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

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 09 Jun 2010 11:08:30 GMT

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Luis Alonso writes:

- > i'm generating a bunch of graphs in which the title includes greek
- > symbols (using the !9 + !X way).
- > They show correctly, but when i export to EPS in vector format the
- > greek symbols appear empty. However, if i open the file with inkscape
- > (a vector illustration editing program) i can select and change the
- > type and the text is there.
- >
- > This behavior seems to happen only under OSX (my version is Snow
- > Leopard), it also happens with different versions of IDL (i've tried
- > 6.3 and 7.0).
- >
- > My guess is that there is some kind of font conflict, but don't know
- > how to solve it.
- >
- > Any hints?

Not only is it different fonts, but it is different ways  
of expressing the same symbol in those fonts. Here is an  
article that explains this in some detail:

[http://www.dfanning.com/ps\\_tips/greeksym.html](http://www.dfanning.com/ps_tips/greeksym.html)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

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

Posted by [pfp](#) on Wed, 09 Jun 2010 17:09:37 GMT

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On Jun 9, 7:34 am, Luis Alonso <[alonso...@gmail.com](mailto:alonso...@gmail.com)> wrote:

- > by the way, I'd also like to know how can i programmatically export
- > the iplot to EPS in VECTOR form. I just found how to do it in bitmap

> (which incomprehensibly is the default format).

You can change the mode with the keyword `graphics_format` to `isave` (1 is vector, 0 is bitmap).

Or you can change the default, going into an iTool's File menu, then Preferences->Settings->File Writers->Encapsulated Postscript.

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

Posted by [Luis Alonso](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 14:19:24 GMT

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On 9 jun, 13:08, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Luis Alonso writes:

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>> symbols (using the !9 + !X way).

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>

> 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.")

Hi David,

thanks for the answer, although i had already checked there (yours is mostly the first place i always check to solve my idl doubts). However this time it is not the case, i already use the !9 + !X embedded forming code, or !M for just one character without trouble on screen.

The case is that iplot uses TrueType by default, and PS uses TrueType too, it should export just fine. And in fact it does, in Linux and WinXP, but not on my iMac OSX10.6 (in fact it used to do it just fine with OSX10.5). I've also tried in a colleague's MacBookPro and it happens to her too.

Hope to get some fix soon, otherwise i'll have to use WinXP to generate the graphs, and i'd hate that.

With respect to pfp's answer. I was not aware of the isave function in IDL 7.1, since we just have 6.5 and 7.0 versions... so my question was addressed to the misterious way of programmatically export to EPS. However, i've already found someone has written such a function: [http://www.ppenteado.net/idl/pp\\_itool\\_save-code.html](http://www.ppenteado.net/idl/pp_itool_save-code.html)

Thanks again

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Subject: Re: symbol font not expoting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 14:32:00 GMT  
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Luis Alonso writes:

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> WinXP, but not on my iMac OSX10.6 (in fact it used to do it just fine  
> with OSX10.5). I've also tried in a colleague's MacBookPro and it  
> happens to her too.

Yes, I answered too soon. Sorry. I'm teaching an IDL class this week with several Macs in it. This is not the only thing on Macs that is "strange". :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Subject: Re: symbol font not expoting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX  
Posted by [Luis Alonso](#) on Thu, 10 Jun 2010 14:58:34 GMT

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I've found in some forum a similar problem, in this case between  
OpenOffice for Linux and OSX.

<http://user.services.openoffice.org/en/forum/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=13926>

It seems the problem comes from a system font called Symbol, which is  
different in windows/linux and osx. They both contain greek alphabet,  
but differently coded.

They suggest to replace the OSX Symbol font with the MS one. But i  
would not be very happy with this solution as the rest of mac software  
that make use of it will look like crap.

Some one out there has any idea? meanwhile i'll ask Apple Help Desk...

Greetings,

Luis

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Subject: Re: symbol font not expoting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 11 Jun 2010 16:29:09 GMT

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- > OpenOffice for Linux and OSX.
- > <http://user.services.openoffice.org/en/forum/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=13926>
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- > would not be very happy with this solution as the rest of mac software
- > that make use of it will look like crap.
- >
- > Some one out there has any idea? meanwhile i'll ask Apple Help Desk...

I don't have a Mac, but if someone wanted to help me out, I've put a new version of my Greek program here:

<http://www.dfanning.com/misc/greek.pro>

If you set the UNICODE keyword, the program will now return the unicode value for the Greek letter used in the Apple Symbol font distributed with MacOSX 10.1 and higher. This *should* allow Macs to produce PostScript output with Greek symbols correctly.

```
IDL> XYOuts, 0.5, 0.5, /Normal, Align=0.5, $  
      'Greek Letter Zeta ' + Greek('Zeta', /UNICODE), Font=1
```

Thanks,

David

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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.")

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