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Subject: Re: Extracting arrays into txt files  
Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Thu, 03 Nov 2005 11:19:32 GMT  
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txominhermos@hotmail.com wrote:

> I would like to know how to extract a full array into a txt file,  
> maintaining the samples and collums format, to export it to a excel  
> file or similar.

Programs like Excel can read ASCII text okay so as long as your array is printed out with some sort of commonly used text separator (like white space) there shouldn't be any problem.

You can do this very easily from IDL with PRINTF, so something like

```
array=indgen(10,10) ; here is an array you can use as a test
openw,1,'idl.txt'   ; open a file for writing
printf,1,array      ; write the array to the text file
close,1             ; close the file
```

If you open idl.txt in notepad or similar you'll see a plain text representation of your array in rows and columns. If you use File | Open in Excel it will ask you a couple of questions about the format but it will have a correct guess so you can just go with the defaults, and then your array will be in row and column format.

That's for 1 and 2d arrays. Obviously Excel won't be able to deal with higher dimensional data quite as easily as IDL...

Pete.

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