

Test the *textalpha* package

With the *textalpha* package, you can easily write a single Greek symbol (like Ψ or μ) or a $\lambda\sigma\gamma\sigma\zeta$ in non-Greek text as well as ISO-conforming formulas with upright constants (like π): $A = \pi r^2$ vs. $A = \pi r^2$.

1 Greek alphabet

Greek letters via Latin transcription in LGR font encoding:

A B Γ Δ E Z H Θ I K Λ M N Ξ O Π P Σ T Υ Φ X Ψ Ω
α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι ς λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ ος ης τ υ φ χ ψ ω

Greek letters via default macros in other font encoding (here T1):

A B Γ Δ E Z H Θ I K Λ M N Ξ O Π P Σ T Υ Φ X Ψ Ω
α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι ς λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ ης τ υ φ χ ψ ω

2 PDF strings

With the *lgrx* bundle, you can get Greek letters in both, TeX and PDF strings.

2.1 $\lambda\sigma\gamma\sigma\zeta$, $\lambda\sigma\gamma\sigma\zeta$ and $\lambda\sigma\gamma\sigma\zeta$

The subsection title above uses: `text*` macros, Unicode input and the LGR transcription for the Greek word $\lambda\sigma\gamma\sigma\zeta$. Check the table of contents in the PDF viewer: `text*` macros and Unicode literals work fine, the Latin transcription stays Latin in the PDF metadata.

3 Limitations

Because the internal font encoding switch interferes with other work behind the scenes, kerning, diacritics and up/downcasing show problems if Greek letters are used without explicit change of the font encoding. These problems can be avoided by use of `babel` and the correct language setting (`greek` or `polutonikogreek`) or an explicit font encoding switch.

The `\TextGreek` macro ensures the argument is set in LGR font encoding. This can be used to fix these problems without side-effects if the font encoding is already LGR.

3.1 Kerning

No kerning occurs between Greek characters in non-Greek text due to the internal font encoding switch: compare A\`{A} (LGR) to A\`{A}(T1). Because of this (and for proper hyphenation), use of babel and correct language setting is recommended for Greek quotes.

The \TextGreek macro is used for wrapping of combined Unicode character definitions. Check that kerning is preserved also between accented characters if the font encoding is LGR: A\`{A} vs. A\`{A} (T1).

3.2 Diacritics

Composition of diacritics (like \Dasia\Tonos) fails in other font encodings. Long names (like \DasiaOxia) work, however they do not select precomposed characters. With LGR, pre-composed glyphs are chosen if available (the difference becomes obvious if you drag-and-drop text from the PDF version of this document): \aa \aa \aa \aa (LGR) vs. \aa (T1).

Diacritics (except the dialytika) are placed before capital letters in titlecase and dropped in all-caps:

\aa \eacute \iacute \ngamma \oacute \ddot{w}
'A 'E \Iacute 'H 'O "Y "Omega
A E \Iacute H O Y Omega.

However, in other font encodings, this does not work: 'A (LGR) vs. \AA (T1).

The dialytika marks a *hiatus* (break-up of a diphthong). It must be present in UPPERCASE even where it is redundant in lowercase (the hiatus can also be marked by an accent on the first character of a diphthong). The auto-hiatus feature works in LGR font encoding, \aa, \eacute \mapsto A\`{Y}, E\`{I}, but not in T1: AY, EI

4 Greek Unicode characters in non-Greek text

With the *textalpha* package and inputencoding "utf8", Greek Unicode characters can be used in text with any font encoding.

Combined Diacritics work \aa, diacritics (except diaresis) are dropped with Make-Uppercase ($\mu\alpha\sigma\tau\rho\varsigma \mapsto M\Alpha S\Upsilon T\RO\Sigma$), but the Hiatus-detection does not work: Currently, the second vowel of the diphthong must be given as macro, not Unicode literal: (\aa\pi\iota\alpha \mapsto A\`{Y}\Pi\iota\alpha vs. AY\iota\alpha). See `greek-unicode.[tex|psf]` for more details.

No kerning occurs between Greek characters in non-Greek text due to the internal font encoding switch: A\`{A} (LGR) vs. A\`{A} (T1).

The following tables list Greek Unicode characters:

4.1 Greek and Coptic

* glyph missing in LGR, · Unicode point not defined

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
370	*	*	*	*	'	*	*	.	.	.	*	*	*	*	;	
380	'	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
390	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
3A0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
3B0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
3C0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
3D0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
3E0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
3F0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

4.2 Greek Extended

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
1F00	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F10	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F20	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F30	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F40	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F50	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F60	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F70	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F80	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1F90	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1FA0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1FB0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1Fc0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1FD0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1FE0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ
1FF0	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ	ͺ