
Subject: Re: writing multi-column text files

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 18 Aug 2003 17:35:47 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

James Bradbury wrote:

```
>
> I have a simple floating point array
>
> DATA  FLOAT = array[17,48]
>
> that I would like to write to a text file.
>
> This is how I am trying to do it:
>
> openW, 1, 'new_data.txt'
> printF, 1, data
> close,1
>
> The problem is that when I open the IDL-written text file outside of
> IDL, it does not have the same dimensions as it should (17 columns,
> and 48 rows). It only has six columns... and 3 times as many rows.
>
> This seems like it should be VERY simple...
```

Should be. Unfortunately file I/O never is (in any language as far as I can tell :o) The problem is the default output width of ASCII files. I think it's something like 80-100 columns.

Try

```
openw, 1, 'new_data.txt', width=2000
```

This should give you 2000 output columns(characters)...more than enough for 17 data columns.

paulv

--

Paul van Delst
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7748
Fax:(301)763-8545
