
Subject: Re: Writing CSV files?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 06 Jan 2004 22:12:30 GMT

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Jonathan Greenberg writes:

> Is there an easy way to write an array to an ASCII comma delimited file
> (CSV)? I see a READ_ASCII command but no WRITE_ASCII. Thanks!

Here is an article that discusses one way to do this:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/csv_file.html

You will find a reference there to a program named
WRITE_CSV_DATA that will write a 2D array and an
optional vector of column headers to a CSV file.

You might also think about WRITE_SYLK if you are trying
to write a file that can be opened in a spreadsheet.

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Writing CSV files?

Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Thu, 08 Jan 2004 09:46:05 GMT

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Format codes provide a convenient way of bringing numbers in IDL into
shape for output to screen or files (see also "Format Codes" in the online
help). Why not use them in a WRITE_CSV routine, like this simple one:

```
PRO write_csv, fileName, data
```

```
  nColumns = (SIZE(data))[1]
```

```
  formatStr = '(' + STRTRIM(nColumns,2) + '(F, :, ", ")'
```

```
  OPENW, u, fileName, /GET_LUN, WIDTH=1000
```

```
  PRINTF, u, data, FORMAT=formatStr
```

```
  FREE_LUN, u
```

END

If the data arrays you want to write are very large, then you may want to replace the single "PRINTF, ..." line above by a FOR loop to avoid memory problems:

```
[...]
OPENW, u, fileName, /GET_LUN, WIDTH=1000
nRows = (SIZE(data))[2]
FOR iRow = 0, nRows-1 DO BEGIN
    thisRow = STRING(data[*],iRow], FORMAT=formatStr)
    PRINTF, u, thisRow
ENDFOR
FREE_LUN, u
[...]
```

Hope this helps,

Timm

--

Timm Weitkamp <<http://people.web.psi.ch/weitkamp>>

On 06.01.04 at 15:12 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

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>

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