
Subject: Re: looking for some software to convert idl format data to text
Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Tue, 17 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Helin Wei wrote:

> I have to convert some data which is saved in IDL format
> by other group using the full version of IDL to text format
> or normal binary format. We have not IDL on our local machine.
> Is there any other software that can do this conversion? Can student
> version of IDL do this job? Thanks.

Helin,

Here are some options:

(1) Convince the other group to write binary or text format data.

(2) Purchase a licensed copy of IDL (with educational discount, the cost is < \$1000).

(3) Follow the steps below to read the data:

Download and install the free demo version of IDL for any Unix platform from

ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/idl_5.2

Say the saved data was a single array named ARRAY, and it was saved in IDL using this command:

```
IDL> save, array, file='data.sav'
```

then to restore the data in IDL, the command is

```
IDL> restore, file='data.sav'
```

To get text format output, create the following script and name it test.pro:

```
restore, file='data.sav'  
print, size(array)  
print, array, format='(10e13.6)'  
exit
```

Then execute the script using the following Unix command:

```
% idl test.pro > test.out
```

This will cause the contents of ARRAY to be saved as text in test.out.

The SIZE command prints the number of dimensions, the dimension values, the data type code, and the number of elements.

Cheers,
Liam.

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