

Isoplot/Ex 3.00

What is Isoplot/Ex?

Isoplot/Ex 3 is the most-recent, *Excel*-based version of *Isoplot*. *Isoplot/Ex 3* (supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0125705), provides tools for the manipulation and plotting of radiogenic-isotope data, especially U-Pb, ^{230}Th - ^{234}U - ^{238}U and Ar-Ar. To look at some of the things the program can do, download the User's Manual from <http://www.bgc.org/klprogrammenu.html>

What does Isoplot/Ex 3 Require?

You will need either Windows or Macintosh *Excel* – any version after and including *Excel 97*. Earlier versions *Excel* are not compatible. *The same program works on both Windows and Mac platforms*. Any Windows version will do for a PC, which should have at least 32 Mb (preferably 64 Mb) of memory. For the Macintosh, G3 or G4 systems are strongly advised, though PowerMacs with a 180 Mhz or faster CPU and at least 64 Mb of memory can be used at a significant penalty in speed. *With a Mac under OS-7 to OS-9, you'll need to be able to allocate a lot of memory (say 12 Mb with virtual memory, perhaps 16 Mb otherwise)*. *Mac Excel-X under OS X is compatible, but there is a large speed-penalty compared to older Excel version, and Isoplot's toolbar buttons may not be supported*.


Obtaining Isoplot/Ex 3

First, download the User's Manual and the *Testdata.xls* file from <http://www.bgc.org/klprogrammenu.html>. To obtain the *Isoplot3.xla* program itself (ZIP-compressed), contact Ken Ludwig directly via email, at kludwig@bgc.org. There is no charge – *but please read the manual regarding installation and use of the program*.

Installing Isoplot3.xla

1. Find and rename any earlier versions of *Isoplot.xla* (e.g. to *IsoplotOld.xla*).
2. Find the appropriate default folder for *Excel* add-ins. These are usually something like

<i>Excel XP:</i>	C:\Documents and Settings\[UserName]\Application Data\Microsoft\AddIns
<i>Excel 2000:</i>	C:\Program Files\Excel2000\Office\Library
<i>Excel 97:</i>	C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office\Library
<i>Excel 98:</i>	Hard Disk: Microsoft Office 2001: Office: Add-ins
<i>Excel 2001:</i>	Hard Disk: Microsoft Office 98: Office: Excel Add-ins
<i>Excel X:</i>	Hard Disk: Applications:Microsoft Office X: Office: Add-ins
3. Open *Excel* and select *Add-Ins* from the *Tools* menu. Click on *Select* or *Browse* to locate the *Isoplot3.xla* file you have downloaded (on a Mac, specify *List all types of files*). Select *Isoplot3.xla*.

4. *Isoplot* will now be loaded every time you start *Excel*, and can be invoked either from the *Isoplot* button , from the *Isoplot* drop-down menu or by pressing Ctrl-I.
5. You must have a default printer selected from *Excel* to run *Isoplot*. If you don't, you will get an error the first time you try to create a plot. A default printer will have been selected if you have ever printed something from *Excel* since its last installation, so after installing or re-installing *Excel*, print a page of anything before trying to run *Isoplot*.

Installation Problems

If you encounter error messages such as “Compile error in ...” or “Can’t find project or library” when you first install and invoke *Isoplot*, the cause is usually one of the below:

Incomplete installation of *Excel*

Try a complete re-install of *Excel* from the CD, *making sure to specify that all of the Visual Basic modules are installed.*

Insufficient memory

This is particularly common on pre- OS-X Macintosh computers, and can be solved by assigning more memory to *Excel* – at least 8 Mb, perhaps as much as 16 Mb (experiment). Make sure Virtual Memory is enabled. Though memory problems are rare on Windows machines, try closing *Excel*, close one or more other programs that are running, and try again. Having 64 or more Mb of RAM is advisable.

No default printer selected

See point 5 above.

Bugs, Comments, and Suggestions

Just send an Email to kludwig@bgc.org . You'll be helping more users than just yourself.