Subject: newbie MOMENT question
Posted by demott on Fri, 12 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

I want to compute the mean and variance of a set of data points, and
I'm using the MOMENT procedure to do it. With some fields, the
variance is quite small (i.e., o(e-03)), so I get floating point
underflow errors when MOMENT tries to compute the skewness and
kurtosis. since i don't really care about the skewness and kurtosis,
how can i get IDL to not worry about this, and continue with the
rest of the procedure? online help suggests that some combination
of ON_ERROR and/or CATCH would appropriate, but i haven't been
able to figure out exactly how to use these two yet. any suggestions?

thanks,
charlotte

Subject: Re: newbie MOMENT question
Posted by wmc on Wed, 17 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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> Charlotte DeMott wrote:
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Actually, there is a built-in routine "stdev" that computes the standard
deviation. Its in the "obsolete" directory. Presumably it was put there on
the grounds that it isn't ;-)

Re the floating underflows, I have found this to be a problem elsewhere.
It seems to be impossible to prevent the error messages. I've mentioned this
to some IDL support people and they basically said "ah well..."

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Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself