

# Data Import, Conversion, and Export (dice)

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## **Abstract**

The package “dice” provides basic data import/export and conversion utilities. Four datatypes are supported: space-delimited values (txt), comma-separated values (csv), matrices (mat), and tables (tbl).

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# File Import/Export

The commands *fread* and *fputs* simplify file I/O in Tcl.

```
fread <$option $value ...> <-newline> $file
```

<code>\$option \$value ...</code>	File configuration options, see Tcl <i>fconfigure</i> command.
<code>-newline</code>	Option to read the final newline if it exists.
<code>\$file</code>	File to read data from.

```
fputs <$option $value ...> <-nonewline> $file $string
```

<code>\$option \$value ...</code>	File configuration options, see Tcl <i>fconfigure</i> command.
<code>-nonewline</code>	Option to not write a final newline.
<code>\$file</code>	File to write data to.
<code>\$string</code>	Data to write to file.

## Example 1: File import/export

*Code:*

```
# Export data to file (creates or overwrites the file)
fputs example.txt "hello world"
# Import the contents of the file (requires that the file exists)
puts [fread example.txt]
```

*Output:*

```
hello world
```

---

## Data Conversion

This package also provides conversion utilities for different datatypes. The main datatype is matrix, or **mat**.

### *Matrix (mat)*

The matrix (**mat**) datatype is a nested Tcl list, where each list element represents a row vector of equal length. This definition is compatible with the matrix data type provided by the [ndlist](#) package.

An example of a matrix with headers is shown below.

Example 2: Example data (**mat**):

Code:

```
set mat {{step disp force} {1 0.02 4.5} {2 0.03 4.8} {3 0.07 12.6}}
```

This format can be converted from and to all other formats, as is illustrated in the diagram below, with “**a**” and “**b**” acting as placeholders for all other datatypes.



This way, each new datatype only requires the addition of two new conversion commands: one to **mat** and one from **mat**. Then, you can convert between any datatype using **mat** as the intermediate datatype.

## Table (*tbl*)

The table (**tbl**) datatype is a key-value paired list, with keys representing the table header, and values representing the columns. This definition is compatible with the table data type provided by the [taboo](#) package. To convert between **mat** and **tbl**, use the commands *mat2tbl* and *tbl2mat*.

```
mat2tbl $mat
```

```
tbl2mat $tbl
```

**\$mat**                      Matrix value.

**\$tbl**                      Table value.

Example 3: Example data (**tbl**):

*Code:*

```
puts [mat2tbl $mat]
```

*Output:*

```
step {1 2 3} disp {0.02 0.03 0.07} force {4.5 4.8 12.6}
```

## Space-Delimited Text (*txt*)

The space-delimited text (**txt**) datatype is simply space-delimited values, where new lines separate rows. Escaping of spaces and newlines is consistent with Tcl rules for valid lists. To convert between **mat** and **txt**, use the commands *mat2txt* and *txt2mat*.

```
mat2txt $mat
```

```
txt2mat $txt
```

<b>\$mat</b>	Matrix value.
<b>\$txt</b>	Space-delimited values.

Example 4: Example data (**txt**):

*Code:*

```
puts [mat2txt $mat]
```

*Output:*

```
step disp force
1 0.02 4.5
2 0.03 4.8
3 0.07 12.6
```

## Comma-Separated Values (*csv*)

The comma-separated values (**csv**) datatype is comma delimited values, where new lines separate rows. Commas and newlines are escaped with quotes, and quotes are escaped with double-quotes. To convert between **mat** and **csv**, use the commands *mat2csv* and *csv2mat*.

```
mat2csv $mat
```

```
csv2mat $csv
```

<code>\$mat</code>	Matrix value.
<code>\$csv</code>	Comma-separated values.

Example 5: Example data (**csv**):

*Code:*

```
puts [mat2csv $mat]
```

*Output:*

```
step,disp,force
1,0.02,4.5
2 0.03,4.8
3,0.07,12.6
```

## Derived Conversions

Using the **mat** datatype as the intermediate datatype, data can be converted to and from any datatype. As a convenience, shortcuts are provided for conversions that use **mat** as an intermediate data format.

```
tbl2txt $tbl  
tbl2csv $tbl
```

```
txt2tbl $txt  
txt2csv $txt
```

```
csv2tbl $csv  
csv2txt $csv
```

<code>\$tbl</code>	Table value.
<code>\$txt</code>	Space-delimited values.
<code>\$csv</code>	Comma-separated values.

### Example 6: Combining data conversions

#### Code:

```
# Convert from table to csv, using mat as an intermediate datatype.  
set tbl {step {1 2 3} disp {0.02 0.03 0.07} force {4.5 4.8 12.6}}  
set csv [mat2csv [tbl2mat $tbl]]; # also could use tbl2csv  
puts $csv
```

#### Output:

```
step,disp,force  
1,0.02,4.5  
2,0.03,4.8  
3,0.07,12.6
```

---

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