
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

>> 2.77395 2.77370 2.87829 2.84716 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-

> in"

> 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...
