Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization

Background

The following definition in Section 4 of UAX #11 (*East Asian Width*)[*] explicitly assigns to U+20A9 WON SIGN the *East Asian Halfwidth* (H) property at the very end:

> *ED3. East Asian Halfwidth (H)*: All characters that are explicitly defined as Halfwidth in the Unicode Standard by having a compatibility decomposition of type <narrow> to characters elsewhere in the Unicode Standard that are implicitly wide but unmarked, plus the won sign.

The lack of explanatory text associated with the explicit assignment of the *East Asian Halfwidth* (H) property to U+20A9 has a history of confusing font developers, particularly those who develop Korean fonts.

Proposal

In lieu of changing the East Asian Width property of U+20A9, whose assignment reflects legacy usage, I request that a Proposed Update for UAX #11 include the following paragraph after definition ED3 in Section 4, or as a second paragraph of Section 6:

> Unlike U+00A5 ¥ YEN SIGN, U+20A9 ₩ WON SIGN has an explicit East Asian Width property of *East Asian Halfwidth* (H). What makes U+00A5 different is that this character was included in a very common—and non–East Asian—character set standard, specifically ISO/IEC 8859-1, and encoded at 0xA5. Almost all legacy Latin fonts supported ISO/IEC 8859-1 in its entirety, using variable-width glyphs. By contrast, most legacy font implementations used an explicit half-width glyph for the won sign, whose source is the standard KS X 1003, and encoded at 0x5C. The assignment of the *East Asian Halfwidth* (H) property does not preclude font developers from using a variable-width glyph for U+20A9, and doing so has become a common practice.

Existing East Asian Width properties have been quite stable, and other specifications are building on them, meaning that any changes to existing properties has the potential to cause destabilization.

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[*] http://unicode.org/reports/tr11/