

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646

2004 – May 14

A. Administrative

1. Title:

Proposal to add Babylonian Pointing to ISO 10646

2. Requester's name:

Elaine Keown

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):

Individual contribution

4. Submission date:

May 14, 2004

5. Requester's reference (if applicable):

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal.

No

6b. More information will be provided later:

Yes. (see D. Proposal)

B. Technical - General

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

No

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:

Yes

Name of the existing block:

Hebrew

2. Number of characters in proposal:

63

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

Category B.2

4. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see Annex K in P&P document):

Level 2

Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Yes

If Yes, reference: _____

5. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes—names preliminary

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?

Yes

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

B. Technical - General

6. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

John Hudson Tiro Typeworks True Type

If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Font should be available in July 2004

7. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes, see Bibliography.

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

No

8. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

No

9. Additional Information:

Several characters resemble existing Unicode Hebrew or possibly Syriac diacritics, but they have different semantic meaning (represent different Hebrew vowels, etc.)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?

No

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

Yes. Proposer will be contacting Aramaists and other potential users. She has already been in contact with two largest computational Aramaic projects, the CAL (Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon), and a new targum project in Kampen (The Netherlands).

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

The user community includes computational Aramaists and Hebraists worldwide. The targums, the Aramaic translations of the Bible, are among the earliest and most important translations. Many of them use Babylonian pointing. In addition, Babylonian pointing was used in Yemen for all pointed writing until the late 1780s. The Yemenite manuscript tradition is among the most important.

Reference: _____

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

Widely used by scholars.

Reference:

C. Technical - Justification

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes

If YES, where? Reference: _____

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

That would be more desirable.

If YES, is a rationale provided?

Yes, see 3.

If YES, reference: _____

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Yes

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

If YES, reference: _____

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

Yes

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

Yes, see proposal.

If YES, reference: _____

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

Yes

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

Yes, see D. Proposal.

If YES, reference: _____

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite

Yes

If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

Yes, see B.9 If YES, reference: _____

Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

Yes

If YES, reference: _____

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No

If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary) _____

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No

D. Proposal

The Hebrew and Aramaic languages have been written with at least 5 sets of diacritics for vowels, punctuation, accents, text markup, etc.:

1. **Tiberian** - the vowels, accents, and diacritics (incompletely) in Unicode
2. **Babylonian** – this proposal
3. **Samaritan** – see proposal at <http://elainerk.win.aplus.net/samarpro.pdf>
4. **Palestinian** – another regional system of diacritics, not as widely known
5. **Arabic** - vowels, diacritics, etc. (used by Karaite scribes)

In addition, the Hebrew language has been written in at least two sets of ‘base characters,’ namely Hebrew and Arabic. The Aramaic language, apparently the most polyscriptal on earth, has been written in at least eight writing systems, including both Hebrew and Arabic characters, plus Syriac, Roman, Cyrillic, and all the Egyptian writing systems except for the most recent (Coptic).

A dotted Hebrew letter 'lamed' with a single dot above it, representing the Hiriq vowel.

HEBREW SIMPLE BABYLONIAN POINT HIRIQ

A dotted Hebrew letter 'lamed' with two dots above it, representing the Tsere vowel.

HEBREW SIMPLE BABYLONIAN POINT TSERE

A dotted Hebrew letter 'lamed' with two dots above it, one on each side of the letter, representing the Miftach Puma vowel.

HEBREW SIMPLE BABYLONIAN POINT MIFTACH PUMA

A dotted Hebrew letter 'lamed' with two dots above it, one on each side of the letter, representing the Miftach Puma vowel.

HEBREW SIMPLE BABYLONIAN POINT

A dotted Hebrew letter 'lamed' with two dots above it, one on each side of the letter, representing the Miftach Puma vowel.

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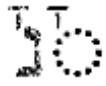
HEBREW COMPLEX BABYLONIAN POINT



HEBREW COMPLEX BABYLONIAN POINT



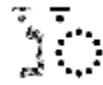
HEBREW COMPLEX BABYLONIAN POINT



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HEBREW COMPLEX BABYLONIAN POINT



HEBREW COMPLEX BABYLONIAN POINT



HEBREW BABYLONIAN LETTER SIN



HEBREW BABYLONIAN LETTER SHIN

INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARS CONSULTED :

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Dotan, Aron. "Masorah." *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Keter: Jerusalem, 1971, cols. 1444-1447.

Keown, E.R. "Hebrew alphabets, symbols and computer codes: history and preliminary tabulation." *Revue des Études Juives*, 161 (1-2), pp. 235-240. N.B. this article is an earlier and less interesting version of my research and has miscellaneous errors, e.g., I have never had an affiliation with UPenn.

Morag, Shelomo. *The vocalization systems of Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic; their phonetic and phonemic principles*. 's-Gravenhage: Mouton, 1962 [c1961].

Sa'adia ben Joseph and Shelomo Morag. *The book of Daniel : a Babylonian-Yemenite manuscript*. Jerusalem : Kiryat-Sepher, c1973.