
Subject: Special characters in PostScript

Posted by [Bernhard Reinhardt](#) on Tue, 18 Nov 2008 14:55:35 GMT

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Hi,

is it possible to print special characters like umlaut vowels in a simple way to postscript files?

in my PostScript output?". But that is too complicated for routine use.

Is there something like setting a variable at startup to "ISO 8859-1". The worst thing I'd accept would be a string converter-function. Like

```
title=convert_special_chars('Viele Umlaute: üöüöäßß')
plot, TITLE=title
```

Does something like that exist? If not, I rather resign on these characters.

Best regards

Bernhard

Subject: Re: Special characters in PostScript

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 10:09:14 GMT

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Bernhard Reinhardt schrieb:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Bernhard Reinhardt writes:

>>

>>> Solved the problem. The workbench saves the files in UTF-8. After

>>> setting the Text file encoding at Preferences->General-> Workspace to

>>> ISO-8859-1 everything is fine.

>>

>> Are we talking about *graphical* output, or something else?

>

> We are talking about a plot with a title.

> Is that graphical output? Who knows?

it is.

And currently you have no chance to change the encoding for the idl command line. You can do this change only in the editor window.

On the command line you have to do something similar to

```
IDL> plot,findgen(10),title='J'+string(252b)+'lich', chars=3
```

cheers
Reimar

>
> Regards
>
> bernhard

Subject: Re: Special characters in PostScript
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 15:14:38 GMT
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David Fanning schrieb:

> Bernhard Reinhardt writes:

>

>> David Fanning wrote:

>>> Bernhard Reinhardt writes:

>>>

>>>> Solved the problem. The workbench saves the files in UTF-8. After
>>>> setting the Text file encoding at Preferences->General-> Workspace to
>>>> ISO-8859-1 everything is fine.

>>> Are we talking about *graphical* output, or something else?

>> We are talking about a plot with a title.

>> Is that graphical output? Who knows?

>

> So, let me get this straight. To get a character with an umlat,
> say, in the title of my IDL plot, I have to change the encoding
> of the Workbench *editor*? Even for IDL, that seems too weird.
> Are you sure about this? Can you give me an example?

Hi David

yes it is true. I am not sure if an email to the news server has an
unicode (utf-8) encoding already.

```
plot,findgen(10),title='J'ĉ½lich', chars=3
```

but however the ĩĸ½ char changes in different encoding

and you have no chance to change the idl prompt. :(

cheers
Reimar

>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>

Subject: Re: Special characters in PostScript
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Nov 2008 17:24:09 GMT
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Reimar Bauer writes:

> yes it is true. I am not sure if an email to the news server has an
> unicode (utf-8) encoding already.
>

>

>

> and you have no chance to change the idl prompt. :(

Maybe I am still misunderstanding something. I've typed this command with **several** different encoding changes in my Workbench and I see **absolutely** no difference in the graphical output. (Which is what I expected to see, actually.)

Are you seeing something different? My output is "wrong", of course. A capital A with a tilde over it, followed by a 1/4 sign. But I can't see how changing the editor text encoding will help here.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Subject: Re: Special characters in PostScript
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Fri, 21 Nov 2008 00:00:25 GMT
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David Fanning schrieb:

> Reimar Bauer writes:

>

>> yes it is true. I am not sure if an email to the news server has an
>> unicode (utf-8) encoding already.

>>

>> plot,findgen(10),title='Ji½lich', chars=3

>>

>> but however the i½ char changes in different encoding

>>

>> and you have no chance to change the idl prompt. :(

>

> Maybe I am still misunderstanding something. I've
> typed this command with *several* different encoding
> changes in my Workbench and I see *absolutely* no
> difference in the graphical output. (Which is what
> I expected to see, actually.)
>

If you have old code it is different (wrong) encoded. If you type new code it is encoded by utf-8 on default now. So you can't see the problem. But all old code is broken.

The old text looks only right if you switch to iso encoding. Because you have typed the i½ sign in iso encoding in the past it has only 1 byte for it's definition.

It can't be correct shown in utf-8 expression. You do see a strange sign in the editor. If you run the program you also plot that strange symbol. If you switch the editor back to iso format you have the old 1 byte expression of the i½ char which can be plotted correctly.

Usually you add in python a # -*- coding: iso-8859-1 -*- line if you want your code iso encoded in an editor or # -*- coding: utf-8 -*- if you want utf-8.

Our idl code does not follow this simple rule. The editor has no chance to get in which encoding the text was done before.

cheers
Reimar

> Are you seeing something different? My output is
> "wrong", of course. A capital A with a tilde over
> it, followed by a 1/4 sign. But I can't see how
> changing the editor text encoding will help here.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David

Subject: Re: Special characters in PostScript
Posted by [Bernhard Reinhardt](#) on Fri, 21 Nov 2008 11:27:02 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> Reimar Bauer writes:
>
>> yes it is true. I am not sure if an email to the news server has an
>> unicode (utf-8) encoding already.
>>
>> plot,findgen(10),title='Ji½lich', chars=3
>>
>> but however the 'i½' char changes in different encoding
>>
>> and you have no chance to change the idl prompt. :(
>
> Maybe I am still misunderstanding something. I've
> typed this command with *several* different encoding
> changes in my Workbench and I see *absolutely* no
> difference in the graphical output. (Which is what
> I expected to see, actually.)
>
> Are you seeing something different? My output is
> "wrong", of course. A capital A with a tilde over
> it, followed by a 1/4 sign. But I can't see how
> changing the editor text encoding will help here.

My Workbench saved the .pro-files in UTF8. I don't know what idl does when I execute them. My guess is that the idl-interpreter expects ISO-Encoded files and thus is messing up with the UTF8-Files.

After setting the default to ISO. The 'i½' was broken in the Workbench, too. After I corrected this and saved the file it worked.

Regards

Bernhard

Subject: Re: Special characters in PostScript
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 21 Nov 2008 11:36:24 GMT
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Bernhard Reinhardt writes:

> when I execute them. My guess is that the idl-interpreter expects
> ISO-Encoded files and thus is messing up with the UTF8-Files.
>

> too. After I corrected this and saved the file it worked.

I have a feeling this subject is going to be a bit like
coordinates and map projections. Every once in awhile, you
feel like you *almost* understand it, only to see your
understanding shaken by the next example. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
