
Subject: Re: Huh?? Stddev went crazy!

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 19:31:30 GMT

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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
