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Subject: Re: IDL support for international characters (unicode)  
Posted by [Lasse Clausen](#) on Tue, 27 Feb 2007 13:24:50 GMT  
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On 26 Feb, 16:00, Ben Panter <m...@privacy.net> wrote:

> Mirko wrote:  
>> Hello group,  
>  
>> I have submitted a feature request to RSI for unicode support. They  
>> already have one request on file. I am hoping that by generating more  
>> noise from us, we can push this request up the priority queue.  
>  
>> I would personally like to use Greek and other character sets to code  
>> mathematical formulae.  
>  
>> I am guessing that our non-english speaking folks would also  
>> appreciate the convenience of using their native characters.  
>> Although, it may make IDL programs less shareable. I for one will not  
>> be able to review or modify a code written in any of the oriental or  
>> mid-eastern character sets.  
>  
>> Mirko  
>  
> Hi Mirko,  
>  
> Is there much more to this than being able to give variables names  
> like the \alpha symbol instead of just 'alpha'? Or coding variable names  
> in a Cyrillic alphabet? I'm struggling to see the real need at the  
> moment, but I've probably missed something key.  
>  
> cheers,  
>  
> Ben  
>  
> --  
> Ben Panter, Edinburgh, UK.  
> Email false, <http://www.benpanter.co.uk>  
> or you could try ben at ^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Mirko,

just to avoid confusion, you actually want to name variables using  
greek symbols or do you only want to annotate axis (for example) with  
gree letter. The latter is easily done with

```
!p.font=0  
plot, indgen(3), ytitle='!7abcdefg!X'
```

the !7 switches to greek letters, !X back to the latin alphabet. If you are more familiar with Tex, you might want to search for the idl program "textoidl".

If you knew all the above and want to use greek symbols in idl program as variable names, excuse me for wasting your time.

regards  
lasse

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