

NAME

drand48, erand48, lrand48, nrand48, mrand48, jrand48, srand48, seed48, lcong48 - generate uniformly distributed pseudo-random numbers

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>

double drand48(void);

double erand48(unsigned short xsubi[3]);

long int lrand48(void);

long int nrand48(unsigned short xsubi[3]);

long int mrand48(void);

long int jrand48(unsigned short xsubi[3]);

void srand48(long int seedval);

unsigned short *seed48(unsigned short seed16v[3]);

void lcong48(unsigned short param[7]);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

All functions shown above: `_SVID_SOURCE` || `_XOPEN_SOURCE`

DESCRIPTION

These functions generate pseudo-random numbers using the linear congruential algorithm and 48-bit integer arithmetic.

The **drand48()** and **erand48()** functions return nonnegative double-precision floating-point values uniformly distributed between [0.0, 1.0).

The **lrand48()** and **nrand48()** functions return nonnegative long integers uniformly distributed between 0 and 2^{31} .

The **mrand48()** and **jrands48()** functions return signed long integers uniformly distributed between -2^{31} and 2^{31} .

The **srand48()**, **seed48()** and **lcong48()** functions are initialization functions, one of which should be called before using **drand48()**, **lrand48()** or **mrand48()**. The functions **erand48()**, **nrand48()** and **jrands48()** do not require an initialization function to be called first.

All the functions work by generating a sequence of 48-bit integers, X_i , according to the linear congruential formula:

$$X_{n+1} = (aX_n + c) \bmod m, \text{ where } n \geq 0$$

The parameter $m = 2^{48}$, hence 48-bit integer arithmetic is performed. Unless **lcong48()** is called, a and c are given by:

```
a = 0x5DEECE66D
c = 0xB
```

The value returned by any of the functions **drand48()**, **erand48()**, **lrand48()**, **nrand48()**, **mrand48()** or **jrands48()** is computed by first generating the next 48-bit X_i in the sequence. Then the appropriate number of bits, according to the type of data item to be returned, is copied from the high-order bits of X_i and transformed into the returned value.

The functions **drand48()**, **lrand48()** and **mrand48()** store the last 48-bit X_i generated in an internal buffer. The functions **erand48()**, **nrand48()** and **jrands48()** require the calling program to provide storage for the successive X_i values in the array argument *xsubi*. The functions are initialized by placing the initial value of X_i into the array before calling the function for the first time.

The initializer function **srand48()** sets the high order 32-bits of X_i to the argument *seedval*. The low order 16-bits are set to the arbitrary value 0x330E.

The initializer function **seed48()** sets the value of X_i to the 48-bit value specified in the array argument *seed16v*. The previous value of X_i is copied into an internal buffer and a pointer to this buffer is returned by **seed48()**.

The initialization function **lcong48()** allows the user to specify initial values for X_i , *a* and *c*. Array argument elements *param[0-2]* specify X_i , *param[3-5]* specify *a*, and *param[6]* specifies *c*. After **lcong48()** has been called, a subsequent call to either **srand48()** or **seed48()** will restore the standard values of *a* and *c*.

ATTRIBUTES

Multithreading (see **pthread(7)**)

The **drand48()**, **erand48()**, **lrand48()**, **nrnd48()**, **mrnd48()**, **jrand48()**, **srand48()**, **seed48()**, and **lcong48()** functions record global state information for the random number generator, so they are not thread-safe.

CONFORMING TO

SVr4, POSIX.1-2001.

SEE ALSO

[rand\(3\)](#), [random\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.74 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.