

Fast Writing of Data From R to txt|csv Files: readr package

There are many solutions for **writing** data from **R** to **txt** (i.e., tsv: tab-separated values) or **csv** (comma-separated values) files. In our previous articles, we described [R base functions](#) (`write.table()` and `write.csv()`) for writing data from R to txt|csv files R.

In this article, we'll describe a most modern R package **readr**, developed by Hadley Wickham, for fast reading and writing delimited files. It contains the function `write_delim()`, `write_csv()` and `write_tsv()` to export easily a data from R.

Compared to R base functions (`write.csv()` and `write.table()`), **readr** functions:

1. are much **faster** (X2),
2. never write row names.

Installing and loading readr

```
install.packages("readr")
```

```
library("readr")
```

readr functions for writing data

The function `rwrite_delim()`[in **readr** package] is a general function to export a data table from R. Depending on the format of your file, you can also use:

- `write_csv()`: to write a comma (",") separated values
- `write_tsv()`: to write a tab separated ("\t") values

The simplified format of these functions are, as follow:

```
write_delim(x, path, delim = "  
")
```

```
write_csv(file, path)
```

```
write_tsv(file, path)
```

- **x**: a data frame to be written
- **path**: path to the result file
- **delim**: Delimiter used to separate values. Must be single character.

Writing data to a file

The R code below exports the [built-in R](#) *mtcars* data set to a tab-separated (`sep = "t"`) file called `mtcars.txt` in the current working directory:

```
data("mtcars")
library("readr")

write_tsv(mtcars, path =
"mtcars.txt")

write_csv(mtcars, path =
"mtcars.csv")
```

Summary

- Write data from R to a txt (i.e., tsv) file: **write_tsv**(my_data, path = "my_data.txt")
- Write data from R to a csv file: **write_csv**(my_data, path = "my_data.csv")