
Subject: Re: tab delimited text files

Posted by [agrap](#)s on Fri, 09 May 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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jones@mpipsykl.mpg.de (Richard Jones) writes:

> I now need to generate data for
> a programme which requires tabs between the data columns, can anyone
> enlighten me as to how I can do this using printf (or other IDL routines
> if necessary). By the way I am using antiquated IDL 4.01.

It is such a common usage thing, there should be an example in the IDL manuals, but I've never seen one.

```
tabchar = STRING(9B) ;This defines the tab character (to
                    ;put in output between vars)
```

Then you could cycle through an array (call it 'row' of length 5) and print the values with a format:

```
form = '$(E10.4)'
textfl= "
```

```
FOR i = 0, 4 DO BEGIN
  textfl = textfl + STRING(FORMAT = form, row(i))
  textfl = textfl + tabchar
END ;FOR i
```

```
PRINTF, lun, textfl
```

You'll have an extra tab at the end of your row, but this is one way to automatically print tab-delimited values to an ascii file.

Amara

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```
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