
Subject: Re: Random Sampling Without Replacement
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 14 Oct 2010 12:27:46 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Heinz Stege writes:

> Okay, I see. What I wanted to say is, that one has to take care of the
> seed. And it is my preference, to put it into the parameter list.
>
> I am afraid, that I would forget about the today's common block, and
> generate a second one within another routine in half a year. :-)

Yes, half a year later you would probably be fine. However,
if you were doing this in some like of loop, maybe using
a bootstrap process or something, passing in the seed
as a parameter is often problematic. To get a truly
random sequence of numbers, the seed has remain "alive"
between calls to RandomU. Otherwise, you get the same
"random" sequence of numbers coming out of your program.

I think a lot of people don't realize this.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
