
Subject: Re: Writing CSV files?

Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Thu, 08 Jan 2004 09:46:05 GMT

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Format codes provide a convenient way of bringing numbers in IDL into shape for output to screen or files (see also "Format Codes" in the online help). Why not use them in a WRITE_CSV routine, like this simple one:

```
PRO write_csv, fileName, data

nColumns = (SIZE(data))[1]
formatStr = '(' + STRTRIM(nColumns,2) + '(F, :, ", ")'

OPENW, u, fileName, /GET_LUN, WIDTH=1000
PRINTF, u, data, FORMAT=formatStr
FREE_LUN, u

END
```

If the data arrays you want to write are very large, then you may want to replace the single "PRINTF, ..." line above by a FOR loop to avoid memory problems:

```
[...]
OPENW, u, fileName, /GET_LUN, WIDTH=1000
nRows = (SIZE(data))[2]
FOR iRow = 0, nRows-1 DO BEGIN
    thisRow = STRING(data[*],iRow], FORMAT=formatStr)
    PRINTF, u, thisRow
ENDFOR
FREE_LUN, u
[...]
```

Hope this helps,

Timm

--

Timm Weitkamp <<http://people.web.psi.ch/weitkamp>>

On 06.01.04 at 15:12 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> Jonathan Greenberg writes:

>

>> Is there an easy way to write an array to an ASCII comma delimited file

>> (CSV)? I see a READ_ASCII command but no WRITE_ASCII. Thanks!

>

> Here is an article that discusses one way to do this:
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/tips/csv_file.html
>
> [...]
