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Subject: Re: Printing multiple columns in IDL  
Posted by [Chris\[6\]](#) on Thu, 31 Jul 2008 02:53:36 GMT  
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On Jul 30, 4:18 pm, Ying Wu <ying...@gmail.com> wrote:  
> Hello all, I'm having a problem with printing multiple columns in  
> IDL. The data I want to print to text is 300 columns, with 141 rows.  
> Right now it's printing them all out stacked on top of each other in  
> one column.

This is kind of vague- maybe an example of what you tried? Are you printing to the terminal using print or to a file using printf? If you are using printf, are you using any format codes?

I would guess this is not to a terminal, since they should automatically word wrap long before your first row of 300 columns is finished.

chris

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Subject: Re: Printing multiple columns in IDL  
Posted by [Ying Wu](#) on Thu, 31 Jul 2008 02:59:53 GMT  
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On Jul 30, 7:53 pm, Chris <beaum...@ifa.hawaii.edu> wrote:  
> On Jul 30, 4:18 pm, Ying Wu <ying...@gmail.com> wrote:  
>  
>> Hello all, I'm having a problem with printing multiple columns in  
>> IDL. The data I want to print to text is 300 columns, with 141 rows.  
>> Right now it's printing them all out stacked on top of each other in  
>> one column.  
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> This is kind of vague- maybe an example of what you tried? Are you  
> printing to the terminal using print or to a file using printf? If you  
> are using printf, are you using any format codes?  
>  
> I would guess this is not to a terminal, since they should  
> automatically word wrap long before your first row of 300 columns is  
> finished.  
>  
> chris

This is to a file using printf, and the data I'm printing is a 2-D array. Basically it's printf, filename, arrayname. I've also tried using some for loops to print each number individually but that failed because it puts them on top of each other.

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Subject: Re: Printing multiple columns in IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 31 Jul 2008 03:16:37 GMT  
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Ying Wu writes:

> This is to a file using printf, and the data I'm printing is a 2-D  
> array. Basically it's printf, filename, arrayname. I've also tried  
> using some for loops to print each number individually but that failed  
> because it puts them on top of each other.

This article should give you some ideas.

[http://www.dfanning.com/fileio\\_tips/width.html](http://www.dfanning.com/fileio_tips/width.html)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Printing multiple columns in IDL  
Posted by [Joost Aan de Brugh](#) on Fri, 01 Aug 2008 12:52:35 GMT  
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> This article should give you some ideas.  
>  
> [http://www.dfanning.com/fileio\\_tips/width.html](http://www.dfanning.com/fileio_tips/width.html)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Hello David (and all others),

Now I read this thread I was wondering how I could solve my printf-problem. I have a procedure that prints out data in a huge 2D array. I cannot know beforehand how much data has to be put into the file (That depends on how my research is going on and if I knew that beforehand,

it wouldn't be research). I used:

```
dataline = strjoin(string(data[:,0])) ; All rows should have equal
length
width = strlen(dataline) > max(strlen(headerlines))
openw,lun,'filename.dat',/Get_Lun,Width=width
```

And because my data consists of doubles and I use default format everywhere, I see that my width is 16 times the number of data columns. My width was 160. Now I wrote such a file and I see that all my data rows are cut at 9 values. The line is 144 long and the next line (containing the tenth column) is 16 long. This also happens for other number of columns. I tried to add one to the width for safety, but that does not work.

Why does this not work and can anyone help me?

Kind regards,  
Joost Aan de Brugh

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Subject: Re: Printing multiple columns in IDL  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 01 Aug 2008 13:01:23 GMT  
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Joost Aan de Brugh writes:

> Now I read this thread I was wondering how I could solve my printf-  
> problem. I have a procedure that prints out data in a huge 2D array. I  
> cannot know beforehand how much data has to be put into the file (That  
> depends on how my research is going on and if I knew that beforehand,  
> it wouldn't be research). I used:  
>  
> dataline =3D strjoin(string(data[:,0])) ; All rows should have equal  
> length  
> width =3D strlen(dataline) > max(strlen(headerlines))  
> openw,lun,'filename.dat',/Get\_Lun,Width=3Dwidth  
>  
> And because my data consists of doubles and I use default format  
> everywhere, I see that my width is 16 times the number of data  
> columns. My width was 160. Now I wrote such a file and I see that all  
> my data rows are cut at 9 values. The line is 144 long and the next  
> line (containing the tenth column) is 16 long. This also happens for  
> other number of columns. I tried to add one to the width for safety,  
> but that does not work.  
>  
> Why does this not work and can anyone help me?

Weird. Have you tried using a format statement?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Printing multiple columns in IDL

Posted by [Joost Aan de Brugh](#) on Fri, 01 Aug 2008 14:55:58 GMT

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>  
> Weird. Have you tried using a format statement?  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Hello David,

It is becoming more and more ironic. I tried Width=width + 2 and it works. But of course, that does not solve the problem. It only removed the symptom. Then I used the format statement.

```
datalength = N_Elements(data[*,0])  
printf,lun,data,format=strjoin(['(',strtrim(string(datalengt h),  
2),'G16.8)'))  
; The format should make no sense because it is equal to the default  
format for the double array.
```

Though it should make no sense, it works

But even more ironic is that it also worked when I used Width=20. I discovered that single elements are never cut.

```
openw,lun,'test.dat',/Get_Lun,Width=20  
printf,lun,"ABCDEFGHJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy " ;  
Far too long
```

It is still in one line

Adding the format statement probably converts my data into strings (one string for a whole row) before it enters the file. And then the file thinks it cannot be cut anymore.

The 'width + 2'-thing maybe has something to do with line feeds or end-of-lines (???)

Thanks for the help.  
Joost Aan de Brugh

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Subject: Re: Printing multiple columns in IDL  
Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Mon, 04 Aug 2008 08:07:48 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Joost Aan de Brugh writes:  
>> openw,lun,'filename.dat',/Get\_Lun,Width=3Dwidth  
> Weird. Have you tried using a format statement?

Or:

openw,lun,'filename.dat',/Get\_Lun,Width=width+4

chl

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