
Subject: Re: symbol font not expoting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 18:34:24 GMT

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Karl writes:

> I'm a bit fuzzy on this, but I seem to recall that the Symbol font was
> a bit of an "oddball" in that it did not include any Unicode-to-glyph
> translation tables. That is, it could only handle ASCII 7-bit
> character encodings. Anyway, there was certainly something less
> capable about this particular font, compared to the others.

Yes, this is exactly the problem. The Symbol font present on almost all computers does not support Unicode values. But Apple decided in MacOS 10.1 to supply a Symbol font that *does* use Unicode values, thus breaking all the code previously written in the world that takes advantage of Symbol fonts. :-)

I have a program that can return Unicode values for Greek letters (which presumably would work in any font that supported such characters), but I have had no luck wrapping the Unicode characters in the Symbol font for Mac computers. Presumably because I don't have one to experiment with. Or maybe because Apple is perverse enough to make it impossible to access without writing an Apple App with the proper software. ;-)

Cheers,

David

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
