

Greek and hyperref

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On 2010-11-05, Heiko Oberdiek wrote in comp.text.tex:

`\pdfstringdef` (converting TeX code to PDF strings for bookmarks) supports NFSS2 and needs active characters. Encoding stuff based on the internal font machinery of TeX (letters with catcode 11 or 12, ligatures) does not work, because the strings don't reach TeX's stomach.

The *greek-fontenc* package allows input of Greek characters in a way that “reaches TeX's stomach” and hence works in both, the main document as well as in PDF strings (e.g. bookmarks). Hyperref's “puenc.def” font encoding file defines LICR macros for monotonic Greek (Greek characters of the “Greek and Coptic” unicode block).

All utf8-encoded literal Unicode characters work in PDF strings. With *greek-fontenc* and *greek-inputenc*, this enables use of all Greek character in text and PDF strings.

With the *textalpha* package, Greek letters can be used without explicit change of the font encoding or Babel language (with some caveats, see *textalpha-doc.pdf*). For correct hyphenation and other fixes, mark Greek text parts with the Babel language `greek`. There should be no space around a language switch: `|λογος|`

1 Transcription: λογος, λογος

Text input using the Latin transliteration: In the PDF-bookmark are Latin letters instead of Greek ones.

2 Macros: λογος, λογος, λογος, λογος,

Babel-Greek or *textalpha* package with `\textalpha ...textomega` macros; *alphabet* package with `\alpha ...Omega` macros. With 8-bit TeX (pdflatex), literal Greek Unicode characters are converted to LICR Macros, too.

Works, if the `unicode` or `pdfencoding=auto` option is given to *hyperref*.¹

¹With the “xpdf” viewer, Greek letters are not shown in PDF bookmarks.

3 Kerning: AΥΛ AΥΛ AΥΛ

Kerning is impossible if the font encoding is switched for every single character. To fix this, wrap the Greek part in a command switching to a font encoding supporting Greek, either `\ensuregreek{...}` (with package *textalpha* or *Babel*) or `\foreignlanguage{greek}{...}` (with *Babel*).

4 Literal Unicode input

The following subsection headings contain all characters from the “Greek and Coptic” and “Greek Extended” Unicode Blocks that are supported by the LGR font encoding.

4.1 ' ; ' * 'A·E'H'T'O'Υ'ΩιΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝ

4.2 ΕΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩΪΫϺϻϼ

Greek and Coptic Unicode block: punctuation and uppercase letters

4.3 άέήίϋαβγδεζηθικλμν

4.4 ξοπρςστυφχψωïüόύώβϑφπϠϡϣϤϥϦϧϨ

Greek and Coptic Unicode block: lowercase letters

7 Conclusion

For Greek text parts in section headers use either literal Unicode characters³ or macros. For proper kerning und upcasing in the main document, set the language with `\foreignlanguage{greek}`.

³Pre-composed Unicode characters must be used for multi-accented letters or non-standard accents. Combining Unicode characters do not work with inputenc and 8-bit LaTeX – this is a general restriction.