
Subject: Re: formatting array output?

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Thu, 30 Jan 2003 16:37:01 GMT

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Murat Maga wrote:

>
> Hi All,
> I have an integer array (2000x1000) which I would like to write in file
> in the typical matrix convention. I think IDL breaks the line at 80th
> column and everything starts to look quite messy.
> To format an array output, do I use the print/printf, or are there any
> other tricks good to know?
> Best,
> Murat

I presume that this file is being written in ASCII rather than binary format for portability reasons, and not for human readability. When a single line of the matrix contains a thousand or more elements, it's a pretty safe bet that humans won't be reading it. I've never heard of a display device big enough to display a single row of that matrix all on one line.

That being the case, why do you care where it breaks the line? It's easy enough to write code that reads the file in a way that treats the newline characters the same as other whitespace characters. That's true not only in IDL, and also in several other languages that I know.

However, if you do indeed want to do this, print/printf does indeed seem to be the way to go. The only "tricks" I'm aware of are repeat counts and format reversion:

```
array = fltarr(2000,1000)
readf,infile,array
printf,outfile,'$(2000F)', array
```

These feel like tricks to someone coming from a C background; but for Fortran programmers it seems quite normal.
