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

Posted by [Luis Alonso](#) on Wed, 09 Jun 2010 10:34:13 GMT

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Hi,

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?

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).

Thank you in advance for the response!

Luis Alonso

Earth Observation Laboratory
University of Valencia

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

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 14:30:31 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

- > 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

Humm. No one with a Mac interested in this?

OK, I'll move on to other things. :-)

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.")

Subject: Re: symbol font not expoting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 15:30:59 GMT

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On 6/15/10 8:30 AM, David Fanning wrote:

> David Fanning writes:

>

>> 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

>

> Humm. No one with a Mac interested in this?

>

> OK, I'll move on to other things. :-)

Did not work for me:

<http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/greek.png>

Do I need to do some setup before I run the line above?

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: symbol font not exporting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 15:35:34 GMT
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mgalloy writes:

> Did not work for me:
>
> <http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/greek.png>
>
> Do I need to do some setup before I run the line above?

No, but it is not clear to me if the Apple Symbol font is strictly a PostScript font or if it is a display font, too. I am treating it as if it were both.

I guess I'm just going to have to go find a Mac somewhere. Too many variables. :-)

Thanks for your help.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Could you check to see if that line works as PostScript output? Thanks!

--

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

Subject: Re: symbol font not expoting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 15:51:15 GMT
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On 6/15/10 9:35 AM, David Fanning wrote:

> mgalloy writes:

>

>> Did not work for me:

>>

>> <http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/greek.png>

>>

>> Do I need to do some setup before I run the line above?

>

> No, but it is not clear to me if the Apple Symbol

> font is strictly a PostScript font or if it is a

> display font, too. I am treating it as if it were

> both.

>

> I guess I'm just going to have to go find a Mac

> somewhere. Too many variables. :-)

>

> Thanks for your help.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> P.S. Could you check to see if that line works as PostScript

> output? Thanks!

I get the some result:

<http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/greek.ps>

The code I used:

```
IDL> set_plot, 'ps'
```

```
IDL> device, filename='greek.ps'
```

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

```
% Compiled module: GREEK.
```

```
IDL> device, /close
```

```
IDL> set_plot, 'x'
```

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

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

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 17:42:03 GMT

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mgalloy writes:

```
> I get the some result:
>
> http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/greek.ps
>
> The code I used:
>
> IDL> set_plot, 'ps'
> IDL> device, filename='greek.ps'
> IDL> XYOuts, 0.5, 0.5, /Normal, Align=0.5, 'Greek Letter Zeta ' +
> Greek('Zeta', /UNICODE), Font=1
> % Compiled module: GREEK.
> IDL> device, /close
> IDL> set_plot, 'x'
```

OK, now I'm totally confused. :-)

Just one more test, if you don't mind. I presume you might get the right symbol if you DON'T use the UNICODE keyword. Which would probably mean you are using the "normal" Symbol font. Perhaps the one that comes with IDL. Humm. Maybe to get the Apple Symbol font you have to use FONT=0.

Just don't know. Too much confusion. Why do you suppose Apple would do this? They are acting more and more like Microsoft by the day. :-)

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.")

Subject: Re: symbol font not expoting correctly to EPS from iplot in OSX
Posted by [Karl\[1\]](#) on Tue, 15 Jun 2010 18:20:56 GMT
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On Jun 15, 11:42 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

```
> mgalloy writes:
>> I get the some result:
>
>> http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/greek.ps
>
>> The code I used:
>
>> IDL> set_plot, 'ps'
>> IDL> device, filename='greek.ps'
>> IDL> XYOuts, 0.5, 0.5, /Normal, Align=0.5, 'Greek Letter Zeta ' +
>> Greek('Zeta', /UNICODE), Font=1
>> % Compiled module: GREEK.
>> IDL> device, /close
>> IDL> set_plot, 'x'
>
> OK, now I'm totally confused. :-)
>
> Just one more test, if you don't mind. I presume you might
> get the right symbol if you DON'T use the UNICODE keyword.
> Which would probably mean you are using the "normal" Symbol
> font. Perhaps the one that comes with IDL. Humm. Maybe
> to get the Apple Symbol font you have to use FONT=0.
>
> Just don't know. Too much confusion. Why do you suppose
> Apple would do this? They are acting more and more like
> Microsoft by the day. :-)
>
> 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.")
```

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.

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

--

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.")
