

# Preliminary proposal to encode the Pungchen script in Unicode

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## 1 Introduction

This document provides a draft code chart and a few specimens of the Pungchen script. A formal proposal is forthcoming. Very little information is available on Pungchen. The material presented here is drawn from blogs on Zhang Zhung scripts published by Andrew West:

- Zhang Zhung Scripts  
<http://babelstone.blogspot.com/2007/05/zhang-zhung-scripts.html>
- Zhang Zhung Script Tables  
<http://www.babelstone.co.uk/ZhangZhung/Table1.html>

## 2 Background

The ལྷུངས་ཆེན་ *sPungs-chen* or ‘Greater sPungs script’ is associated with the Bön religious tradition and was used for writing texts in the Zhang Zhung language. A closely related script is the ལྷུངས་ཆུང་ *sPungs-chung* or ‘Lesser sPungs script’ (document forthcoming). Both of these scripts are alphasyllabic and have structures similar to Lantsha / Ranjana. Character glyphs resemble those of Lantsha, and the repertoire and order align with Tibetan. Specimens of the script are provided in the following scholarly works:

- Chaphur Namkha Gyaltzen. 1994. ཡིག་གཟུགས་དུ་མའི་མ་བྱི་གཞོན་ནུ་མངོས་པའི་ལང་ཚོ [Yig gzugs du ma'i ma phyi gzhon nu mdzes pa'i lang tsho], pp. 3–5. Mutri Tsedpo ZhangBod Research Institute (Bon Monastery, Ochghat).
- Lokesh Chandra. 1982. *Indian scripts in Tibet*. Reproduced by Lokesh Chandra from the collection of Prof. Raghuvira, pp. 59–60. New Delhi: Sharada Rani.

The *sPungs-chen* script will be referred to tentatively as ‘Pungchen’. This normalization follows the convention used for naming the ‘Marchen’ block (U+11C70..11CBF), which contains characters of another Zhang Zhung script called ལྷུངས་ཆེན་ *sMar-chen*.

	1E50	1E51	1E52
0	ཀ 1E500	ཁ 1E510	ི 1E520
1	ཀྲ 1E501	ཁྲ 1E511	ིྲ 1E521
2	ཀླ 1E502	ཁླ 1E512	ིླ 1E522
3	ཀྴ 1E503	ཁྴ 1E513	ིྴ 1E523
4	ཀྵ 1E504	ཁྵ 1E514	ིྵ 1E524
5	ཀྶ 1E505	ཁྶ 1E515	ིྶ 1E525
6	ཀྷ 1E506	ཁྷ 1E516	ིྷ 1E526
7	ཀྸ 1E507	ཁྸ 1E517	
8	ཀྐྵ 1E508	ཁྐྵ 1E518	
9	ཀྺ 1E509	ཁྺ 1E519	
A	ཀྻ 1E50A	ཁྻ 1E51A	
B	ཀྼ 1E50B	ཁྼ 1E51B	
C	ཀ྽ 1E50C	ཁ྽ 1E51C	
D	ཀ྾ 1E50D	ཁ྾ 1E51D	
E	ཀ྿ 1E50E	ཁ྿ 1E51E	
F	ཀྺ 1E50F	ཁྺ 1E51F	

## Consonants

1E500	ཀ	PUNGCHEN LETTER KA
1E501	ཀྲ	PUNGCHEN LETTER KHA
1E502	ཀླ	PUNGCHEN LETTER GA
1E503	ཀྴ	PUNGCHEN LETTER NGA
1E504	ཀྵ	PUNGCHEN LETTER CA
1E505	ཀྶ	PUNGCHEN LETTER CHA
1E506	ཀྷ	PUNGCHEN LETTER JA
1E507	ཀྸ	PUNGCHEN LETTER NYA
1E508	ཀྐྵ	PUNGCHEN LETTER TA
1E509	ཀྺ	PUNGCHEN LETTER THA
1E50A	ཀྻ	PUNGCHEN LETTER DA
1E50B	ཀྼ	PUNGCHEN LETTER NA
1E50C	ཀ྽	PUNGCHEN LETTER PA
1E50D	ཀ྾	PUNGCHEN LETTER PHA
1E50E	ཀ྿	PUNGCHEN LETTER BA
1E50F	ཀྺ	PUNGCHEN LETTER MA
1E510	ཁ	PUNGCHEN LETTER TSA
1E511	ཁྲ	PUNGCHEN LETTER TSHA
1E512	ཁླ	PUNGCHEN LETTER DZA
1E513	ཁྴ	PUNGCHEN LETTER WA
1E514	ཁྵ	PUNGCHEN LETTER ZHA
1E515	ཁྶ	PUNGCHEN LETTER ZA
1E516	ཁྷ	PUNGCHEN LETTER -A
1E517	ཁྸ	PUNGCHEN LETTER YA
1E518	ཁྐྵ	PUNGCHEN LETTER RA
1E519	ཁྺ	PUNGCHEN LETTER LA
1E51A	ཁྻ	PUNGCHEN LETTER SHA
1E51B	ཁྼ	PUNGCHEN LETTER SA
1E51C	ཁ྽	PUNGCHEN LETTER HA

## Vowel letter

1E51D ཀ྿ ཀྺ PUNGCHEN LETTER A

## Vowel signs

1E51E	ི	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN I
1E51F	ིྲ	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN U
1E520	ིླ	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN E
1E521	ིྴ	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN O

## Various signs

1E522	ོ	PUNGCHEN SIGN CANDRABINDU → 0F83 ོ tibetan sign sna ldan
1E523	ོ	PUNGCHEN SIGN ANUSVARA → 0F7E ོ tibetan sign rjes su nga ro

## Head mark

1E524 ཀ྿ ཀྺ PUNGCHEN HEAD MARK  
→ 0FD3 ཀ྿ ཀྺ tibetan mark initial brda rnying  
yig mgo mdun ma

## Punctuation

1E525 ཀ྿ PUNGCHEN MARK SHAD  
→ 0F0D ཀ྿ tibetan mark shad

## Subjoiner

1E526 ཀ྿ PUNGCHEN SUBJOINER  
• used for producing conjuncts

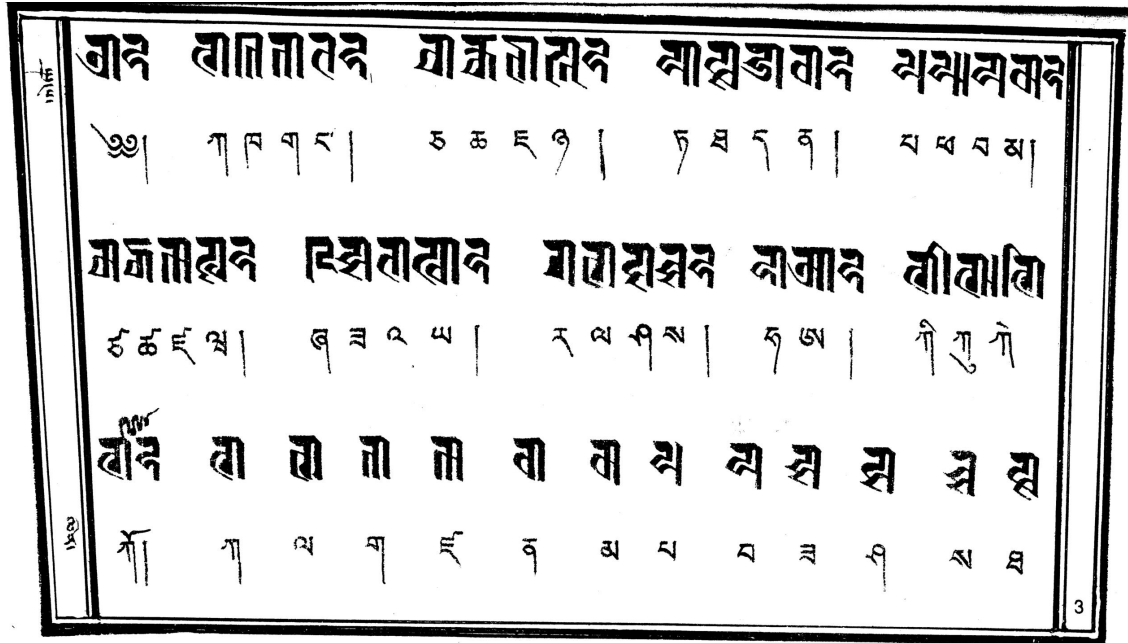


Figure 1: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Chaphur 1994: 3).



Figure 2: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Chaphur 1994: 4).

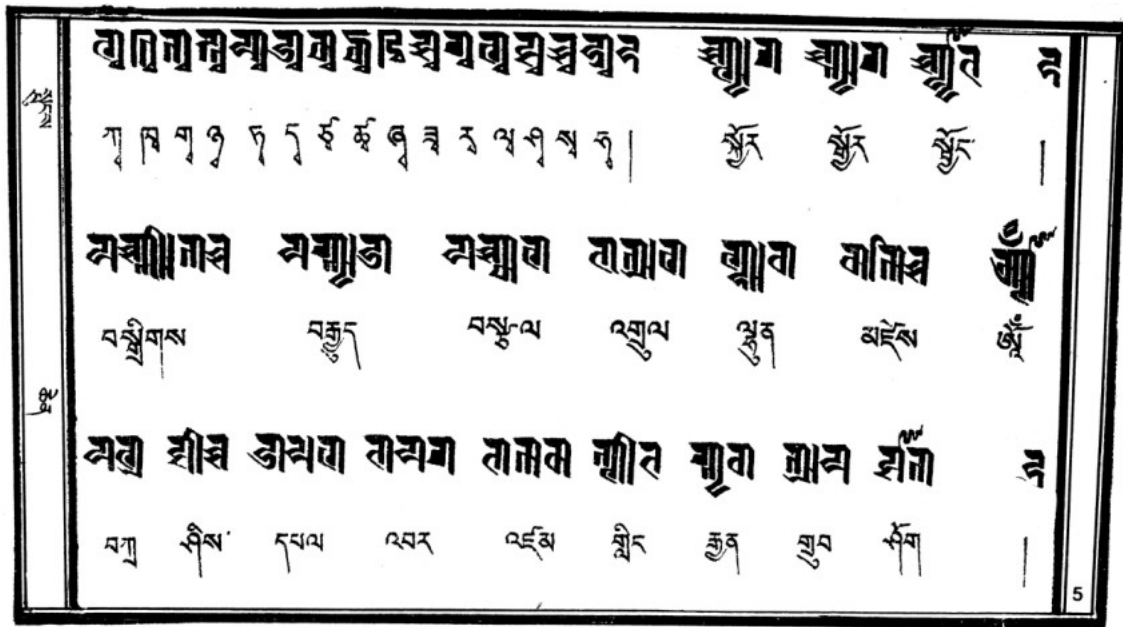


Figure 3: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Chaphur 1994: 5).

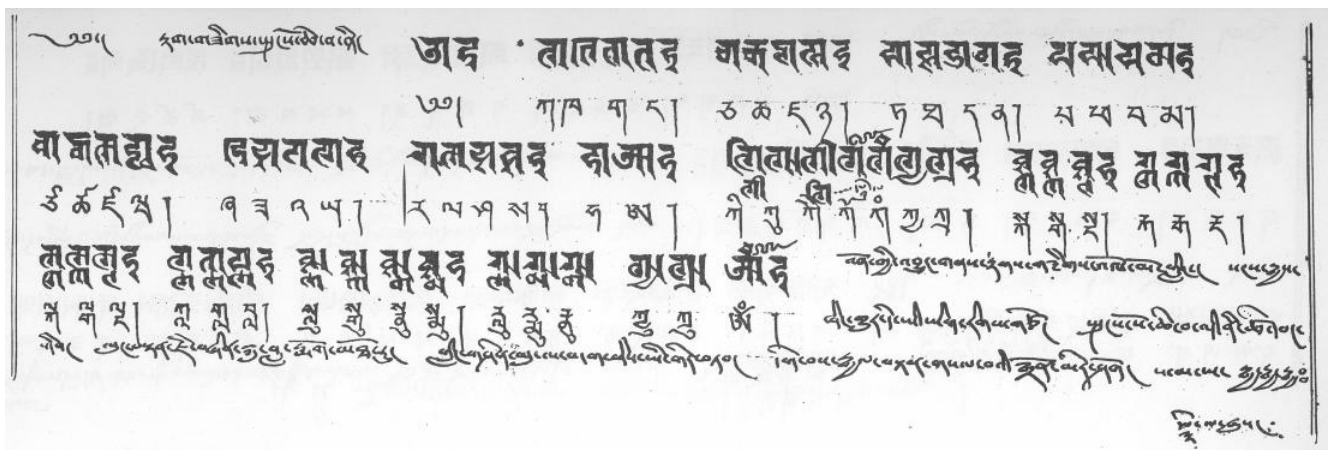


Figure 4: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Lokesh Chandra 1982: 59).