Help for the DataGen Generate Window

Generate creates values and writes them into a variable.

The variable is selected by highlighting cells in one column of the DataGen Spreadsheet. For example, if the Spreadsheet looks like this, you have selected Variable 1 and asked to write values into rows 1 through 5, as shown above.

You may change the rows to be written either by selecting a different region of the spreadsheet column, or by changing the values in the Generate window.

You may also select all 200 values in the variable either by clicking the “Select all values” button or by clicking Variable 1 in the DataGen Spreadsheet.

When generating data, you can select how many decimal places to show.

You can ask Generate to draw samples from a normal distribution whose mean and standard deviation you specify. Or you can draw samples from a uniform distribution whose minimum and maximum you specify. Or you can generate a sequence like 1, 2, 3.. or 2, 4, 6....
Or you can draw samples from a bivariate normal distribution. This will require you to specify two variables (columns). The first variable is selected by clicking on the spreadsheet as above; the second variable is chosen by clicking one of the buttons shown here. Now you must specify the mean and standard deviation of two variables and the population correlation between them.

You can undo the last Generate operation. DataGen supports only an immediate undo, which means that once you have done anything else in the spreadsheet, the Generate action can NOT be undone.

FAQ

Q: How does DataGen create samples from a uniform distribution?
A: By using Excel’s RND function. The seed is the system clock.

Q: How does DataGen create samples from a normal distribution?
A: DataGen uses the Box-Muller approximation.

Q: Can I generate two or more variables at the same time?
A: Only in the Bivariate Normal case. Otherwise, DataGen always works with one variable at a time.

Q: Can I use more than 200 values?
A: Not in DataGen. You may use more values in the rest of Excel.

Q: Can I undo more than one Generate operation?
A: No.