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Subject: Re: Angstrom symbol?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 30 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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David Kennedy <D.Kennedy@qub.ac.uk> writes:

> A general question - does \_anyone\_ know how to produce an Angstrom  
> symbol in IDL for general use when labelling plots etc?

This is simple. Simply consult the table of octal values in the IDL documentation. (Octal values!? These people are trying to put money in my pocket!) You see that the octal value for the Angstrom symbol in Simplex Roman font (!3 for cognoscente) is 305. (Add the number in the column row to 10 times the row number, according to the documentation. Sigh...)

So, here it is:

```
XYOUTS, 0.5, 0.5, /Normal, CharSize=2.0, 'Symbol: ' + STRING("305B)
```

What, you had to look up how to write an octal number! It's, "number, like that.

If that is too confusing for you, you can resort to the perfectly simple:

```
ang = '!6!sA!r!u!9 %!6!n'
```

Now all you have to do is:

```
XYOUTS, 0.5, 0.5, /Normal, CharSize=2.0, 'Symbol: ' + ang
```

Hope this clears up any confusion. :-)

David

P.S. I'm not usually this grouchy, but I'm still irritated about all the time I spent figuring out which part of the HDF documentation was wrong verses simply misleading.

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521

Phone: 970-221-0438 Fax: 970-221-4762

E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)

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