Preliminary proposal to encode the Pungchen script in Unicode

Anshuman Pandey
pandey@umich.edu

May 25, 2017

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 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 sMar-chen.

The 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 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:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th>Vowel letter</th>
<th>Vowel signs</th>
<th>Various signs</th>
<th>Head mark</th>
<th>Punctuation</th>
<th>Subjoiner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1E500 𞔀</td>
<td>1E51D 𞔝 PUNGCHEN LETTER A</td>
<td>1E51E 𞔞 PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN I</td>
<td>1E522 𞔜 PUNGCHEN SIGN CANDRABINDU</td>
<td>1E524 𞔤 PUNGCHEN HEAD MARK</td>
<td>1E525 𞔥 PUNGCHEN MARK SHAD</td>
<td>1E526 𞔦 PUNGCHEN SUBJOINER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E501 𞔁</td>
<td></td>
<td>1E51F 𞔟 PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN U</td>
<td>1E523 𞔣 PUNGCHEN SIGN ANUSVARA</td>
<td></td>
<td>1E526 𞔦 PUNGCHEN SUBJOINER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E502 𞔂</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1E524 𞔤 PUNGCHEN HEAD MARK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E503 𞔃</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1E526 𞔦 PUNGCHEN SUBJOINER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E504 𞔄</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E505 𞔅</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E506 𞔆</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E507 𞔇</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E508 𞔈</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E509 𞔉</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E50A 𞔊</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E50B 𞔋</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E50C 𞔌</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E50D 𞔍</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E50E 𞔎</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E50F 𞔏</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E510 𞔐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E511 𞔑</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E512 𞔒</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E513 𞔓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E514 𞔔</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E515 𞔕</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E516 𞔖</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E517 𞔗</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E518 𞔘</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E519 𞔙</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E51A 𞔚</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E51B 𞔛</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E51C 𞔜</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Printed using UniBook™ (http://www.unicode.org/unibook/)
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).