
Subject: Huh?? Stddev went crazy!

Posted by [Conor](#) on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 19:07:29 GMT

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I'd like to see someone explain this one. My stddev function apparently lost all grasp on reality?

```
IDL> print,stddev([1,2,3,4,5])
    3.07421    3.24566    3.08206    3.26360    2.97446
IDL> print,stddev([1.,2.,3.,4.,5.])
    3.07421    3.24566    3.08206    3.26360    2.97446
IDL> print,stddev([1.,2.])
    3.07421    3.24566
```

```
IDL> print,stddev(findgen(32))
    2.99513    3.07421    3.24566    3.08206    3.26360
2.97446 2.96850    3.04474    2.66875    2.77181
2.83465
    2.77395    2.77370    2.87829    2.84716    2.86982
2.98503    2.93160    2.77602    2.59318    2.83169
3.30869
    2.67353    3.15337    3.19076    3.19499    2.96050
3.13871    2.61707    2.77854    3.12603    3.20029
```

Finally I did this:

```
IDL> .reset
```

And it returned to normal! Yeah!

```
IDL> print,stddev(findgen(32))
% Compiled module: STDDEV.
% Compiled module: MOMENT.
    9.38083
IDL> res = findgen(10,10)
IDL> print,stddev(res)
    29.0115
```

I have not been able to reproduce the crazy behavior since (not that I've tried very hard). Still, it's rather worrisome if the behavior of a built in function isn't reliable!!
