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Subject: Re: How to set elements of arrays as blank (not zero)?

Posted by [Ben Panter](#) on Wed, 31 Mar 2004 11:02:10 GMT

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Mathias Brandt wrote:

- > Hello everyone!
- > After great achievements following a hint from this newsgroup concerning
- > array storage in files I am afraid I must bother you with another question:
- > How can I set an element of a floating-point array as blank, so that it does
- > not appear as 0 (zero) when importing the file (containing the array) into a
- > spreadsheet calculation program?

How about creating a string array - and then using where to set the elements you wish to be blank to "... something like

```
output=string(input)
output[where(input lt 0.00001)]="
```

then write output to a file.

Ben

PS: Where 0.00001 is whatever the criteria for you floating point number actually being zero is (thanks David!)

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Ben Panter, Edinburgh

My name (no spaces)@bigfoot which is a com.

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Subject: Re: How to set elements of arrays as blank (not zero)?

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 31 Mar 2004 17:03:58 GMT

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Mathias Brandt wrote:

- > Hello everyone!
- > After great achievements following a hint from this newsgroup concerning
- > array storage in files I am afraid I must bother you with another question:
- > How can I set an element of a floating-point array as blank, so that it does
- > not appear as 0 (zero) when importing the file (containing the array) into a
- > spreadsheet calculation program?
- >
- > Thank you very much for a good advice.
- >
- > Mathias
- >
- >

Dear Matthias,

did you know the idea of `missing_values` or/and `fill_values`?

It is better to use a value outside the range of your data. Some people prefer NaN. `!values.f_nan` in idl.

Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

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