
Subject: IDL Fonts, Encoding, and International Characters
Posted by [Robert da Silva](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2011 20:05:01 GMT
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Greetings,

I have recently been having a particular issue dealing with how IDL encodes its international characters and how they are displayed. My goal is to be able to have a `widget_text()` box which can display international characters.

I have encountered the following issue on a Mac running IDL 7.0 and a Linux box running IDL 8.1

I can create a string as follows using the compose key on my keyboard:

```
IDL> s='ñ'
```

And I can get my IDL command line to properly output the value of the string

```
IDL> print, s  
ñ
```

Now I notice that this character is stored as a 2 character string and my encoding is properly transforming it to my screen when I print it out

```
IDL> print, strlen(s)  
2
```

```
IDL> print, strmid(s, 0, 1)  
?
```

```
IDL> print, strmid(s, 1, 1)  
?
```

```
IDL> print, strmid(s, 0, 2)  
ñ
```

Now the problem arises when I want to use this character in a widget or a plot as such

```
IDL> plot, [0], /nodata, title=s
```

The title of the plot gets set as a capital A with a tilde followed by a plus-minus sign.

Is there any way in which I can change the encoding with which plots and widgets interpret symbols?

I also note that `textoidl()` does not appear to be working within the context of widgets. Is this a common occurrence or am I just doing something incorrectly?

Thanks!
Robert da Silva
