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Subject: Re: write data to an excell file

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2005 16:44:40 GMT

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Hello Matthias,

It looks to me that you are simply creating ASCII files with an .xls extension. This really isn't an excel file. I have looked into the .xls format in the past (it was called "biff" at one point) hoping to create an IDL program that could write native .xls files but I never found a published format.

You may find .slk (symbolic link) files are a good alternative. IDL has a built in function to create .slk files called WRITE\_SYLK. In your case you would simply store all of your data in one array (assuming that it was of the same data type):

```
data = [[kk],[xtt],[Tk]]
ok = WRITE_SYLK('C:\test.slk', data)
```

To add more columns you would add in more data.

WRITE\_SYLK will not allow you to write column headers which is an unfortunate limitation. I have modified WRITE\_SYLK so you can pass it a structure which contains your data and the column headers which is nice since I always forget which column is which when I look at my data in excel! If you are interested I can make it available to you.

Cheers!

-Rick

I can't post to the newsgroup (server problems). Please forward this to the list if you find it useful.

Matthias Demuzere wrote:

- > Dear,
- >
- > I have a problem with writing data to an excell datasheet. My aim is to
- > write several columns to 1 same datasheet instead of writing the different
- > columns to different datasheets.
- >
- > This is what i did until now:

```
> openw,10,'C:\RSI\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoi re.xls'
> for hour=0,192 do begin
>   printf,10,xtt(hour)
> endfor
> close,10
>
> openw,11,'C:\RSI\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoi re_T_E.xls'
> for kk=0,192 do begin
>   printf,11,Tk(kk)
> endfor
> close,11
>
> Now I woulf like for example print in the first column the time (hour),
> expressed by kk, going from 0 to 192 hours.
> In the second column of the same datasheet, i would like to write xtt (hour)
> and in the third column of the same datasheet, i would like to write
> Tk(hour)
>
> Can anyone help me with that?
>
> Kind Regard,
>
> Matthias Demuzere
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