved it! I guess that wasn't that hard... I don't know for sure but it is very likely that I had an array named stddev. I had never realized that could create a potential conflict! I went ahead and put compile_opt IDL2 in my startup file, so hopefully I won't have to worry about this anymore! Now I know what to look for though...