Subject: Re: newbie MOMENT question

Posted by wmc on Wed, 17 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

- > Charlotte DeMott wrote:
- >> I want to compute the mean and variance of a set of data points, and
- >> I'm using the MOMENT procedure to do it. With some fields, the
- >> variance is quite small (i.e., o(e-03)), so I get floating point
- >> underflow errors when MOMENT tries to compute the skewness and
- >> kurtosis. since i don't really care about the skewness and kurtosis,
- >> how can i get IDL to not worry about this, and continue with the
- >> rest of the procedure? online help suggests that some combination
- >> of ON_ERROR and/or CATCH would appropriate, but i haven't been
- >> able to figure out exactly how to use these two yet. any suggestions?

Actually, there is a built-in routine "stdev" that computes the standard deviation. Its in the "obsolete" directory. Presumably it was put there on the grounds that it isn't;-)

Re the floating underflows, I have found this to be a problem elsewhere. It seems to be impossible to prevent the error messages. I've mentioned this to some IDL support people and they basically said "ah well..."

William M Connolley | wmc@bas.ac.uk | http://www.nbs.ac.uk/public/icd/wmc/Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself