
Subject: Re: Earth Symbol

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 14 Mar 2011 19:31:37 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

wlandsman writes:

> Unfortunately, while tex2idl() has the Earth symbol \oplus, it does not have the Sun symbol \odot, which remains a perpetual problem (for publishable fonts) in IDL. (The unicode font mentioned by Chris Torrence does not appear to be on either my Linux or Mac machines.)

The version of tex2IDL() I am looking at has the Sun symbol, but as a Unicode value. The real problem is that IDL does not come with an installed Unicode font that can be used. You have to go looking for one. Then you have to install it in the IDL distribution, modify the ttfont.map file to locate it, etc., etc.

It is *slightly* easier in Windows, because you can use the fonts that are installed in the normal Windows/fonts directory just by naming them. But, even then, it is difficult to get the thing working everywhere. (I just tried adding the Sun and Earth symbol the the Greek program I have.)

The problem there is that you have to "install" the true-type Unicode font you want to use:

```
Device, Set_Font='Arial Unicode MS', /TT_Font
```

But this doesn't "transfer" to the PostScript device. So, even if you get it working on your computer, there is no guarantee it is going to work in PostScript. You have to Set_Plot to PostScript, then issue the *same* Device command as above, and THEN it works everywhere.

It just seems too darn complicated to be useful.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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