

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 encode some additional Comic Style Symbols in the UCS

Source: Karl Pentzlin

Status: Individual Contribution

Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC

Date: 2010-10-20

1. Introduction

In L2/10-388, the author (A. E. Rowe) proposes a spiral, based on its use in symbol sequences to indicate expletives within plain text which are not intended to be given literally.

In that paper, some correspondence is cited indicating that such symbols may be regarded as valid candidates for Unicode encoding.

That proposal gave the inspiration to examine such symbol sequences, which occur typically in comics.

In fact (although such symbol sequences usually are drawn, giving the artist the possibility to invent any kind of symbols), the majority of these symbols apply to a very limited set of abstract symbol concepts (showing e.g. bombs, bold exclamation marks, and, indeed, spirals).

Also, a considerable part of these abstract symbols is already encoded, the larger part as (or together with) the emoji symbols introduced in the recent version 6.0 of Unicode.

Here, the substantial rest of these abstract symbols is proposed.

Fig. 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11 in fact show the use of such symbols within true plain text (i.e. interspersed with common text consisting of Latin letters).

2. Encoding Considerations

The spiral itself may have other uses as in comics; thus it is given as “dingbat”, distinguishing the right-facing and the left-facing form in analogy to U+26E5/26E6 or (the recently proposed) U+1F53E/1F53F.

The other characters are introduced as “comic style symbols”, in analogy to the already encoded ones at U+1F4A0...U+1F4AD.



The encoding of “amorphous” symbols like U+1F56B...1F56F and U+1F573, as well as having the term “SYMBOL” in their names, has a precedence e.g. by having encoded 1F4A2 ANGER SYMBOL or 1F4A5 COLLISION SYMBOL.

3. Proposed Characters













Note: for this version, no font was made. The character samples are mostly copied directly from the figures. Especially for U+1F570...1F575, a more pictorial appearance in line with other encoded symbols in the Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictograph block seems appropriate.

Block: Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs

Dingbats

-  U+1F568 RIGHT-FACING SPIRAL
→ 1F300 cyclone
→ 1F53E right-facing Armenian eternity symbol (*recently proposed*)
-  U+1F569 LEFT-FACING SPIRAL
→ 169B9 Bamum letter phase-E ngkaami

Comic style symbols

-  U+1F56A ANGULAR SPIRAL
· may be right-facing or left-facing
-  U+1F56B TEXT NOT TO BE READABLE SYMBOL
· used for indicating expletives
-  U+1F56C UTTERANCE NOT TO BE UNDERSTOOD SYMBOL
· used for indicating expletives
· glyph resembles a non-existing Chinese character
· this design descends from a Western point of view
-  U+1F56D SPLASH SYMBOL
-  U+1F56E BLACK SPLASH SYMBOL
-  U+1F56F BLACK BLOT SYMBOL
= dark feeling or wrath symbol
-  U+1F570 CRANIUM
= skull without lower jaw
→ 2620 skull and crossbones
→ 1F480 skull
-  U+1F571 BONE
-  U+1F572 DAGGER PICTOGRAPH
→ 2020 dagger
-  U+1F573 EXPLOSION SYMBOL
· glyph shows a dot or small circle in the center
-  U+1F574 WHITE CLOUD LIGHTNING
→ 26C8 thunder cloud and rain
-  U+1F575 BLACK CLOUD LIGHTNING

Properties:

1F568;RIGHT-FACING SPIRAL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F569;LEFT-FACING SPIRAL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F56A;ANGULAR SPIRAL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F56B;TEXT NOT TO BE READABLE SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F56C;UTTERANCE NOT TO BE UNDERSTOOD SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F56D;SPLASH SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F56E;BLACK SPLASH SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F56F;BLACK BLOT SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F570;CRANIUM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F571;BONE;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F572;DAGGER PICTOGRAPH;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F573;EXPLOSION SYMBOL;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F574;WHITE CLOUD LIGHTNING;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1F575;BLACK CLOUD LIGHTNING;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;

Confusability issues:

None of the proposed symbols are intended to be usable in identifiers or IDNs (like URLs or e-mail addresses). Thus, no confusability issues raise in this area.

4. References

All comics referenced here are German editions.

The scans are taken from a private collection, which has not preserved the title pages (showing edition place and year) in all cases.

- [1] Asterix vol. 15 – Streit um Asterix (Berlin, *no year*)
- [2] Asterix vol. 23, Bavarian dialect edition – Asterix drendd im Oriendd (Stuttgart 1998)
- [3] <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/kultur/peanuts-dilbert-co-ich-halte-es-nicht-aus-1.1010469-5>
(retrieved 2010-10-16)
- [4] Die Schlümpfe vol. 5 – Die Schlümpfe und der Krakakas (Hamburg 1997)
- [5] Die Schlümpfe vol. 10 – Die Schlumpfsuppe (Hamburg, *no year*)
- [6] Donald Duck – Die drei Caballeros (Walt Disney; *no vol. no., no place, no year*)
- [7] Lucky Luke vol. 22 – Calamity Jane (Stuttgart, *no year*)
- [8] Lucky Luke vol. 39 – Kalifornien oder Tod (Stuttgart, *no year*)
- [9] Spirou & Fantasio vol. 28 – Die Eiszeitmaschine (Hamburg 1990)
- [10] Tim & Struppi (i.e. Les aventures de Tintin) vol. 15 – Im Reiche des schwarzen Goldes
(*no place, no year*)
- [11] Werner – Na also (Kiel 1996, ISBN 3-928950-15-0)

5. Examples and Figures

Fig. 1: [1], p.45: showing U+1F573, U+1F568, U+1F570, U+1F56A.



Fig. 2: [2], p.41: showing U+1F570, U+1F56C, U+1F56A, U+1F569.



Fig. 3: [3]: showing U+1F568, (U+2606), (U+2020), U+1F56B.



Fig. 4: [4], p.21, 22, 29: showing U+1F568, U+1F573, U+1F56C, U+1F56B, U+1F572.



Fig. 5: [5], p.16: showing U+1F570, 1F573, U+1F568, U+1F56C.



Fig. 6: [6], p.14: showing U+1F568.

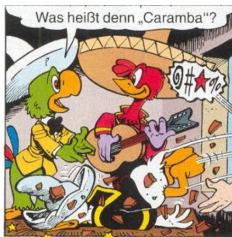


Fig. 7: [7], p.6: showing several of the proposed symbols. Also, this example shows the character-like appliance of the symbols, by repeating them in a sequence of pictures.



Fig. 8: [8], cover, p.11, p. 12, p. 16: showing several of the proposed symbols.



Fig. 9: [9], p.14: showing U+1F568, U+1F56D, U+1656C, U+1F575;
p.19: showing 1F570, 1F568, 1F56D, 1F56F;
p. 20: showing U+1F575, U+1F56D, U+1F56C.



Fig. 10: [10], p.12: showing U+1F568 (lower right) besides some other symbols.



Fig. 11: [11], p.58: showing U+1F570, U+1F569.



**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

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 encode some additional Comic Style Symbols in the UCS

2. Requester's name: Karl Pentzlin

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

4. Submission date: 2010-10-20

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): No
Proposed name of script: _____

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: Yes
Name of the existing block: Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs

2. Number of characters in proposal: _____

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?

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):

6. References:

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

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

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)? No

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? If YES explain	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.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	n/a <i>The proposer himself is a member of the user community</i>
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	Everybody <i>See text</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Common <i>See text</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes <i>See text</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	No
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? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified? If YES, reference:	No