
Subject: Re: Special Characters in IDL

Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Fri, 30 May 2003 17:14:48 GMT

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"David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:MPG.19413b86cef0dbd7989bb9@news.frii.com...

> Have you ever tried to use special characters in IDL (I'm
> thinking specifically of the less-than-or-equal sign) *and*
> get them to print in PostScript?
>
> That was just a bit more complicated than I wanted it
> to be. (How come there is no reference to "unicode" in
> the IDL documentation!?) Anyway, because I don't want to
> go through that again, I wrote up a little article about
> it. You can find it in the usual place.

An alternative for plotting mathematical symbols is TeXtoIDL by Matthew
Craig:

<http://physweb.mnstate.edu/mcraig/TeXtoIDL/>

For example, to plot a "less than or equal to" symbol:

```
IDL> xyouts, 0.5, 0.0, textoidl("\leq"), /normal
```

It works identically for vector and PostScript fonts. To view the symbols
supported by TeXtoIDL:

```
IDL> showtex
```

More details are on pages 255-257 of my book (see link below).

Cheers,

Liam.

Practical IDL Programming

<http://www.gumley.com/>
