Subject: RANDOM question
Posted by K. Bowman on Mon, 16 Dec 2002 15:52:10 GMT
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I would like to save the state of the pseudorandom-number generator in a
file so that I can resume (or reproduce) a calculation at a later time.
Does anyone know if the state variable ("seed") is always a 36-element
long vector? The docs say that "seed" is "a named variable that
contains a longword array of the proper length", but does not give the
"proper length".

Thanks, Ken

```
IDL> seed = 19
IDL> x = randomn(seed)
IDL> print, x
    0.774932
IDL> help, seed
SEED            LONG      = Array[36]
```

Subject: Re: RANDOM question
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Mon, 16 Dec 2002 17:13:40 GMT
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Kenneth Bowman <k-bowman@null.tamu.edu> writes:
> I would like to save the state of the pseudorandom-number generator in a
> file so that I can resume (or reproduce) a calculation at a later time.
> Does anyone know if the state variable ("seed") is always a 36-element
> long vector? The docs say that "seed" is "a named variable that
> contains a longword array of the proper length", but does not give the
> "proper length".

Hi Ken--

I think in the past, defined as IDL 4.X, the SEED value was a scalar
quantity. I think RSI will probably always reserve the right to
adjust the internal contents and form of SEED in order to maintain the
quality of the random numbers.

So it really depends on what your definition of "always" is.

Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
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Subject: Re: RANDOM question
Posted by K. Bowman on Mon, 16 Dec 2002 17:24:42 GMT
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In article <onadj5anuj.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>,
Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote:

> I think in the past, defined as IDL 4.X, the SEED value was a scalar
> quantity. I think RSI will probably always reserve the right to
> adjust the internal contents and form of SEED in order to maintain the
> quality of the random numbers.

Within a single version of IDL. :-)

Ken