
Subject: Angstrom Symbol Nonsense

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

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Folks,

As if I don't have problems enough on this newsgroup, now I am getting a slew of mail about angstrom symbols. Typical of the mail I am getting is this one from Dr. Watson (or someone like him, I can't remember):

> Ok, if nobody else is going to do it, then I will: what the hell
> are you doing here? (ang = '<string-of-greek>') Please enlighten
> me.

It's elementary, my dear Watson. What I wrote was this:

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

Take out your Geek to English dictionary. You can find it in Chapter 9 of the IDL User's Guide. This sentence is easily parsed:

!6 -- Complex Roman font, of course, what else could it be?
!s -- According to the dictionary it's "save position". This means, well, it means... Well, skip this for now.
A -- Capital A, splendid, Watson!
!r -- "restore position". You see, you didn't need to worry about !s.
!u -- Shift to upper subscript. We're going to write something above the A.
!9 -- special symbol font. We need a tiny circle.
% -- This is how you draw a tiny circle, Watson. Pay attention!
!6 -- Well, what did it mean *before* Watson!
!n -- Back to normal text level (from subscripting).

As I say, Watson, elementary!

Holmes

P.S. Thanks to Andy Nichols at the Naval Research Lab for supplying this hieroglyphic in a post some time ago.

Also, does anybody know how to produce an angstrom symbol in a reliable way with hardware fonts? How about in PostScript? Inquiring minds want to know! :-)

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: Angstrom Symbol Nonsense
Posted by [pit](#) on Mon, 03 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <davidf-ya023080003001971456060001@news.frii.com>,
davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:
> It's elementary, my dear Watson. What I wrote was this:
>
> ang = '!6!sA!r!u!9 %!6!n'

I'd suggest *first* write the circle and then the A.
That way you get the distance to the next letter right, e.g. if
you write the full Angstrom Name.

> Bill Thompson <thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov> writes:

>>> ang = STRING(197B)

>> That's actually the same as the STRING("305B) that you suggested
>> earlier, just expressed in decimal as well as octal.

Carefull with using octal and decimal simultaneously!
Or you will end mixing up Haloween and christmas, as
DEC 25 = OCT 31

Peter

--

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
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Tel.: +49 551 39-5048 pit@uni-sw.gwdg.de

-- * -- * ...-- * -- * ...-- * -- * ...-- * -- * ...-- * --
Come and see the stars! <http://www.kis.uni-freiburg.de/~ps/SFB>
Sternfreunde Breisgau e.V. Tel.: +49 7641 3492

Subject: Re: Angstrom Symbol Nonsense
Posted by [rosentha](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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On 2 Feb 1997 19:29:22 GMT, mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov <mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov> wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> All this talk about symbols reminded me of a package called TexToIDL that
> I found somewhere on the web. If you like TeX, this is a really neat
> program written by Matthew W. Craig that lets you specify symbols using
> TeX format. For example, if I wanted to XYOUTS the symbol for χ^2 ,
>
> XYOUTS, X, Y, TexToIDL("\chi^2")

> PS I don't think the angstrom symbol is available with the package :-)

Just add the line

```
[ 'AA',      '!6!sA!r!u!9 %!6!n', string(byte(197)) ],$
```

to the file textable.pro (or something).

Colin Rosenthal

Subject: Re: Angstrom Symbol Nonsense
Posted by [D.Kennedy](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <32F2232E.3F09@cdc.noaa.gov>,
Andy Loughe <afl@cdc.noaa.gov> writes:

> David Fanning wrote:
>
>> It's elementary, my dear Watson. What I wrote was this:
>>
>> ang = '!6!sA!r!u!9 %!6!n'
>>
>> Take out your Geek to English dictionary. You can find it
>> in Chapter 9 of the IDL User's Guide. This sentence is easily
>> parsed:
>
>
> "Geek" to English dictionary?
>
> Just what are you implying about those of us who use IDL! ;-) ;-)

He may have a point though!

Actually I was a little surprised at how horrible^H^H^H^H^H non-intuitive this aspect of IDL is, after all the plotting routines are so advanced and the array handling is so naturalistic.

By the way, anyone use IDL hyperhelp on a Sun workstation?

You want to be careful, I discovered a fool proof way to horribly crash my console totally yesterday. Even beyond reboot help!

(1) Open an xterm and rlogin to machine with IDL license.

(2) Start hyperhelp

(3) Go to say, "Graphics system variables" and try to pull down the little menu gizmo. Obviously I'm a bit vague about what happens next as my machine crashes at this point.

--

David Kennedy, Dept. of Pure & Applied Physics, Queen's University of Belfast

Email: D.Kennedy@Queens-Belfast.ac.uk | URL: <http://star.pst.qub.ac.uk/~dcjk/>

Hi! I'm a .signature virus! Copy me into yours and join the fun!

Subject: Re: Angstrom Symbol Nonsense

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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A certain newsgroup regular who wishes to remain a lurker on this discussion points out to me that the most reliable way of making the Angstrom symbol is to "divide the bloody number by 10 and write it as (nm)".

Claims it works everywhere and especially with hardware fonts! :-)

David

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Subject: Re: Angstrom Symbol Nonsense

Posted by [Struan Gray](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan <steinhh@rigil.uio.no>:

>

> device,/isolatin1 ; It's only a shame that this is not the default...

This is the easiest way with any programming: force the use of iso-latin-1 8-bit characters. This works with hardware fonts on most machines too, so good-looking output and labels can be had both on and off screen.

There is a very good FAQ posted to soc.culture.nordic which contains a lot of detail about iso-latin-1 and other character sets. It is called the "ISO 8859-1 National Character Set FAQ" and is posted regularly and archived at:

<http://www.cis.ohio-state.edu/hypertext/faq/usenet/internationalization/iso-8859-1-charset/faq.html>

(take out the line break)

Anyone wanting to handle $\frac{1}{2}$ ngstr \ddot{u} m $\frac{1}{2}$ ms, plot Poincar \ddot{e} $\frac{1}{2}$ trajectories or show the crosscorrelation of the word 'Fox' with $\frac{1}{2}$ sop's fables would do well to read it at least once: in addition to explaining the problem clearly the FAQ gives good clues as to which machines might cause problems and how to configure them so that they don't.

Struan

Subject: Re: Angstrom Symbol Nonsense

Posted by [steinhh](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <1997Feb5.155623.7540@queens-belfast.ac.uk>, D.Kennedy@qub.ac.uk (David Kennedy) writes:

[..]

> By the way, anyone use IDL hyperhelp on a Sun workstation?

> You want to be careful, I discovered a fool proof way to horribly crash

> my console totally yesterday. Even beyond reboot help!

[..]

Uh, what do you mean "beyond reboot help" ? Did the machine catch fire, or what?

Sounds dangerous, anyway...

