

## Request to change the Unicode chart font for Tamil

Shriramana Sharma, jamadagni-at-gmail-dot-com, India

2013-Aug-09

I had requested in my Tamil fractions and symbols proposal L2/12-231 §9.5 (p 62) and again in the revised document N4430 L2/13-047 p 2 that the Lohit Tamil font which is freely publicly available under the Open Font Licence may be used for the official code charts of the Tamil and Tamil Supplement blocks.

This font is of good aesthetic quality and is in fact more pleasing to the native eye than the current chart font. The fact that this is seen as the default screen font for Tamil in the most popular Linux distributions like Ubuntu and Fedora is also evidence of its good quality. Further, the glyphs I designed for the proposed Tamil fractions and symbols characters are based on the existing Tamil glyphs in it. Since these are a significant (55/75 = 73%) increase to the number of Tamil characters in Unicode, it is not trivial to develop glyphs for these new characters based on the existing Tamil chart font.

Hence all around it would be best if Lohit Tamil is used for the Tamil code chart.

\*

While the official homepage of this font is <https://fedorahosted.org/lohit/>, the download available there does not yet contain these glyphs as they are not encoded as yet. A derivative version available from <http://pravins.fedorapeople.org/tamil-fraction-symbol-proposal-fonts/> (kindly uploaded by Pravin Satpute of Fedora/RedHat) contains my new glyphs. These will be added to the upstream font upon final encoding and publication of these characters. See [https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show\\_bug.cgi?id=839303](https://bugzilla.redhat.com/show_bug.cgi?id=839303).

\*

For the convenience of the committees I here present a visual comparison of the current chart font vs Lohit Tamil. I have also included (highlighted in yellow) the newly proposed Tamil fractions and symbols as per N4430 L2/13-047.

## Current Chart

	0B8	0B9	0BA	0BB	0BC	0BD	0BE	0BF
0		ஐ 0B86		ர 0B88	ீ 0B8C	ஔ 0B8D		ய 0B90
1				ற 0B81	ு 0B81			ள 0B91
2	ஃ 0B82	ஔ 0B82		ல 0B82	ூ 0B82			சு 0B92
3	ஃ 0B83	ஔ 0B83	ண 0BA3	ள 0B83				உ 0B93
4		ஔ 0B84	த 0BA4	ழ 0B84				ழீ 0B94
5	அ 0B85	க 0B85		வ 0B85				வா 0B95
6	ஆ 0B86			ஸ 0B86	ெ 0B86		ஓ 0B86	யூ 0B96
7	இ 0B87			ஷ 0B87	ே 0B87	ள 0B87	க 0B87	ஔ 0B97
8	ஈ 0B88		ந 0BA8	ஸ 0B88	ை 0B88		உ 0B88	ஔ 0B98
9	உ 0B89	ங 0B89	ன 0BA9	ஹ 0B89			ந 0B89	நீ 0B99
A	ஊ 0BA8	ச 0B8A	ப 0BA8		ொ 0B8A		சு 0B8A	நீ 0B9A
B					ோ 0B8B		ரு 0B8B	
C		ஐ 0B8C			ொ 0B8C		சு 0B8C	
D					ஃ 0B8D		எ 0B8D	
E	எ 0B8E	ஞ 0B8E	ம 0BAE	ா 0B8E			அ 0B8E	
F	ஏ 0B8F	ல 0B8F	ய 0BAF	ரி 0B8F			க 0B8F	

## Proposed Charts

	0B8	0B9	0BA	0BB	0BC	0BD	0BE	0BF
0		ஐ		ர	ஃ	ஔ		ய
1				ற	ஃ			ள
2		ஓ		ல	ஃ			த
3	ஃ	ஓ	ண	ள				உ
4		ஓள	த	ழ				ம்
5	அ	க		வ				ஶ
6	ஆ			ஸ	ெ		ஃ	பு
7	இ			ஷ	ே	ள	க	ஶ
8	ஈ		ந	ஸ	ை		உ	ஷ
9	உ	ங	ன	ஹ			ந	ஶ
A	ஊ	ச	ப		ொ		ச	நீ
B					ோ		ஶ	ஶ
C		ஐ			ெள		கூ	ஶ
D					ஃ		எ	ஶ
E	எ	ஶ	ம	ா			அ	ஶ
F	ஏ	ட	ய	ி		ஶ	கூ	ஶ

## Tamil Supplement

	11FC	11FD	11FE	11FF
0	ஹ	ஈ	ஔ	
1	ஊ	஋	஌	
2	ஒ	ஓ	ஔ	
3	ஐ	஑	ஒ	
4	ஓ	ஔ	க	
5	஖	஗	஘	
6	ங	ஐ	஑	
7	ஒ	ஓ	ஔ	
8	க	஖	஗	
9	஘	ங	ஐ	
A	஑	ஒ	ஓ	
B	ஔ	க	஖	
C	஗	஘	ங	
D	ஐ	஑	ஒ	
E	ஓ	ஔ	க	
F	஖	஗	஘	ங