
Subject: Use Ascii_Template/Read_Ascii results to write a file
Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Mon, 10 Feb 2014 04:56:44 GMT
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Say I have a template and structure returned by Ascii_Template() and Read_Ascii(), respectively. In general, I do not know how many fields the structure has. I now want to turn around and write the data to a file. Is there a way to do this without a double loop?

```
pro test_write_ascii
  compile_opt strictarr

;Information available from Ascii_Template and Read_Ascii
str_fmt = ['i', 'a']
nLines = 4
nFields = 2

;Structure returned by Read_Ascii()
struct = {field0: [0,1,2,3], $
          field1: ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd']}

;Open a file
openw, lun, '/test.txt', /get_lun

;Loop through each data point
for i = 0, nLines - 1 do begin

  ;Make a comma-delimited string
  str_field = ""
  for j = 0, nFields - 1 do str_field += String( struct.(j)[i], FORMAT='(' + str_fmt[j] + ')' ) + ','

  ;Print the string to the file
  printf, lun, str_field
endfor

free_lun, lun
end
```

I also tried

```
myList = List([0,1,2,3], ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd'])
Print, myList
```

but the list prints horizontally, not vertically, which is what I am after.
