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Subject: Bizarre (?) behavior of randomu  
Posted by [john.copley](#) on Wed, 02 Jan 2008 22:01:27 GMT  
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The following procedure generates 4 lines of printout each time that it's called, and lines 2-4 in any given call show up as lines 1-3 in the subsequent call. Can someone explain this behavior? It appears to be independent of nn and of kmax; in general lines 2 to kmax in any given call show up as lines 1 to (kmax-1) in the subsequent call. Why would anyone want a random number generator that behaves like this? Even doing a full reset (.fu) between calls does not prevent this bizarre behavior.

```
pro rannumbers
nn=100000
kmax=4
for k=0,kmax-1 do begin
rnum=randomu(seed,nn)
print,rnum[0:5],format='(6f10.5)'
endfor
end
```

```
IDL> .COMPILE "F:\Sears MS calcs\rannumbers.pro"
Compiled module: RANNUMMERS.
IDL> rannumbers
 0.76336  0.74285  0.01224  0.70948  0.30904  0.63705
 0.51222  0.94041  0.49834  0.79475  0.65187  0.73592
 0.58348  0.85881  0.99142  0.41052  0.06792  0.09756
 0.81062  0.44180  0.53801  0.15705  0.17151  0.21726
IDL> rannumbers
 0.51222  0.94041  0.49834  0.79475  0.65187  0.73592
 0.58348  0.85881  0.99142  0.41052  0.06792  0.09756
 0.81062  0.44180  0.53801  0.15705  0.17151  0.21726
 0.02177  0.22671  0.44676  0.83688  0.27362  0.39455
IDL> rannumbers
 0.58348  0.85881  0.99142  0.41052  0.06792  0.09756
 0.81062  0.44180  0.53801  0.15705  0.17151  0.21726
 0.02177  0.22671  0.44676  0.83688  0.27362  0.39455
 0.96702  0.92188  0.80097  0.76380  0.90646  0.35381
```

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