
Subject: Re: Saving array into column formatted text file
Posted by [Jim O'connor](#) on Wed, 16 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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> Mila Mitra wrote:

>

> I have IDL arrays, that I would like to write out to a text file
> so that it retains the dimensionality in the form of rows and
> columns.

>

Here's a simple way:

```
Wave > rm,a,2,3      # Read a 2x3 matrix (from the command line)
```

```
row 0: 1 2 3        # or you could say
```

```
row 1: 4 5 6  # a = transpose([ [1,2,3],[4,5,6]])
```

```
Wave > pm,a          # print the matrix on stdout
```

```
1.00000  2.00000  3.00000
```

```
4.00000  5.00000  6.00000
```

```
# The next three lines write the matrix to a file:
```

```
Wave > openw, outunit,'/tmp/tmp.sav',/Get_Lun
```

```
Wave > pmf, outunit, a    # print matrix to file
```

```
Wave > close,outunit
```

```
Wave > $ cat /tmp/tmp.sav
```

```
1.00000  2.00000  3.00000
```

```
4.00000  5.00000  6.00000
```

You can read the file in with `rmf`. `Rm`, `rmf`, `pm` and `pmf` are standard functions in Wave.

You may want to transpose a pre-existing array, since these functions use `matrixname(row_index,column_index)`, while Wave normally assumes `arrayname(column_index,row_index)`; e.g.

```
Wave > pm,a(0,*)
```

```
1.00000  2.00000  3.00000
```

```
Wave > print,transpose(a(0,*))
```

```
1.00000  2.00000  3.00000
```

--

Jim
