L2/18-106

Current problems in the Mongolian encoding 蒙古文编码的现有问题

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This document is focused on the *modern Hudum* (अны), ie, the modern Mongolian writing system, as opposed to other extensions or writing systems that also use the Mongolian script (Hudum Ali Gali, historical Hudum, Todo, Manchu, Manchu Ali Gali, historical Manchu, Sibe, etc).

本文档关注"现代胡都木文"(今晚秋 或 xyдам),即现代蒙古语书写系统。与 之相对的是其他也使用蒙古文的扩展及 书写系统(胡都木阿礼嘎礼、历史胡都木 文、托忒文、满文、满文阿礼嘎礼、历史 满文、锡伯文等)。

1 Visual confusables 视觉混淆

In order to differentiate underlying phonetic letter sequences of words that are visually the same, the Mongolian encoding was designed to utilize visually confusable variants of characters that are automatically selected or manually requested, with complicated contextual rules.

- 1. Eg, five different characters can be used to encode the structure θ (ie, θ 0.2.fina, θ U.2.fina, θ OE.2.fina, θ UE.2.fina, and θ WA.2.fina).
- **2.** The Mongolian encoding assumes that underlying phonetic letters of a grapheme sequence can be identified

为了区分同形单词的底层语音字母序列,蒙古文编码在设计上就利用视觉混淆的字符变体,并通过复杂的上下文规则来自动选择或手动请求这些变体。

- 例如,有5个字符可用于编码 e 这个结构(即 e 0.2.fina、e U.2.fina、e 0E.2.fina、e UE.2.fina、e WA.2.fina)。
- 蒙古文编码认定,底层语音字母可以有 意识地从大量的可能性中识别出来,并

consciously from a wide range of possibilities and will be valuable for applications.

- 3. In addition to its original intention of allowing phonetically differentiating words, the great flexibility also allows intended alternative character sequences of a single word according to different phonetic letter identifications.
- 4. It was also underestimated that how unintended mistakes would hide in confusables and make the phonetic information in text unreliable from the moment text is input.
- 5. Significant security issues arise when the large number of possible character sequences for a single grapheme sequence can be exploited maliciously.
- 6. Many confusables can not be even easily detected manually by users (eg, % U+1823 0 and % U+1824 U).

且对具体应用会有价值。

- 在允许区分单词语音的原本意图之外, 巨大的灵活性还允许根据不同的语音 字母识别为一个单词故意提供不同的 字符序列。
- 无意的错误会隐藏在混淆结构里使文本中的语音信息从输入的那一刻起就不可靠,这一问题被低估了。
- 单个字位序列有大量可能的字符序列 可受到恶意利用是显著的安全问题。
- 许多混淆结构甚至无法由用户简单地 手动检测(比如 1e U+1823 0 和 1e U+1824 U)。

1.1 Controversial phonetic letter sequences 有争议的的语音字母序列

See figure 1 for how different phonetic letter sequences can be intendedly identified according to different considerations that are etymologial (word 1), orthographical (word 2), graphetic (word 3 and 4), morphological (word 5), or phonetic (word 6), as well how certain words (7, 8, and 9) are simply opaque.

This complication requires applications to have knowledge of the exact user intention in advance in order to utilize the phonetic information, or to ignore many phonetic details and only to fuzzily match encoded words to a limited built-in dictionary.

如图1所示,根据在语源(单词1)、正词法(单词2)、字形(单词3和4)、形态(单词5)、语音(单词6)上的不同考量,以及一些单纯就是难解的单词(7、8、9),会有意地识别出不同的语音字母序列。

这一复杂情况要求在具体应用中为了 利用语音信息,对具体的用户意图要有预 知,或者就要忽略掉许多语音细节然后仅 仅模糊地把编码的单词映射到有限的内 置词典中。

1.2 Unintended or malicious character sequences 无意或恶意的字符序列

Partly due to the difficulty of mastering the complicated contextual rules of the Mongolian encoding, users often freely assemble unexpected characters together to form the desired grapheme sequence, without caring about if the phonetic information is correct. This is especially common for spellings that require special format characters U+202F NNBSP and FVSes, which are hard to ma-

在一定程度上正因为蒙古文编码的复杂上下文规则难以掌握,用户经常自由地把意料之外的字符拼凑为想要的字位序列,而不管语音信息是否正确。对于难以操控的特殊格式字符 即 U+202F NNBSP 和 FVS 这个问题尤为常见。

Figure 图 1: Intended differences in phonetic letter identification. 语音字母识别中有意的区别。

nipulate.

The number of resulted possibilities is much higher than that of intended, which is the reason of security concerns and why the Mongolian encoding will not be supported in crucial identifiers like internationalized domain names and email addresses.

See also UTS #39 Unicode Security Mechanisms. However it should be note that, the mechanism provided by UTS #39 is insufficient to handle the complication of the Mongolian encoding.

See chart *Variants required by the modern Hudum* for a full list of variants in the Mongolian encoding needed for the modern Hudum, from which confusables between characters and character sequences can be summarized. Note the Mongolian encoding basically allow any variant of a character to be requested manually.

这样导致的可能性数量比有意的还高 许多,这就是安全隐患的原因,并且是为 什么蒙古文编码不会在国际化域名和邮 箱地址这样关键的标识符中受到支持。

参见 UTS #39 Unicode Security Mechanisms (Unicode 安全机制)。不过应当注意,UTS #39 提供的机制对于处理蒙古文编码的复杂情况来说是不足的。

图表《现代胡都木文要求的变体》展示了蒙古文编码中现代胡都木文所需变体的总表,从中可以总结中字符及字符序列间的混淆结构。注意,蒙古文编码基本上允许手动请求一个字符的任何变体。

2 Positional mismatches 位置失配

See WG2 4884 / L2/17-332 Positional mismatches in Mongolian encoding for a complete discussion.

- 1. The Mongolian encoding is expected to be implemented with the Unicode–OpenType Arabic cursive joining model, and its standardized variation sequence names also suggest so. But the positional variants do not actually conform the model.
- 2. The variants do not form a self-consistent system either, therefore can not even be losslessly mapped to the Arabic cursive joining model.
- 3. The positional variants in the Mongolian encoding were the result of inconsistently analyzing the shaping behavior with controversial grammatical and orthographical concepts of the Mongolian language (such as word and enclitic, which were not well defined in the specification).
- 4. Certain variants are bound to special contexts. Eg,

 ✓ NA.1.fina is considered "medial" because *in word*it usually preceds a word-fina disjointed tail ¬, but it
 also has usage unrelated to the disjointed tail which is a
 typical "final" no matter "in word" or "cursive joining"
 is considered.

参见 WG2 4884 / L2/17-332 《蒙系文字编码中的位置失配》中的完整讨论。

- 蒙古文编码是预期由 Unicode-OpenType 阿拉伯连写模型实现的,它的标准化变 体序列名称也表明这一点。但其位置变 体并不遵守该模型。
- 其变体也不形成自治的系统,所以甚至 都不能无损映射到阿拉伯连写模型。
- 蒙古文编码的位置变体来自用有争议的蒙古语语法与正词法概念(比如没有在规范中良好定义的词和附加成分)对成形行为的不一致分析。
- 某些变体限制于特殊的上下文。例如,
 ✓ NA.1.fina 认为是"中形"因为它一般"在词里"出现在词末的分尾前,但它也有和分尾无关的不论考虑"在词里"还是"连写"都是典型"下形"的

- 5. Different understandings also exist for the cursive joining position of the first character in enclitics.
- 6. This situation has led to disagreements of vendors and inconsistent interpretation of the specification in implementations, as well as non-standard and incompatible FVS assignments to resolve such deficiencies. See the chart of Mongolian variant forms: NA by Richard Ishida.
- 7. True positional variants are not distinguished from technical fallbacks either. Eg, pseudo-isol forms of consonants.

用法。

- 对附加成分第一个字符的连写位置也 有不同的理解。
- 这个情况导致厂商的意见不和以及在 实现中对规范的不一致解读, 以及为解 决这类缺陷的非标准且不兼容的 FVS 分配。参见 Richard Ishida 的图表 Mongolian variant forms: NA.
- 真正的位置变体也没有区分于技术上 的回退。比如辅音的假单形。

Complicated and underspecified contextual rules 复杂且详细规 3 范不足的上下文规则

- 1. No formal specification doc.
- 2. Debated identification of underlying phonetic letters.
- 3. Underspecified contextual rules, leading to incompatible renderings of the same string and incompatible requirements of format charaters among vendors.
- 4. Contextual rules are defined with enumerated cases of character sequences executed in parallel, not knowing the OpenType mechanism of serial glyph manipulations.
- 5. Contextual rules are not defined with an execution order, therefore characters do not have defined fallback forms in marginal cases, leading to unexpected behavior.
- are not handled.
- 7. FVS assignment is done for assigning as fewer as possible FVSes instead of a clear logic, leading to unusual default forms on cursive joining positions. (NA.2.medi, YA.2.medi, etc.)
- 8. FVS effect differs when "in isolation" and "in word".
- 9. FVS in word effect: toggling vs direct, because of underspecification. Direct needs FVS0.

- 没有正式的规范文档。
- 有争议的底层语音字母识别。
- 未详细规范的上下文规则, 导致同一个 字符串的不兼容显示以及尝试之间对 格式字符的不兼容要求。
- 上下文规则是用穷举的平行执行的字 符序列情况定义的,对 OpenType 序列 化的图形操作没有了解。
- 上下文规则没有定义执行顺序, 于是边 缘情况下字符没有预先定义的回退形 式,导致预期外的行为。
- 6. Unintended positional forms, eg, √ QA.1.fina, ↑ YA.2.fina, 意外的位置变体没有处理,例如 √ QA.1.fina 和ぐYA.2.fina。
 - FVS 分配是为了尽量少用 FVS 而非清 晰的逻辑,导致连写变体位置上特殊的 默认形式。(- NA.2.medi、 - YA.2.medi 等。)
 - FVS 效用在"孤显"和"词里"情况 时不一致。
 - FVS 在词里的效用有切换和直接两种 风格,因为取法规范。直接效用需要

- **10.** Usage of nirugu is explictly mentioned in the GB but actually breaks contextual rules.
- 11. ZWNJ and ZWJ's effect to contextual rules is not defined.
- 12. An open set of additions of a grapheme used for different letters. (Missing tailless U.1.fing, now OE alt.)

FVS0.

- Nirugu 的用法在国标中明确提及了但 实际上会打破上下文规则。
- ZWNJ 和 ZWJ 对上下文规则的效用未 定义。
- 会不断为不同字母增加字位。(之前缺失的 U.1.fina,现在要加入 OE 的变体。)

3.1 The disjointed tail 分尾

- 1. The special graphemes of certain letters preceding the disjointed tail are contextually selected and have inconsistent cursive joining positions.
- 2. The syllable structure limitation forces ₹ U+1836 YA and ₹ U+1838 WA to have confusable and debatable (vowels are sometimes identified, especially for ₹ U+1838 WA) variants only used here.
- 3. The interaction between each other of the preceding letter, U+180E MVS, and the vowel (V U+1820 A or 7 U+1821 E) is not clearly defined and has usability issues.
- **4.** It is undefined what should happend when a suffix is appended.

分尾(元元//) čačulg_a) 是字母√ U+1820 A 或 1 U+1821 E 由格式字符 U+180E MVS 触发的特例。

- 分尾前某些字母的特殊字位是上下文 选择的,有不一致的连写位置。
- 音节结构的限制强迫 、U+1836 YA 和 U+1838 WA 有只在这里使用的易混淆且有争议(有时会识别为元音,尤其对于 U+1838 WA)的变体。
- 前侧字母、▼ U+180E MVS、元音 (**∀** U+1820 A 或 **ŋ** U+1821 E) 之间的交互没有清楚 定义,而且有可用性问题。
- 未定义当附加后缀时应当发生什么。

3.2 Syllables 音节

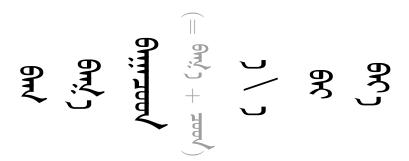
Syllabification algorithm is not defined.

- 1. The identification of underlying phonetic letters of dipthongs is heavily debated.
- **2.** Expected behavior of stray consonants is not fully specified.
- 3. The behavior of coda consonants in syllables is relatively well specified, but special syllable boundaries often lead to the need of FVSes for overriding syllabification.

音节划分算法没有定义。

- 对底层语音字母的识别有激烈的争论。
- 游离辅音的预期行为没有充分定义。
- 音节尾辅音的行为相对来说是良好定义的,但特殊的音节界限常常导致需要 FVS来手动控制音节划分。

Figure 图 2: The disjointed tail. 分尾。



- 1) 6 182A BA 7 1820 A 7 182D GA
- 2) **6** 182A BA **1** 1820 A **1** 182D GA **1** 180E MVS **1** 1820 A
- 3) 6 182A BA $\frac{1}{4}$ 1820 A $\frac{1}{4}$ 182D GA ($\frac{18}{3}$ 180E MVS)? $\frac{1}{4}$ 1820 A $\frac{1}{4}$ 1834 CHA $\frac{1}{40}$ 1824 U $\frac{1}{6}$ 1833 DA
- 4) NNB 202F NNBSP $\left\{\begin{array}{c} \begin{picture}(100,0) \put(0,0){\line(0,0){100}} \put(0,0){\line(0,0){100$
- 5) **6** 182A BA **1** 1820 A $\left\{\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{r} \end{array} \right\}$ 1828 I $\left\{\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{n} \\ \mathbf{r} \end{array} \right\}$
- 6) 6 182A BA 1 1821 E 7 1836 YA S 180E MVS 1 1821 E

Figure 图 3: Postvocalic /i/ and related cases. 元音后 /i/ 以及相关事例。

Figure 图 4: Coda and stray consonants. 音节尾与游离辅音。

更复复

1) 10 1823 0 1 1828 NA
2) 7 1834 CHA 1 1820 A 1 182D GA
3) 7 1835 JA 10 1824 U 7 1833 DA
4) 1 182D GA 7 1837 RA 1 1820 A 1 182E MA

3.3 Word stems 词干

There are three mechanisms directly related to word stems, but word stems are not marked in encoding:

- 1. Stem-beginning vowels: aleph-ed init or medi, and aleph-less enclitics.
- 2. First-in-stem vowels: the first or second stem, and enclitics.
- 3. Vowel harmony.

These word stem related mechanisms are bound to the cursive joining mechanism which is not directly related, leading the cases not shown in the cursive joining mechanism being overlooked.

- 4. Vowels have two major trans-graphemic shaping mechanisms: *stem-beginning* vowels (the prepended aleph, see figure 5) and *first-in-stem* vowels (see figure 6).
- 5. These two mechanisms are bound to the cursive joining mechanism. Such a strongly coupled logic leads to complication in related mechanisms.
- 6. The first-in-stem vowel behavior is not specified on fina. Second-stem (see figure 7) and enclitic (see figure 9) situations are complicated.¹
- 7. Since stem boundaries inside compound words are also syllable boundaries, coda consonants of the first stems have to be manually requisted with FVSes when the second stems start with vowels.
- 8. The major source of long-distance effect is vowel-harmonyaffected consonants. The long-distance effect might
 seem convenient in simple words but it quickly gets
 complicated in non-harmonious compound words and
 loanwords, then require manual overriding. Actually
 only one sequence "ig" actually needs vowel-harmony
 across syllables. Parallel character-based rules are complicated and still inadequate.
- **9.** Enclitics are highly related to word stem mechanisms but have additional features.

有3个机制与词干直接相关,但词干在 编码中没有标记:

- 词干起始元音: 有 aleph 的 init(上形) 或 medi(中形)、没有 aleph 的附加成分。
- 词干第一元音:第一或第二词干、附加成分。
- 元音和谐。

这些词干相关的机制被限制在并不直 接相关的连写机制中,导致那些没有在连 写机制中体现的情况被忽视。

- 元音有两大跨字位的成形机制:"词干 起始"元音与"词干第一"元音。
- 这两个机制被限制在连写机制中。这样 强耦合的逻辑导致相关机制的复杂情况。
- 词干第一元音行为没有在 fina (下形) 指定。第二词干和附加成分情况很复 杂。¹
- 因为复合词内的词干边界也是音节边界,当第二词干以元音开头时第一个词干的音节尾辅音必须用 FVS 手动请求。

长程作用的主要来源是受元音和谐影响的辅音。这一长程作用作用在简单的词中可能看起来方便,但在不和谐的复合词和外来词中就迅速变得复杂了,然后就需要手动控制。其实只有 ig 这一个序列需要跨音节的元音和谐。并行的基于字符的规则很复杂而且依旧不完备。

附加成分与词干机制高度相关但有更 多特性。

¹Some sample words are from Siqinbilige's discussion: https://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/public-i18n-mongolian/ 2015JulSep/0355.html

¹一些例词来自 Siqinbilige 的讨论: https://lists.w3.org/Archives/Public/ public-i18n-mongolian/2015JulSep/0355.html

Figure 图 5: Stem-beginning vowel alephs. 词干起始元音的 aleph。



Figure 图 6: First-in-stem vowels. 词干第一元音。

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ंच के में
जं के में
जं के में
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- 1) † 1828 NA 10 1823 0 (FVS)? , † 1828 NA 10 1824 U (FVS)? , † 1828 NA 10 1825 0E FVS , † 1828 NA 10 1826 UE FVS
- 2) + 1830 SA 1 1823 0 (FVS)? _ + 1830 SA 1 1824 U (FVS)? _ + 1830 SA 1 1825 DE FVS _ + 1830 SA 1 1826 UE (FVS)?
- 3) \pm 1834 CHA 10 1823 0 (FVS)? $_{\square}$ \pm 1834 CHA 10 1824 U FVS $_{\square}$ \pm 1834 CHA 10 1825 0E FVS $_{\square}$ \pm 1834 CHA 10 1825 0E FVS

Figure 图 7: Compared to compound words. 与复合词比较。

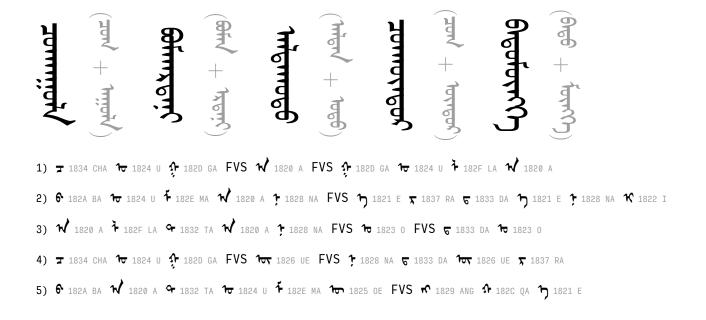


Figure 图 8: Vowel harmony affected consonants. 受元音和谐影响的辅音。



3.4 Enclitics 附加成分

The complicated situation for enclitics is the result of analyzing all enclitics (while the categorization work is incomplete in the first place) as a dictionary of special cases trigered by NNBSP instead of productive cases.

- 1. Vowels not stem-beginning.
- 2. Vowels not first-in-stem.
- 3. D takes its disambiguating form.
- **4.** Historical forms of Y in yi... and iy... carried over when the Manchu Y form was introduced.

Issues:

Not based on graphematics/orthography but grammar categorization.

Not always have visible effect. (ügei)

Cases not gramatically considered enclitics are handled as pure special cases in dictionary.

Relying on the NNBSP imposes a typography preference not widely accepted to shaping logic:

- 5. Narrower than normal word space: Manchu and Sibe have different convention. Defininition of width is wrong possibly due to lost in translation.
- **6.** Forbidding line break. Not a convention in the publishing industry.
- 7. Extending word boundary: Not widely accepted. Different languages, Manchu and Sibe have different convention.

附加成分的复杂情况是因为把所有附加成分分析为(尽管分类工作一开始就不完整)一个由 NNBSP 触发的特例词典而非能产的情况。

- 元音不是词干起始。
- 元音不是词干第一。
- D 取其消歧义形态。
- 在引入满文 Y 时在 yi... 和 iy... 里沿用了历史上的 Y 形态。

问题:

没有基于书写法而是基于语法分类。

并不总有可见的视觉效用。(ügei)

语法上不认为是附加成分的当做词典 纯特例处理。

对 NNBSP 的依赖向成形逻辑强加了并没有广泛接受的排版偏好:

- 比普通词间空格窄:满语和锡伯语有不同的习惯。宽度的定义错误,可能是翻译问题。
- 禁止断行。在出版业不是习惯。
- 扩展词界:没有广泛接受。满语和锡伯语有不同的习惯

3.5 Dictionary-based special cases 基于词典的特例

The Mongolian encoding has a set of special cases that should be handled by automatical rules or manual overriding.

蒙古文编码有一组特例应当用自动规则或手动控制解决。

3.6 Other manually requested variants 其他手动请求的变体

In addition to the aformentioned mechanisms that are expected to work automatically, a lot of alternative forms

在上述要求自动工作的机制之外,很多 其他的形式需要手动用 FVS 请求,比如

Figure 图 10: Non-enclitics? 非附加成分?

Figure 图 11: Dictionary-based special cases. 基于词典的特例。

7) ▼ 1835 JA ▼ 1837 RA → 182F LA 1 1822 I ↑ 182D GA (FVS)?

have to be manually requested with FVSes, such as loan- 借词 O、汉语 U、借词与汉语 UE、借词 word O, Chinese U, loanword and Chinese UE, loanword TA、原始或借词 DA。
TA, native or loanword DA.

Figure 图 12: Other manually requested variants. 其他手动请求的变体



4 Stylistic variants 风格变体

The Mongolian encoding contains a couple of stylistic variants that are not significant in graphematics or orthography of the modern Hudum.

- 1. The variant \neg is a historically preferred and contemporarily alternative stylistic form of \neg BA.1.fina. Similar to the case of \checkmark vs \checkmark MA.1.fina.
- And ✓ was historically possibily dstinguished from
 ✓ SA.1.fina but now is an alternative stylistic form.

A large number of historically used variants is proposed in L2/16-309 *Proposed additions for Mongolian in 5th edition of UCS*, in which all additions for \checkmark U+1820 A are historically stylistic.

Such attempts of encoding all manuscript visual details in plain text with format characters will further reduce the usability of the Mongolian encoding. Fonts and markup languages should be employed to deal with these. 蒙古文编码包含一些在现代胡都木文正写法中无意义的风格变体。

- 可是 **9** BA.1.fina 在历史上受偏好的变体,在现代也只是风格变体。类似于 **√** 与 **√** MA.1.fina 的情况。
- ✓ 在历史上有可能区别于 **W** SA.1.fina 但在现代只是风格变体。

大量历史上使用的变体在 L2/16-309 《Proposed additions for Mongolian in 5th edition of UCS》中提交。其中所有为 ✔ U+1820 A 新增的都是历史上的风格变体。

这样尝试把所有古籍中的视觉细节都 编码在纯文本中会进一步降低蒙古文编 码的可用性。字体和标记语言应当用于处 理这些。