
Subject: Re: Write a vector into a file
Posted by [MC](#) on Fri, 12 Nov 2010 02:20:35 GMT
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On Nov 10, 4:36 am, Paolo <pgri...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Nov 9, 10:18 am, Paulo Penteado <pp.pente...@gmail.com> wrote:

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>> On Nov 9, 1:07 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

>

>>> But I think it works for the wrong reasons, and

>>> I think there is a danger, especially if the data

>>> is not all of the same magnitude, that what ends

>>> up in the file is not exactly what you *expect*

>>> will end up in the file.

>

>> I agree. That way is relying on IDL's guess of how to make a string

>> out of the array, which is just intended to be a handy default (and

>> most often used interactively for the console). But since we do not

>> know what is getting written (might not even be numbers), that is a

>> neat generic trick.

>

>>> Much better, it seems to me, to do this correctly

>>> so that the precision of the data is maintained

>>> in the way you specify. Of course, we can't do

>>> this "correctly" since the end user hasn't told

>>> us anything about his data. It may be he is

>>> content with solutions that just look like they

>>> work. Many people are. :-)

>

>> That is a common problem. Too many are content with always using text

>> files, as if none of the binary formats existed or ever were useful.

>

> On the other hand, text format most likely can be read by anyone

> in any situations. 20 years down the line a binary format may be

> so obsolete that nobody can read it anymore...

>

You don't need 20 years just look at the evolution of (say) HDF or big
endian vs little endian!

Cheers
