
Subject: Re: Help needed!!

Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2010 17:48:41 GMT

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"bala murugan" <bala2305@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:29ee4ec6-4803-44fd-aa5c-00fc0d2c9376@u21g2000yqc.google groups.com...

> Hi people,

>

> I am new to IDL. This is my first program in IDL. Can somebody point
> out the errors in my code. I have been struggling to get it right.

>

> CODE:

>

> FUNCTION poissondist,fLambda,N

> r = RANDOMU(SEED,1)

> FOR j=1,N,1 DO BEGIN

arrays are indexed from 0... N-1

> x=poisson(j,fLambda)

> if (x EQ r) THEN a[i]=j

floating point numbers may never be exactly equal.

Use a "if abs(x-r) lt 0.0001 then" type of statement

as others have pointed out, 'a' and 'i' do not exist here.

i have no idea what you think "i" should be.

For a you will need to allocate an array inside that function, like so:

FUNCTION poissondist,fLambda,N

a = fltarr(N)

r = RANDOMU(SEED,1)

FOR j=0,N-1 DO BEGIN

.... etc....

> ENDFOR

> RETURN,a

> END

>

>

>

> In the above code, the function "poisson" was written by me. It is as
> follows,

>

> CODE:

>

> FUNCTION poisson,a,b

```
> x = (b^a)/(exp(b)*factorial(a))
> RETURN,x
> END
```

in the future, you may want to make sure a and b are passed in before executing that statement. for example:

```
if n_elements(a) eq 0 then message,'missing a'
if n_elements(b) eq 0 then message,'missing b'
```

cheers,
bob

PS bonus info.

Make sure that the code for
FUNCTION poissondist,fLambda,N
is in a file called poissondist.pro, and that it is in your IDL path.

Also, make sure your function:
FUNCTION poisson,a,b
is in a file called poisson.pro, and that it is in your IDL path.
