

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Proposal to add INVERTED INTERROBANG to the UCS
Source: Michael Everson
Status: Individual Contribution
Date: 2005-04-01

The Universal Character Set encodes ! U+0021 EXCLAMATION MARK and ? U+003F QUESTION MARK, and it encodes ¡ U+00A1 INVERTED EXCLAMATION MARK and ¿ U+00BF INVERTED QUESTION MARK for use in Spanish, Asturian, and Galician. The Standard also encodes a fusion of the first two, ? U+203D INTERROBANG, a mark which was devised in 1962 by Martin K. Speckter for use in asking a question in an excited manner or expressing excitement or disbelief in the form of a question. The Standard does not, however, provide its inverted counterpart for use in Spanish, Asturian, and Galician.

The Wikipedia notes that some people have called this character the GNABORRETNÍ (*interrobang* spelled backwards). The French name of this character would be, I believe, POINT EXCLARROGATIF RENVERSEÉ. It should be noted that this proposal is not “inventing” the character; it was invented quite some time ago. “Gnaborretni” itself has a rather small Google presence, and many of the references there suggest that there are some implementations of it. The page css.sfu.ca/nsg/cssnetdocs/latex2e/dc/dcdoc/node10.html gives a short list of L^AT_EX characters, which turns up in a number of different sites. A full character set which contains both of the characters is listed at www.tug.org/tex-archive/fonts/lm/fonts/enc/dvips/lm/ts1-lm.enc and Unicode discussion list contributor Jörg Knappen’s page at www.tug.org/ftp/pub/pub/historic/fonts/dc-ec/ec-1.0/tc-chg.txt shows that on 1995-07-22, he “Added interrobang and gnaborretni” to the font. Another legacy character? ¿Otro carácter de herencia? Decimal positions for the characters in one font are given here:

223 recipe
224 interrobang
225 gnaborretni
226 dong sign

A page about punctuation marks in Spanish at jamillan.com/perdonimposible/bib_tx3.htm makes note of the character. Drew Mackie’s blog kindicarus222.blogspot.com/ for 2005-03-15 suggests that Martin Speckter is the one who gave the inverted character the name GNABORRETNÍ and intended it for use in Spanish. Whether Speckter did or not, it seems sensible to encode this character so that it and the INTERROBANG may be used in the typical paired fashion for punctuation of this sort as used in the Hispanic world.



INVERTED INTERROBANG

- Spanish, Asturian, Galician
- gnaborretni

A. Administrative

1. Title

Proposal to add INVERTED INTERROBANG to the UCS.

2. Requester's name

Michael Everson

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

Individual contribution.

4. Submission date

2005-04-01

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

Yes.

6b. More information will be provided later

No.

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

No.

Proposed name of script

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

Yes.

1b. Name of the existing block

Supplemental Punctuation.

2. Number of characters in proposal

1

3. Proposed category (see section II, Character Categories)

Category A.

4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see clause 14, ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)

Level 1.

4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Yes.

4c. If YES, reference

Spacing character.

5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000?

Yes.

5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

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

Michael Everson. TrueType.

6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson. Fontographer.

7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

No.

7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

No.

8. 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. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database [http://www.unicode.org/Public/ UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html](http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

Functions like INVERTED QUESTION MARK and INVERTED EXCLAMATION MARK.

C. Technical – Justification

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

No.

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

No.

2b. If YES, with whom?

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

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

No.

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

This would be a rarely-used character.

4b. Reference

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

There are TeX font implementations.

5b. If YES, where?

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document (a WG 2 standing document) must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

Yes.

6c. If YES, reference

Keep with other punctuation characters.

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

N/A.

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

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

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

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

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

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

No.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

12a. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

12b. If YES, reference

13a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

13b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

14a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

14b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?

14c. If YES, reference