What is Isoplot 3

Isoplot 3 is an add-in program for Microsoft Excel versions 97 through 2004 that provides tools for the manipulation and plotting of radiogenic-isotope data, especially U-Pb, $^{230}$Th-$^{234}$U-$^{238}$U and Ar-Ar.


What does Isoplot 3 Require?

For Windows platforms, any English version of Excel from Excel97 to Excel2003 can be used, providing that all required Visual Basic (VBA) modules were included with the Excel installation.

There are no versions of Isoplot compatible any Macintosh Excel versions, including Excel 2011. At present, to run Isoplot on the Mac, you will need to run Isoplot 3 or Isoplot 4 using either Bootcamp or Fusion. Neither Parallels nor Crossover provide sufficient compatibility.

Installing Isoplot 3.75

For new installations:

1. Put the Isoplot 3.75 add-in in the folder of your choice.

2. With Excel still open and from Excel itself, load Isoplot using Isoplot’s Tools drop-down menu and selecting Add-Ins (you must have a workbooks open for Add-Ins to be enabled). If asked whether you want Isoplot copied to the Excel add-ins folder, decline.

3. Go to step 5 below.

For installations on a computer that has at any time had an older version of Isoplot installed:

1. Do a complete search of your computer’s hard disk(s) for all earlier versions of Isoplot (i.e. search for Isoplott*.xla). Delete, rename, or move to a newly-created folder all of these files.
2. Open Excel. If a previous version of Isoplot had been installed, Excel should complain that it can no longer find Isoplot.

4. Put the new Isoplot3.xla in the folder of your choice. With Excel still open and from Excel itself, load Isoplot3.xla (Tools/AddIns…). Isoplot should complain that it cannot find the Isoplot settings file; ignore the complaint, and Isoplot will create a new one using default values.

5. Open Excel and select Add-Ins from the Tools menu. Click on Select or Browse to locate the Isoplotxxx.xla file you have downloaded. Select Isoplot3.xla.

Isoplot will now be loaded every time you start Excel, and can be invoked from the Isoplot toolbar- button, from the Isoplot drop-down menu, or by pressing Ctrl-I.

You must have a default printer selected from Excel to run Isoplot. If a default printer has not been selected, you will get an error the first time you try to create a plot (a default printer exists as soon as anything has been printed from Excel since its last installation).

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.

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.