

# Font setup for Greek with XeTeX/LuaTeX

Günter Milde

July 11, 2019

The file `greek-euenc.def` provides support for Greek LICR macros and upcasing of text with XeTeX and LuaTeX. It is automatically loaded by the `textalpha` and `alphabetalpha` packages as well as `babel-greek` if the font encoding is set to the Unicode font encoding TU (usually via the `fontspec` package for font setup with LuaTeX and XeTeX).

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	fontspec . . . . .	1
1.2	suitable Unicode fonts . . . . .	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Usage</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>LICR input</b>	<b>2</b>
3.1	Greek alphabet . . . . .	2
3.2	Diacritics . . . . .	2
3.2.1	perispomeni vs. tilde . . . . .	3
3.2.2	combined diacritics . . . . .	3
3.2.3	sub-iota . . . . .	3
3.3	Additional Greek symbols . . . . .	3
3.3.1	symbols for Greek numbers . . . . .	3
3.3.2	symbol variants . . . . .	4
3.3.3	Ancient Greek Numbers . . . . .	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Latin transcription</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>UPPERCASE and lowercase</b>	<b>6</b>
5.0.1	hiatus . . . . .	6
<b>6</b>	<b>Character Tables</b>	<b>7</b>
6.1	Greek and Coptic Unicode block . . . . .	7
6.2	Greek Extended Unicode block . . . . .	7

## 1 Requirements

### 1.1 fontspec

The `fontspec` package sets up the TU Unicode font encoding for XeTeX and LuaTeX. However, it does not include support for the Greek script.

## 1.2 suitable Unicode fonts

With the XeTeX or LuaTeX engines, the user must ensure that the selected font contains Greek glyphs (the default Latin Modern fonts have only capital Greek letters). There are no errors for missing glyphs, just warnings in the log file (but not the console output) and empty spaces in the output document.

Examples for suitable fonts are given in the [greek-fontenc README](#).

## 2 Usage

greek-euenc.def is usually not loaded directly, but by one of *textalpha*, *alphabetabeta*, or *Babel* (with the language option *greek*). If these packages are loaded after *fontspec*, Unicode font setup is amended for use of the Greek script.

### 3 LICR input

The LaTeX internal character representation (LICR) is a verbose, fail-safe 7-bit ASCII encoding that can be used unaltered under both, 8-bit TeX and XeTeX/LuaTeX. Use cases are macro definitions and generated text.

See the source of this document, `greek-euenc-doc.tex` for the input used in the examples below.

### 3.1 Greek alphabet

Greek letters via LICR macros:

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω  
α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω

The small sigma is set with a different glyph if it ends a word:

$$\sigma \text{ textsigma}$$

$$\varsigma \text{ textfinalsigma or textvarsigma}$$

The `\textautosigma` macro, which automatically chooses the glyph according to the position, is not implemented for Unicode fonts.

### 3.2 Diacritics

Greek diacritics can be input by named macro or symbol macro:

áá x̄x̄ àà x̂x̂ ïï x̃x̃ ãã x̄x̄ ǎǎ x̂x̂ ȁȁ x̄x̄

Up-to-date Xe/LuaTeX normalizes base letter and combining diacritics to the corresponding pre-composed character if such a mapping is defined in the Unicode standard:

á á à à ì ì ã ã ǎ ǎ ǎ ǎ

### 3.2.1 perispomeni vs. tilde

The Greek *perispomeni* has the look of a tilde but the semantic of a circumflex accent. The “named” `\accperispomeni` macro uses COMBINING GREEK PERISPOMENI, while the standard tilde-accent macro `\~` uses the COMBINING TILDE which is not normalized to GREEK LETTER ... WITH PERISPOMENI characters.

Composite definitions for \~ select the pre-composed character:

$$\tilde{\alpha} = \tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\eta} = \tilde{\eta}, \tilde{\mathfrak{l}} = \tilde{\mathfrak{l}}, \tilde{\mathfrak{v}} = \tilde{\mathfrak{v}}, \tilde{\omega} = \tilde{\omega}$$

### 3.2.2 combined diacritics

Combined accents are defined using combining diacritical characters.

[illegible]

Composite diacritics overlap when they are not normalized to a pre-composed character. However, this is not a major problem in the real world, as pre-composed characters exist in Unicode for all letters that are actually used in (ancient, polytonic or monotonoc) Greek.

### 3.2.3 sub-iota

The sub-iota (ypogegrammeni/prosigrammeni) is input after the base letter.

- \prosgegrammeni sets a spacing GREEK PROSGEGRAMMENI: Α. Κ..
  - \ypogeگرامmeni sets a COMBINING GREEK YPOGEGRAMMENI: α κ.
- A Greek capital letter followed by COMBINING GREEK YPOGEGRAMMENI is normalized to the corresponding Greek capital letter WITH [.. AND] PROSGEGRAMMENI, if a mapping exists in the Unicode standard: Α. but Κ.

$A.A.\alpha\alpha$   $A.A.$   
 $\Lambda\Lambda.\lambda\lambda$   $\Lambda\Lambda.$   
 $\alpha\alpha.\alpha\alpha$   $A.A.$

### 3.3 Additional Greek symbols

### 3.3.1 symbols for Greek numbers

ͧ textkoppa  
 ͨ textKoppa  
 ͩ textqoppa (archaic koppa)  
 ͪ textQoppa (archaic Koppa)  
 ͫ textstigma  
 ͬ textStigma (Sigma-Tau-Ligature in CB-fonts)<sup>1</sup>  
 ͭ textsampi  
 ͮ textSampi

<sup>1</sup>the name “stigma” originally applied to a medieval sigma-tau ligature, whose shape was confusingly similar to the cursive digamma

TeX math		Unicode	
symbol	var symbol	“letter”	“symbol”
$\pi$	$\varpi$	$\pi$	$\varpi$
$\rho$	$\varrho$	$\rho$	$\varrho$
$\theta$	$\vartheta$	$\theta$	$\vartheta$
$\epsilon$	$\varepsilon$	$\epsilon$	$\epsilon$
$\phi$	$\varphi$	$\varphi$	$\phi$
$\beta$	<i>missing</i>	$\beta$	$\beta$
$\kappa$	<i>missing</i>	$\kappa$	$\kappa$
$\Theta$	<i>missing</i>	$\Theta$	$\Theta$

Table 1: Greek symbol variants in TeX and Unicode

$\varpi$  textdigamma  
 $\varrho$  textDigamma  
 $\vartheta$  textdexiakeraia  
 $\varepsilon$  textaristerikeraia

### 3.3.2 symbol variants

Mathematical notation uses variant shapes of some Greek letters as additional symbols. The variations have no syntactic meaning in Greek text and text fonts may use the variant shapes in place of the “regular” ones as a stylistic choice.

Unicode defines separate code points for the symbol variants. TeX supports some of the variant shape symbols in mathematical mode, but its concept of “standard” vs. “variant” symbols differs from the distinction between “GREEK LETTER ...” vs. “GREEK ... SYMBOL” in the Unicode standard (see Table 1).

`greek-euenc.def` defines three TextCommands for each of these letters:

`\text<name>` selects the Unicode GREEK LETTER ... variant,  
`\text<name>symbol` selects the Unicode GREEK ... SYMBOL variant,  
`\textvar<name>` selects the variant shape according to TeX’ mathematical mode

See Table 2 for the full list. The *alphabeta* package defines short macros that work in text and math mode.

### 3.3.3 Ancient Greek Numbers

Ancient Greek Numbers are missing in most fonts (including Libertine and Deja Vu). The “FreeSerif” font works fine:

ΑΒΓΔΕ

If the LGR font encoding is loaded via `<fontenc>` in the document preamble, Ancient Greek Numbers (as well as any other character) from LGR encoded 8-bit TeX fonts can be used after a font-encoding switch. `babel-greek` defines the `\textgreek` command for this purpose.

ΑΒΓΔΕ

text		mathematics	
macro	output	macro	output
<code>\textpi</code>	$\pi$	<code>\pi</code>	$\pi$
<code>\textvarpi</code>	$\varpi$	<code>\varpi</code>	$\varpi$
<code>\textpisymbol</code>	$\varpi$		
<code>\textrho</code>	$\rho$	<code>\rho</code>	$\rho$
<code>\textvarrho</code>	$\varrho$	<code>\varrho</code>	$\varrho$
<code>\textrhosymbol</code>	$\varrho$		
<code>\texttheta</code>	$\theta$	<code>\theta</code>	$\theta$
<code>\textvartheta</code>	$\vartheta$	<code>\vartheta</code>	$\vartheta$
<code>\textthetasymbol</code>	$\vartheta$		
<code>\textepsilon</code>	$\varepsilon$	<code>\epsilon</code>	$\epsilon$
<code>\textvarepsilon</code>	$\varepsilon$	<code>\varepsilon</code>	$\varepsilon$
<code>\textepsilonsymbol</code>	$\epsilon$		
<code>\textphi</code>	$\varphi$	<code>\phi</code>	$\phi$
<code>\textvarphi</code>	$\varphi$	<code>\varphi</code>	$\varphi$
<code>\textphisymbol</code>	$\phi$		
<code>\textbeta</code>	$\beta$	<code>\beta</code>	$\beta$
<code>\textvarbeta</code>	$\bar{\beta}$	<i>missing</i>	
<code>\textbetasymbol</code>	$\bar{\beta}$		
<code>\textkappa</code>	$\kappa$	<code>\kappa</code>	$\kappa$
<code>\textvarkappa</code>	$\varkappa$	<code>\varkappa</code>	$\varkappa$
<code>\textkappasymbol</code>	$\varkappa$		
<code>\textTheta</code>	$\Theta$	<code>\Theta</code>	$\Theta$
<code>\textvarTheta</code>	$\Theta$	<i>missing</i>	
<code>\textThetasymbol</code>	$\Theta$		

Table 2: Macros for Greek symbol variants

## 4 Latin transcription

The Latin transcription known from LGR encoded 8-bit fonts<sup>2</sup> does not work with Unicode fonts.

It is possible to set up LGR encoded fonts parallel to Unicode fonts (see the preamble of the source file `greek-euenc-doc.tex` for an example). The `\textgreek` macro can then be used for the input of Greek letters via the *Latin transcription*, e.g. «logos» becomes «λογος» and «\>aupn\ 'ia» becomes «ἄυπνία».

Mark that you cannot use Unicode input with LGR encoded fonts except when running in 8-bit compatibility mode. LICR macros work in both, Unicode font encoding and LGR: compare Ἰανουαρίου (Unicode font set up via fontspec) vs. Ἰανουαρίου (LGR-encoded 8-bit font set up via NFSS commands).

## 5 UPPERCASE and lowercase

Capital Greek letters have Greek diacritics (except the dialytika and sub-iota) to the left (instead of above) and drop them if text is set in UPPERCASE, e.g. μαῖστρος  $\mapsto$  ΜΑΪΣΤΡΟΣ.

The `uccode/lccode` corrections (taken from Apostolos Syropoulos `xgreek` package) ensure dropping of accents with `\MakeUppercase` for literal Unicode characters.

@ucllist additions ensure that upcasing also drops Greek diacritics. However, when the tonos, varia, and perispomeni accents are input using the symbol macros (`\' \` \~`), this does not work, as they cannot be distinguished from Latin acute, grave, and tilde accents.<sup>3</sup> If these accents should be dropped by `MakeUppercase`, they must be input as named macro:

άά άά àà ââ  $\mapsto$  A'A AÁ A'A AÂ

### 5.0.1 hiatus

Tonos and dasia mark a *hiatus* (break-up of a diphthong) if placed on the first vowel of a diphthong (αι, άυ, ει, ᾱι, ᾶυ, ῃι). A dialytika must be placed on the second vowel if they are dropped.

The «hiatus» feature works with macro input:

άυλος  $\mapsto$  AŶΛΟΣ, ᾶυλος  $\mapsto$  AŶΛΟΣ,  
μάινα  $\mapsto$  MAĬNA, κέικ  $\mapsto$  KEĬK, άυπνία  $\mapsto$  AŶΠΝΙΑ.

It does not work with Unicode literals:

άι, άυ, έι, ᾱι, ᾶυ, ῃι  $\mapsto$  AI, AY, EI, AI, AY, EI

or accent-macro + Unicode literals (yet?):

άι, άυ, έι, ᾱι, ᾶυ, ῃι  $\mapsto$  AI, AY, EI, AI, AY, EI

<sup>2</sup> See the `teubner` package or the file `usage.pdf` from the `babel-greek` package for a description.

<sup>3</sup>This might be fixed with `\accACUTE`, `\accGRAVE`, and `\accTILDE` definitions with corresponding @ucllist entries and composite definitions.

## 6 Character Tables

The following tables list the Greek Unicode characters. In the input, the LICR macro is followed by the corresponding literal Unicode character.

## 6.1 Greek and Coptic Unicode block

Seldom used characters that are not part of LGR encoded TeX fonts have no LICR definition:

[illegible][illegible]

The lowercase of  $\Sigma$  is  $\sigma$  (GREEK SMALL LETTER SIGMA).<sup>4</sup> The lowercase of  $\varsigma$  (GREEK LETTER STIGMA) is  $\varsigma$ .

## 6.2 Greek Extended Unicode block

There are no LICR definitions for spacing diacritical characters.

áà åä ãä ää åå ðð ðð ÅÅ ÅÅ ÅÅ ÅÅ ÅÅ ÅÅ ÅÅ  
 êé ëé ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì ìì  
 ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ ññ  
 ù ú û û û û û û û û û û û û û û û û û û

---

<sup>4</sup>With LICRs, it is `\textautosigma`.

[illegible]