I have always has trouble remembering column-major and row-major (and thus never use the terms) so I hope I don't confuse things here.   But from Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Row-_and_column-major_order

"A general way to order objects with many attributes is to first group and order them by one attribute, and then, within each such group, group and order them by another attribute, etc. If more than one attribute participate in ordering, the *first* would be called major and the last minor."

In column major, you first order by column, and then say within column zero you order by rows. So in column major, the *rows* are contiguous in memory.

-Wayne

On Monday, October 30, 2017 at 1:49:27 PM UTC-4, Ann Nonymous wrote:
> OK, before my head explodes, can anyone tell me the answer to this?
>
> a=indgen(4,3)
> print, a
> 0,1,2,3
> 4,5,6,7
> 8,9,10,11
>
> OK, are the horizontal lines really vertical vectors? I think they would be based on idl being column-major, which means the columns are contiguous in memory. If. I. understand. correctly.
>
> If this is correct, then why does IDL print them out in rows????
>
> Someone please shoot me.