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Subject: Re: IDL function randperm?

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Wed, 20 Aug 2003 13:00:21 GMT

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In article <Amara.Graps-2008031259130001@amaramac.ifs.rm.cnr.it>, Amara.Graps@ifs.rm.cnr.it (Amara Graps) wrote:

> Greetings!  
>  
> I wonder if any of you have an IDL function that gives a  
> random permutation of an array index, or know of a  
> straightforward way to compute it?  
>  
> In Matlab such a function is called "randperm(n)"  
> where n is the length of the array.  
>  
> For example, if one gives the integer 8, then it returns  
> a length 8 integer array with values 0 to 7, randomly permuted.  
>  
> It is not as simple as it sounds, since the indices are unique.  
> I tried variations of randomly SHIFT'g indices from INDGEN()  
> with a random number generator, and the values were not  
> 'jumbled' satisfactorily.  
>  
> Thanks in advance for any answer!  
> Amara

If I understand your question, you can just generate n uniform random variables and then sort the result.

```
IDL> x = LINDGEN(10)
IDL> y = RANDOMU(dseed, 10)
IDL> print, x
      0      1      2      3      4      5
6      7
      8      9
IDL> print, y
      0.138249  0.0700486  0.310873  0.610514  0.332400
0.135694  0.975024
      0.370555  0.763737  0.0268037
IDL> z = x[SORT(y)]
IDL> print, z
      9      1      5      0      2      4
7      3
      8      6
```

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: IDL function randperm?

Posted by [Amara.Graps](#) on Wed, 20 Aug 2003 13:50:38 GMT

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> If I understand your question, you can just generate n uniform random  
> variables and then sort the result.  
>> [...]  
> Ken Bowman

Dear Ken,

Great! That's exactly what I wanted. Thanks alot.

Amara

--

\*\*\*\*\*

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| tel +39-06-4993-4384 fax +39-06-4993-4383

<http://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/dustgroup/~graps>

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"We came whirling out of Nothingness scattering stars like dust."

- Rumi

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Subject: Re: IDL function randperm?

Posted by [rigby](#) on Wed, 20 Aug 2003 13:52:57 GMT

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This is what I use to randomly reorder an array, stripped down to its essentials. I stole the idea from the old RSI newsletter many years ago.

```
FUNCTION Randomize, list, seed
; LIST is the array to be randomized
; SEED is the random number generator seed
```

```
n = n_elements(list)
return, list[sort(randomu(seed,n))]
```

```
end ;; Randomize
```

```
IDL> seed = 1
```

```
IDL> print, Randomize( indgen(5), seed)
```

```
1 0 3 2 4
```

Note that randomu(), and thus Randomize(), returns SEED as a

36-element long array, tho' you can initialize it with a scalar.

--Wayne

Amara.Graps@ifsi.rm.cnr.it (Amara Graps) wrote in message  
news:<Amara.Graps-2008031259130001@amaramac.ifsi.rm.cnr.it>...

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- > random permutation of an array index, or know of a
- > straightforward way to compute it?

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Subject: Re: IDL function randperm?

Posted by [robert.dimeo](#) on Wed, 20 Aug 2003 14:40:20 GMT

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Hi,

How about...

```
function randperm,n
return, array = sort(randomn(s,n))
end
```

Amara.Graps@ifsi.rm.cnr.it (Amara Graps) wrote in message  
news:<Amara.Graps-2008031259130001@amaramac.ifsi.rm.cnr.it>...

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- > Amara

Subject: Re: IDL function randperm?

Posted by [robert.dimeo](#) on Wed, 20 Aug 2003 14:43:01 GMT

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Oops...mistake in the syntax of my last posting...

Try this:

```
function randperm,n
return,sort(randomn(s,n))
end
```

Amara.Graps@ifsi.rm.cnr.it (Amara Graps) wrote in message  
news:<Amara.Graps-2008031259130001@amaramac.ifsi.rm.cnr.it>...

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> Amara

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Subject: Re: IDL function randperm?

Posted by [meron](#) on Thu, 21 Aug 2003 04:00:02 GMT

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In article <Amara.Graps-2008031259130001@amaramac.ifsi.rm.cnr.it>,  
Amara.Graps@ifsi.rm.cnr.it (Amara Graps) writes:

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>

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> straightforward way to compute it?

>

Look for SHUFFLE in my library, MIDL. You should find it on the RSI user contributions page.

Mati Meron | "When you argue with a fool,  
meron@cars.uchicago.edu | chances are he is doing just the same"

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