Subject: Re: Different Platforms Posted by mgs on Wed, 19 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <3473138C.B39FFA08@ssec.wisc.edu>, Liam Gumley <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> wrote:

```
> Neil Winrow wrote:
>> I have written a number of widget programs, which are visually correct
>> on my PC, however when they are run on the silicon graphics machines the
> (1) If your development platform is a PC, then make sure that once a day
> you test the program on a Unix box, and a Mac. Unless you do this, it is
> easy in your program design to go down a path from which there is no
> return.
 (2) As David Fanning suggested, having the commands
 Device, Set_Character_Size = [6, 9]
  Widget Control, Default Font = '7x13'
>
in your IDL startup file will guarantee consistent graphics font and widget
> font sizes on all *Unix* platforms. However, these commands are ignored on
> PCs. You should try David's STR_SIZE program.
>
> (3) You may wish to look into using *hardware* fonts for graphics. I've
> been experimenting with them in Unix, and getting pretty good results. You
> can see the list of available hardware fonts in IDL by using the command
>
> The major drawback to using hardware fonts is that they do not rotate
  automatically, e.g.
>
>
> plot, indgen(10), xtitle = 'X AXIS', ytitle = 'Y AXIS'
>
> when using hardware fonts will give you the Y title plotted vertically, but
> not rotated. You can get around this by creating the Y axis title in a
> pixmap, reading an array of byte data from the pixmap, rotating the array
> using ROTATE, and TVing the rotated array next to your Y axis. This takes a
> bit of messing around, but the resulting graphics plots look *much* more
> professional than the default vector fonts.
```

And I thought I had a lot of patience for dealing with interface problems.

- > (4) When creating widget programs, be very careful about using XSIZE and
- > YSIZE keywords. I try to use them only for WIDGET\_DRAW, WIDGET\_LABEL, and
- > WIDGET\_BUTTON sizing.

>

- > (5) Rely on the ROW, COLUMN, and alignment keywords when creating widget
- > bases to position your widgets.

I tried staying away from [XY]Size for a long time. Now I find that it's the only way to get a decent cross-platform look. I only rely on the XSize, I don't think I've used YSize anywhere. Everything I use has Row and Column keywords. As I mentioned earlier in this thread, I rely on the Widget\_Info(widget\_id, /Geometry) call and my own widget size structure to provide the info I need to get correctly sized widgets. The following URL shows a very busy interface http://ww2.sd.cybernex.net/~mgs/IV\_IAS\_BB.html with Mac and UNIX versions side by side. Well, it's the same except for an overlapping hierarchy near the botton has been toggled. I haven't updated the images in months and there has been a lot of development since then. Maybe it's time to do that for both platforms and add in some additional info about making the stuff work correctly.

- > PS I've attached a Unix hardware font selection routine below I'll be
- > modifying it soon to work on PC and Mac.

Well, here's a version that runs on Mac and UNIX. It was tested a couple years ago on a PC, but hasn't been run on a PC since. It could be extended to include italics and additional sizes without too much of a headache.

Usage: Font\_Struct = FontGen()

```
: Author: Mike Schienle
: $Workfile: fontgen.pro $
$Revision: 1.1 $
Orig Date: 96-12-17
$Modtime: Wed Oct 01 10:26:18 1997 $
FUNCTION FontGen, PROP=prop, MONO=mono, SYMBOL=symbol
 IF (N Elements(prop) EQ 0L) THEN $
   prop = 'times'
 IF (N_Elements(mono) EQ 0L) THEN $
   mono = 'courier'
 IF (N_Elements(symbol) EQ 0L) THEN $
   symbol = 'symbol'
 ; get Operating System info
 IF (!Version.OS_Family EQ 'unix') THEN BEGIN
   ; We're using UNIX
```

; specify the names of proportional and monospace fonts

```
asFontName = ['-*-' + prop + '-', $
     '-*-' + mono + '-', $
     '-*-' + symbol + '-']
  : specify font weights
  asFontWeight = ['medium-', 'bold-']
   specify "extras" - string completers
  asFontExtra = ['r-*-*-', '-*']
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
  ; Non-UNIX (Mac, Windows)
    specify the names of proportional and monospace fonts
  asFontName = [prop + '*', mono + '*', symbol + '*']
   specify font weights
  asFontWeight = [", 'bold*']
  ; specify "extras" - string completers
  asFontExtra = [", "]
ENDELSE
; font strings
: UNIX style
; -adobe-times-medium-r-normal--12-120-75-75-p-64-iso8859-1
: Mac/PC Style
; times*bold*18, times*18
: font sizes
asFontSize = ['10', '12', '18', '24']
; abbreviated font wieghts
asFontWAbbr = ['m', 'b']
; create a structure of font names, proportional and monospace
sCmdFont = 'mFont = {'
FOR fs = 0, (n_elements(asFontSize) - 1) DO $
  FOR fw = 0, (n_elements(asFontWeight) - 1) DO $
     sCmdFont = sCmdFont + $
       'prop' + asFontSize(fs) + asFontWAbbr(fw) + ':"' + $
       asFontName(0) + asFontWeight(fw) + asFontExtra(0) + $
       asFontSize(fs) + asFontExtra(1) + "", ' + $
       'mono' + asFontSize(fs) + asFontWAbbr(fw) + ':"' + $
       asFontName(1) + asFontWeight(fw) + asFontExtra(0) + $
       asFontSize(fs) + asFontExtra(1) + "", ' + $
       'symbol' + asFontSize(fs) + asFontWAbbr(fw) + ':"' + $
       asFontName(2) + asFontWeight(fw) + asFontExtra(0) + $
       asFontSize(fs) + asFontExtra(1) + "",
sCmdFont = StrMid(sCmdFont, 0, StrLen(sCmdFont) - 2) + '}'
  example follows - Mac/PC version
  mFont = {prop10m:"times*10", mono10m:"courier*10", $
  prop10b:"times*bold*10", mono10b:"courier*bold*10", $
```

; prop24m:"times\*24", mono24m:"courier\*24", \$
; prop24b:"times\*bold\*24", mono24b:"courier\*bold\*24"}
status = Execute(sCmdFont)
; return the font structure
 Return, mFont
END
--

--Mike Schienle

Mike Schienle mgs@sd.cybernex.net

Interactive Visuals http://ww2.sd.cybernex.net/~mgs/

Subject: Re: Different Platforms

Posted by mgs on Wed, 19 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <MPG.edc959fe74be3f79896ac@news.frii.com>, davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

> Neil Winrow (ncw@dl.ac.uk) writes:

>

- >> I have written a number of widget programs, which are visually correct
- >> on my PC, however when they are run on the silicon graphics machines the
- >> layout starts to go terribly wrong. The character sizes are wrong, and
- >> the labelling carried out using the 'XYOUTS' call is all wrong. The
- >> whole window sizing falls down. The programs are going to be used on
- >> PC's, silicon graphics, and MAC's. Could anyone offer me a few pointers
- >> on how to correct these problems to run the programs on the different
- >> platforms.

>

- > There is nothing quite like trying to get IDL widget programs
- > to run on PCs, SGIs and Macs to get you to question your
- > sanity. And, of course, as soon as you have it figured out,
- > someone buys a Sun and then you have to deal with \*those\*
- > tinsy-tiny 12-point fonts. You soon realize that "font size"
- > must be one of those words like "true love" that is open to
- > all kinds of interpretation.

. . .

- > Let us know what you come up with. I'll add it to the list.
- > It will make interesting reading 100 years from now. :-)

I put together a couple functions to help out with this. One returns a structure based on !Version.OS\_Family which contains offsets for widget parameters such as scroll bars, frames, and button types, with adjustments based on the window manager. The other creates a set of fontnames which

can be called generically cross-platform. Sizing of widgets also relies on calls to Widget\_info with the /Geometry keyword set. It's ugly, but useful.

```
mOsInfo = {$
         sDiskChar: ", $ ; disk separator character sDirChar: ", $ ; directory separator character states and states are sufficiently separator character states are sufficiently separator states are sufficient
                                                  ; directory separator character
          sWinName: ", $ ; Window manager name
                                           ; buffer offsets
          mBuffer: {$
                                              ; scroll bar
               scroll: 0, $
               frame: 0, $
                                                 ; frame boundary
               exclusive: 0, $ ; radio button (exclusive)
               nonexclusive: 0, $; checkbox button (nonexclusive)
               button: 0}, $
                                              ; button (regular)
     ; followed by settings for each platform - UNIX, Mac, Windows, VMS
FontGen returns a structure of fonts for proportional and monotype sizes
of 10, 12, 18, and 24 at medium and bold weights. The default fonts are
times and courier but can be whatever you specify. The referenced font
names are based on the platform you are running IDL on: Mac/PC mono10b
would be "courier*bold*10", UNIX mono10b would be
"*-courier-bold-r-normal--10-*"
     mFont = FontGen()
     ; declare some generic font names for common usage
     labelFont = mFont.prop12b; proportional (times), 12 point, bold
     buttonFont = mFont.prop12m; proportional, 12 point, medium
     fieldFont = mFont.mono10m; monotype (courier), 10 point, medium
          the mMisc structure contains mFont as well as mOsInfo
     wLabel = Widget_Label(wBase, Value='Output on Close: ', $
          Font=mMisc.labelFont)
     ; get dimensions of base
     mGeoBase = Widget Info(wBase, /Geometry)
     ; get dimensions of wLabel
     mGeoLabel = Widget_Info(wLabel, /Geometry)
     asWriteText = ['Trend', 'Report', 'Residuals']
       display the write buttons
     ; CW_BGroup2 is a modification of CW_BGroup that allows
      additional font, and sizing info to be set.
     wBGWrite = CW_BGroup2(wBaseOutput, asWriteText, /Row, /Frame, $
          /Align Left, ButtonSize=((mGeoBase.XSize - mGeoLabel.XSize) / $
          N Elements(asWriteText) - mMisc.mOsInfo.mBuffer.nonexclusive - $
```

buttonsize = ((wbase - wlabel) / 3) - nonexclusive - frame / 3 buttonsize = ((400 - 130) / 3) - 16 - 6 / 3 = 72 pixels The framed group will fit in the base next to the label as shown above.

Since I have settings for the values of nonexclusive and frame in my mOsInfo structure and the Widget\_info(widget\_id, /Geometry) call returns the current size of the specified widgets, I have a platform-independent sizing system.

Mike Schienle mgs@sd.cybernex.net

Interactive Visuals http://ww2.sd.cybernex.net/~mgs/

Subject: Re: Different Platforms
Posted by David Foster on Wed, 19 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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## Neil Winrow wrote:

>

>

> Can anyone offer me any advice.

> I have written a number of widget programs, which are visually correct

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- > whole window sizing falls down. The programs are going to be used on
- > PC's, silicon graphics, and MAC's. Could anyone offer me a few pointers
- > on how to correct these problems to run the programs on the different
- > platforms.

>

```
> Many Thanks In Advance
> Neil.
When I needed to run IDL programs on an SGI that were
originally written on a Sun system, I had to make the following
modifications to the 'idl startup' file on the SGI:
  ; Choose pseudo-color 8-bit visual
  device, pseudo color=8
  ; Select default backing-store method to be provided by IDL, as SGI
  ; X server does not seem to provide it
  device, retain=2
  ; Change size of font so programs fit on-screen (IRIX 4.0 or later)
  : Reference: sqi.doc document in $IDL DIR/notes
  WIDGET CONTROL, $
    DEFAULT_FONT="-adobe-helvetica-bold-r-normal-*-14-100-*-*-*-* "
  ; Set default plotting font to same hardware font above
  ; (Create a pixmap window to avoid window creation upon
  ; calling DEVICE, FONT= ; then delete window)
  window, xsize=5, ysize=5, /free, /pixmap
  !p.font = 0 : Use hardware font
  device, FONT="-adobe-helvetica-bold-r-normal-*-10-100-*-*-*-*"
  wdelete
               ; Delete window created
Of course this assumes that you have access to the IDL configuration
on the SGI. But this worked well for me.
Dave
  David S. Foster Univ. of California, San Diego
  Programmer/Analyst Brain Image Analysis Laboratory
  foster@bial1.ucsd.edu Department of Psychiatry
                       8950 Via La Jolla Drive, Suite 2240
```

Subject: Re: Different Platforms Posted by Liam Gumley on Wed, 19 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Neil Winrow wrote:

(619) 622-5892

La Jolla, CA 92037

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- (2) As David Fanning suggested, having the commands

```
Device, Set_Character_Size = [ 6, 9 ] Widget_Control, Default_Font = '7x13'
```

in your IDL startup file will guarantee consistent graphics font and widget font sizes on all \*Unix\* platforms. However, these commands are ignored on PCs. You should try David's STR\_SIZE program.

(3) You may wish to look into using \*hardware\* fonts for graphics. I've been experimenting with them in Unix, and getting pretty good results. You can see the list of available hardware fonts in IDL by using the command

```
Device, Get Fontnames = Fontnames
```

which returns a string array of all the font names defined on your system (Unix or PC or Mac). You can then select a font that looks consistent on all platforms (say a 14 point Helvetica font), and make it the default graphics and widget font by the commands

```
device, font = name  ; set graphics font
!p.font = 0  ; use hardware fonts for graphics instead of vector fonts
widget_control, default_font = name  ; set the default widget font
```

The major drawback to using hardware fonts is that they do not rotate automatically, e.g.

```
plot, indgen(10), xtitle = 'X AXIS', ytitle = 'Y AXIS'
```

when using hardware fonts will give you the Y title plotted vertically, but not rotated. You can get around this by creating the Y axis title in a pixmap, reading an array of byte data from the pixmap, rotating the array using ROTATE, and TVing the rotated array next to your Y axis. This takes a bit of messing around, but the resulting graphics plots look \*much\* more

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- (5) Rely on the ROW, COLUMN, and alignment keywords when creating widget bases to position your widgets.

Cheers,

Liam.

PS I've attached a Unix hardware font selection routine below - I'll be modifying it soon to work on PC and Mac.

PRO SELECT\_FONT, HELVETICA = HELVETICA, TIMES = TIMES, \$
PALATINO = PALATINO, COURIER = COURIER, BOLD = BOLD, ITALIC = ITALIC, \$
SIZE = SIZE, NAME = NAME

```
Purpose:
   Select a Unix hardware font for IDL graphics.
 Usage:
   SELECT FONT
 Input:
  None required.
 Optional Keywords:
  /HELVETICA
                  Select a Helvetica font (default)
  /TIMES
               Select a Times font
  /PALATINO
                 Select a Palatino font
  /COURIER
                 Select a Courier font
  /BOLD
               Select a bold font (default is no bold)
  /ITALIC
              Select and italic font (default is no italics)
              If set to a named variable, sets the font size
  SIZE
(default=12)
  NAME
               If set to a named variable, returns the font name
selected
 Revised:
   17-OCT-1997 Liam Gumley, CIMSS/SSEC
  Created
 Notes:
   (1) This procedure currently only works on Unix IDL platforms.
```

```
(2) The NAME value returned by SELECT_FONT can be used to set the
     default widget font by the command
WIDGET_CONTROL, DEFAULT_FONT=NAME
Example:
; !P.MULTI=[0,1,2,0,0]
; PLOT, INDGEN(10)
 SELECT_FONT,/BOLD
; PLOT, INDGEN(10)
;- this version is only for Unix at the moment
if !version.os_family ne 'unix' then begin
 message, /continue, 'Only works on Unix at the moment'
 return
endif
;- check keyword flags
if not keyword_set( helvetica ) then helvetica = 0
if not keyword set(times) then times = 0
if not keyword_set( palatino ) then palatino = 0
if not keyword_set( courier ) then courier = 0
if not keyword_set(bold) then bold = 0
if not keyword_set( italic ) then italic = 0
;- check keyword values
if n_elements( size ) eq 0 then size = 12
;- set keyword return values
name = "
;- create font search string
case 1 of
 helvetica: search = '*helvetica*'
 times : search = '*times*'
 palatino: search = '*palatino*'
 courier : search = '*courier*'
         : search = '*helvetica*'
 else
endcase
if bold then begin
 search = search + 'bold-'
endif else begin
```

```
search = search + 'medium-'
endelse
if italic then begin
 search = search + 'o-normal*'
endif else begin
 search = search + 'r-normal*'
endelse
:- open a graphics window
window, /free, /pixmap
;- get list of font names matching search string
device, font = search, get_fontnames = fontnames
;- find a font size that matches
fontstring = '--' + strcompress( long( size > 8 ), /remove_all ) + '-'
index = strpos( fontnames, fontstring )
loc = where(index ne -1, count)
;- use font if it was found, or else set graphics font size
if count ge 1 then begin
 name = fontnames(loc(0))
 device, font = name
 !p.font = 0
endif else begin
 message, /continue, 'Requested font was not found - using graphics font
instead'
endelse
;- close graphics window
wdelete, !d.window
end
```

Subject: Re: Different Platforms
Posted by davidf on Wed, 19 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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Neil Winrow (ncw@dl.ac.uk) writes:

> I have written a number of widget programs, which are visually correct

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There is nothing quite like trying to get IDL widget programs to run on PCs, SGIs and Macs to get you to question your sanity. And, of course, as soon as you have it figured out, someone buys a Sun and then you have to deal with \*those\* tinsy-tiny 12-point fonts. You soon realize that "font size" must be one of those words like "true love" that is open to all kinds of interpretation.

I once got so frustrated I took a survey of the 10 best IDL widget programmers I knew. "How do you size strings in your widget programs?", I asked. Would you believe I got 10 completely different answers and that almost every single answer had more to do with occult science than with computer science? I wouldn't be able to withstand the public ridicule if I published the answers here.

SGIs seem to be the worst. I don't know why. They have HUGE default fonts. Liam Gumley, who should know, suggests you try something like this in your SGI start-up file:

Device, Set\_Character\_Size = [ 6, 9 ] Widget\_Control, Default\_Font = '7x13'

I have had fairly good success with a program named STR\_SIZE that you can get from my web page. It calculates the proper character size to get a target string to be be a particular size (in normalized coordinates) in the output window. But this means setting the CharSize keyword on all graphics output commands. (Not a bad idea when you are writing what you hope will be portable IDL applications, by the way. Then, at least, if your programs look lousy on some person's system they can change the CharSize parameter, which I usually have as a keyword to the main program.)

I've had pretty good luck with something like this:

rightSize = Str Size('This is a default string', 0.25)

Plot, data, CharSize=rightSize

Let us know what you come up with. I'll add it to the list. It will make interesting reading 100 years from now. :-)

Cheers,

David

\_\_\_\_\_

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

Phone: 970-221-0438

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

Subject: Re: Different Platforms

Posted by Karsten Rodenacker on Thu, 20 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Following the track of arguments I am surprised not to see any hint concerning resources of the windowing system.

I experienced the bizar behaviour too, even on ONE unix platform using either idl in command mode or by idlde. If we could learn a bit more about ajusting the Idl and Idlde window system resources I think most of the problems mentioned will disappear.

Regards Karsten

Subject: Re: Different Platforms

Posted by rivers on Sat, 22 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <3473138C.B39FFA08@ssec.wisc.edu>, Liam Gumley <Liam.Gumley@ssec.wisc.edu> writes:

> Neil Winrow wrote:

>

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- >> whole window sizing falls down. The programs are going to be used on
- >> PC's, silicon graphics, and MAC's. Could anyone offer me a few pointers

>> on how to correct these problems to run the programs on the different

For widgets I use the following methods:

 Use a function which returns font names in a system-dependent manner. default\_font = get\_font\_name(/SMALL, /HELVETICA) button\_font = get\_font\_name(/LARGE, /HELVETICA, /BOLD) label\_font = get\_font\_name(/MEDIUM, /HELVETICA)

widget\_control, default\_font=default\_font Use button\_font and label\_font when creating buttons and labels, etc.

My get\_font\_name.pro is attached. It works on Unix, VMS and PC. Have not had a Mac to try it on.

- When laying out widgets of different types (e.g. buttons, labels and droplists) which need to line up in columns or rows do the following:
  - 1) Create dummy widgets with the same commands you will be using for your real widgets before you call WIDGET\_CONTROL, /REALIZE (that way you won't see them).
  - 2) Use geometry = widget\_control(id, /geometry) to determine the size of each widget in pixels (i.e. geometry.scr\_xsize and geometry.scr\_ysize)
  - 3) Step 2 will tell you which widget is the biggest.
  - 4) Now create your real widgets, using the SCR\_XSIZE and SCR\_YSIZE keywords to explicitly set the size of all of the widgets to the size of the biggest one.

This has worked fine for me on PCs, VMS and Unix.

```
Here is an example from one program:
```

```
row = widget_base(base, /row, /frame)
; Determine height for all of the widgets in this row
dummy = widget_text(base, xsize=6)
geometry = widget_info(dummy, /geometry)
widget_control, dummy, /destroy
scr_ysize = geometry.scr_ysize
scr_xsize = geometry.scr_xsize

col = widget_base(row, /column)
t = widget_label(col, value='ROI', font=self.fonts.label)
for i=0, nrois-1 do begin
t = widget_label(col, value=strtrim(string(i),2), scr_ysize=scr_ysize)
endfor

col = widget_base(row, /column)
t = widget_label(col, value='Use?', font=self.fonts.label)
```

```
for i=0, nrois-1 do begin
     cal.widgets.use flag[i] = $
       widget_droplist(col, value=['No','Yes'], scr_ysize=scr_ysize)
     widget control, cal.widgets.use flag[i], $
             set droplist select=cal.roi[i].use
  endfor
Here is get font name.pro
function get_font_name, $
     helvetica=helvetica, times=times, courier=courier, $
     tiny=tiny, small=small, medium=medium, large=large, huge=huge, $
     size=size, $
     bold=bold, italic=italic, $
     dpi75=dpi75, dpi100=dpi100
: Returns the name of the font with the specified characteristics
if (!version.os family eq 'Windows') then begin
font = "
if keyword set(helvetica) then font = font + 'Helvetica' else $
                        then font = font + 'Times' else $
if keyword set(times)
if keyword set(courier) then font = font + 'Courier' else $
                   font = font + 'MS San Serif'
if keyword_set(bold) then font = font + '*Bold'
if keyword set(italic) then font = font + '*Italic'
if keyword set(tiny) then size=0
if keyword set(small) then size=1
if keyword set(medium) then size=2
if keyword_set(large) then size=3
if keyword_set(huge) then size=4
if (n_elements(size) eq 0) then size=2
font_size_strings = ['12', '14', '16', '18', '20']
size = (size > 0) < (n elements(font size strings)-1)
font = font + '*' + font_size_strings(size)
return, font
endif else if (!version.os family eq 'Mac') then begin
 font='Helvetica'
 return, font
endif else begin
: VMS and Unix
font = '-adobe-'
if keyword set(helvetica) then font = font + 'helvetica-' else $
if keyword set(times)
                        then font = font + 'times-' else $
```

```
if keyword_set(courier) then font = font + 'courier-' else $
                    font = font + 'helvetica-'
if keyword_set(bold) then font = font + 'bold-' else font = font + 'medium-'
if keyword set(italic) then font = font + 'o-' else font = font + 'r-'
font = font + 'normal--*-'
if keyword_set(tiny) then size=0
if keyword_set(small) then size=1
if keyword set(medium) then size=2
if keyword_set(large) then size=3
if keyword_set(huge) then size=4
if (n_elements(size) eq 0) then size=2
font_size_strings = ['80-', '100-', '120-', '140-', '180-']
size = (size > 0) < (n_elements(font_size_strings)-1)
font = font + font_size_strings(size)
if keyword_set(dpi100) then font = font + '100-100-' else $
if keyword_set(dpi75) then font = font + '75-75-' else $
                  font = font + '*-*-'
font = font + '*-*-iso8859-1'
return, font
endelse
```

end