
Subject: IDL Save Files: A Journey into Craig's World
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Thu, 01 Apr 2004 23:04:10 GMT
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I don't know how many people are so interested in the guts of IDL save files that they'd read Craig's documents on them, but I'm just crazy enough to take a look.

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/cmsave.html>
<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/savefmt/>

Anyway, I'm trying to understand a little better how things are arranged in a save file. Maybe if I give the document a little more time to digest I'd have my "Aha!" moment of understanding where all becomes clear.

What I'm interested in is an example of a save file which consists of a structure with multiple one-dimensional arrays. The arrays are the same size, but may be of different primitive data types (usually integers, sometimes floats, sometimes strings). I guess I'm trying to figure out how all the records line up and where everything falls for a complicated structure like this. I want to determine how easy it would be to create a save file such as this outside of IDL.

By the way, do you (Craig) have plans to update the document for IDL 6.0?

-Mike
