Proposal to change some combining Arabic characters for Quranic representation in The Unicode Standard and ISO/IEC10646

King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex

P.O. Box 6262 - Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Tel.: 966-4-8615600 Fax: 966-4-8615495
it-dep@qurancomplex.gov.sa
http://www.qurancomplex.gov.sa/
2010-03-21

1. Introduction

The following three signs have been proposed in Unicode. However, their names and glyphs are not in concordance with their large current use.

These signs are the first three ones in [1]:

08F0..08F3	4	ARABIC OPEN FATHATAN ARABIC OPEN DAMMATAN ARABIC OPEN KASRATAN ARABIC SMALL HIGH WAW (Arabic Extended-A block: 08A0..08FF)	2009-Nov-05 Accepted	N/A

"Entries not yet in active technical ballot (N/A, Stages 1 - 3 in the ISO Status fields) have a light yellow background."[1]

2. Name

The names in [1] [2] are:
- Arabic Open Fathatan
- Arabic Open Dammatan
- Arabic Open Kasratan

However, the Arabic terminology used for this purpose is: "تتابع الحركتين". Its English translation would be: "Two successive vowels".

Consequently, we propose to change the term "Open" by "Successive"; so, we will obtain respectively these names:

- Arabic Successive Fathatan
- Arabic Successive Dammatan
- Arabic Successive Kasratan

3. Shape

The shapes in [2] are:

ٰ	U+08F0	ARABIC OPEN FATHATAN
ٱ	U+08F1	ARABIC OPEN DAMMATAN
ٲ	U+08F2	ARABIC OPEN KASRATAN

Effectively, these shapes are in use in many Mushaf in world. However, another shape of Successive Fathatan is also in use. See some Quranic Verse in Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 the same (Sourat Al-Hijr : Ayat 14), Figure 8 (Surat An-Nasr : Ayat 2), and Figure 9 (Sourat Al-Inshiqaaq : Ayat 8).
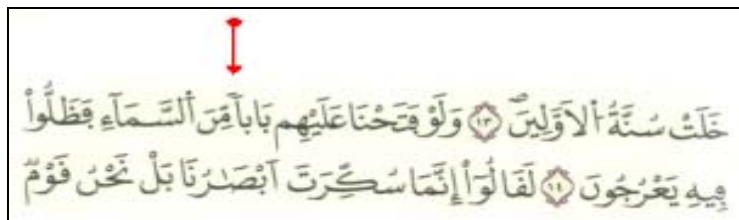

Figure 1. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([3, pp. 230])
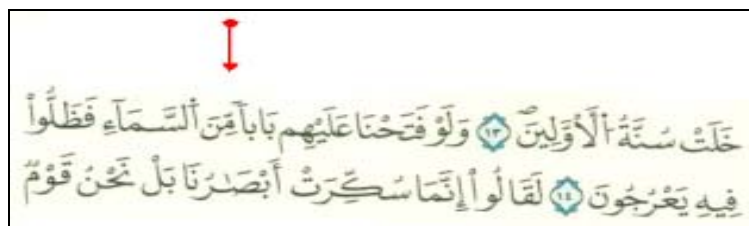

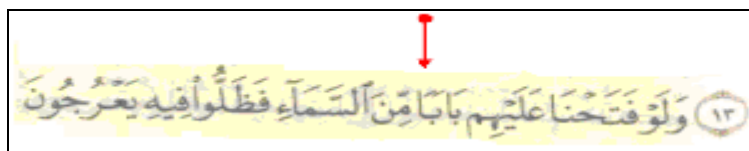Figure 2. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([4, pp. 230])

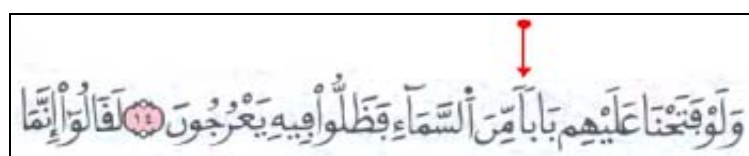Figure 3. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([5, pp. 262])

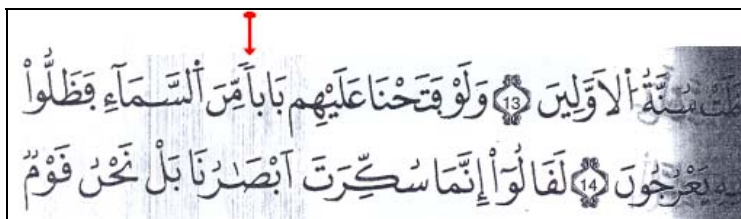Figure 4. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([6, pp. 206])

Figure 5. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([7, pp. 230])
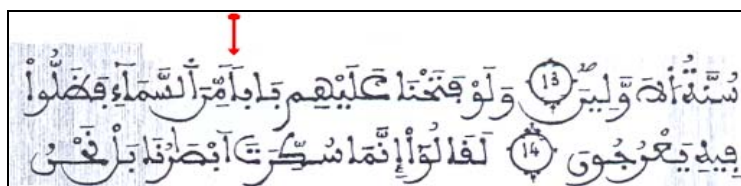
Figure 6. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([8, pp. 265])

Figure 7. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([9, pp. 277])
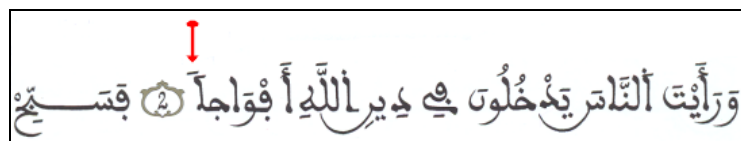
Figure 8. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([10, pp.24])
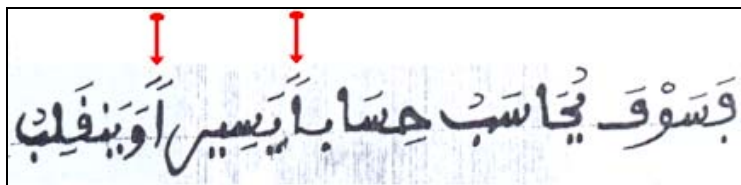
Figure 9. Arabic Successive Fathatan ([11, pp.52])

Increasingly, in Arabic calligraphy, Successive Fathatan and Successive Kasratan are not the same glyphs. Indeed, when we would like to write a Successive Fathatan, we write a first Fatha, then, we pose the second one *above* it with gap to left, in concordance with the direction of Arabic writing which runs from right to left. However, when we would like to write a Successive Kasratan, we write a first Kasra, then, we pose the second one *below* it with gap to left, in concordance with the direction of Arabic writing.

So, we propose to adopt the following shape for Successive Fathatan:

ÖÖ Arabic Successive Fathatan	
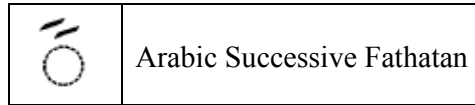
4. King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex

The King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex is the world's largest establishment dedicated to the Glorious Quran and its sciences, since its inauguration in 1984.
It aims at fulfilling the following:

- Printing the Glorious Quran in the riwayahs well – known in the Muslim world.
- Recording the Glorious Quran in the riwayahs well – known in the Muslim world.
- Explicating the Glorious Quran and translating its meanings into different languages.
- Furthering Quran sciences and research on the Prophet's Sunnah and Biography.
- Making the Complex's publication available on the Internet.

The average annual production of the Complex is ten million copies, the distribution is the same. It has produced more than ninety editions and 165 million copies, and has so far distributed more than 142 million copies to Muslims all over world continents. The Complex has published 55 different translations of the Glorious Quran in 40 languages.
For further information, please visit the Complex website: http://www.qurancomplex.gov.sa/

5. Reference

[1] The Unicode Standard, http://unicode.org/alloc/Pipeline.html.
[2] Roozbeh Pournader, Proposal to encode four combining Arabic characters for Koranic use, L2/09-419, http://www.evertype.com/standards/iso10646/pdf/09419-encode-koranic.pdf.
[3] Mushaf Almadinah Anabawiyat, Warsh Riwayah, King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex, 2005, http://www.qurancomplex.gov.sa/.
[4] Mushaf Almadinah Anabawiyat, Qaloon Riwayah, King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex, http://www.qurancomplex.gov.sa/.
[5] Mushaf Kuwait.
[6] Mushaf Warsh, Dar AlMushaf, Beirut.
[7] Mushaf Warsh, Dar Ataqwa, Egypt.
[8] Mushaf Warsh, Adar Alealamia lilkitab, Casablanca, 1995.
[9] Mushaf AlHassany, Fdalat Printer, Mohamadia, 2009.
[10] Juza Eamma, Adar Alealamia lilkitab, Casablanca, 2009.
[11] Mushaf Almohammady min alwah alkatatib almaghribia, ADEVA Printer, Austria, 2007, ISBN 9954-0-4123-0-X.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1].
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html **for guidelines and details before filling this form.**
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html**.**
See also http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest *Roadmaps*.**

A. Administrative

1. **Title:** *Proposal to change some combining Arabic character for Quranic representation*
2. Requester's name: *King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Individual contribution*
4. Submission date: *2010-03-21*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable): */*
6. Choose one of the following:
    This is a complete proposal: *Yes*
    (or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
    a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):
        Proposed name of script:
    b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *Yes*
        Name of the existing block: *Arabic Extended-A*
2. Number of characters in proposal: *3*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary	B.1-Specialized (small collection)	× B.2-Specialized (large collection)
C-Major extinct	D-Attested extinct	E-Minor extinct
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic		G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? *Yes*
    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*
5. Fonts related:
    a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?
    King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex
    b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
    King Fahd Glorious Quran Printing Complex
    http://fonts.qurancomplex.gov.sa/unicode/signs.ttf
    it-dep@qurancomplex.gov.sa
6. References:
    a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? *Yes (See above)*
    b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
    of proposed characters attached? *Yes (See above)*
    http://fonts.qurancomplex.gov.sa/unicode/QuranMarkChange.pdf
7. 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)? *Yes*

8. Additional Information:
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 http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

---

[1] Form number: N3702-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11)

C. Technical - Justification

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

If YES explain

Roozbeh Pournader, Proposal to encode four combining Arabic characters for Koranic use, L2/09-419, http://www.evertype.com/standards/iso10646/pdf/09419-encode-koranic.pdf

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.)?

      If YES, with whom?

      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?   *Yes*

    Reference: *All Muslims (about 1.5 milliard in the Word) reciting correctly the Holy Quran*

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

    Reference: *See above*

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

    If YES, where? Reference: *See above*

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

        If YES, is a rationale provided?

          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?   *No*

      If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

      If YES, reference:

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?   *No*

      If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

      If YES, reference:

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?   *Yes combining*

    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?   *Yes*

      If YES, reference: *See above*

    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?   *No*

      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*

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

      If YES, reference: