

NAME

`drand48`, `erand48`, `lrand48`, `rand48`, `mrnd48`, `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 rand48(unsigned short xsubi[3]);
long int mrnd48(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: `_XOPEN_SOURCE` || /* Glibc since 2.19: */ `_DEFAULT_SOURCE` || /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ `_SVID_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 over the interval [0.0, 1.0).

The `lrand48()` and `rand48()` functions return nonnegative long integers uniformly distributed over the interval [0, 2³¹).

The `mrnd48()` and `jrand48()` functions return signed long integers uniformly distributed over the interval [-2³¹, 2³¹).

The `srand48()`, `seed48()` and `lcong48()` functions are initialization functions, one of which should be called before using `drand48()`, `lrand48()` or `mrnd48()`. The functions `erand48()`, `rand48()` and `jrand48()` 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()`, `rand48()`, `mrnd48()` or `jrand48()` 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 `mrnd48()` store the last 48-bit X_i generated in an internal buffer. The functions `erand48()`, `rand48()` and `jrand48()` 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

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

Interface	Attribute	Value
drand48() , erand48() , lrand48() , nrand48() , mrnd48() , jrnd48() , srnd48() , seed48() , lcong48()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe race:drand48

The above functions record global state information for the random number generator, so they are not thread-safe.

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, SVr4.

SEE ALSO

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

COLOPHON

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