

Reply to ‘On the Kawi Space Filler and the Names of Punctuation Characters’

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Below is our reply to the comments sent by Eduardo Marín Silva on Tue Jan 19 19:39:21 CST 2021, as part of public review comments (which will be posted before UTC meeting #167). The comments concern several encoding aspects in our [Proposal to encode Kawi L2/20-284R](#).

1. Remove PUNCTUATION SPACE FILLER due to identical glyph to DIGIT FOUR consistent with proposed DIGIT TWO/RO usage

While we have not found a sample in which the glyph of DIGIT TWO and RO are explicitly differentiated, there are samples in which the glyph of DIGIT FOUR and SPACE FILLER is differentiated. It is to our understanding that DIGIT FOUR and SPACE FILLER *may* use the same glyph, but this is not always the case, as shown in some of the images included in our proposal. Below are some examples to clarify:

Source	Digit five ¹	Digit four	Space filler	Comment
Kakurungan Inscription				The same glyph is used for both characters
Gandhakuti Inscription				Space filler is more compact (digit four has additional hump)
Tuhanyaru Inscription				Space filler is more compact and mirrored
Nipah, Kropak Ciburuy I				Space filler does not have upper appendages

Due to this glyph difference, we proposed these two characters as separate entities in our proposal, in contrast to the conflation of DIGIT TWO/RO.

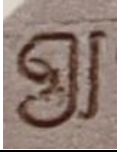
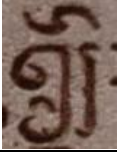


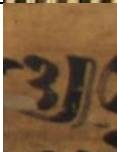

To avoid confusion, perhaps the representative glyph of SPACE FILLER could be altered, but we unfortunately do not know which variant is more “common” and its rather hard to tell considering the many styles of Kawi. The current shape was chosen in consideration of its

¹ An additional column with examples of DIGIT FIVE is also provided to demonstrate that FOUR and FIVE are more graphically similar across styles than when comparing FOUR and SPACE FILLER.

modern Balinese cognate which has been included in Unicode; the Balinese PAMENENG U+1B60 which looks like thus: ꦥ.

2. Change name KAWI PUNCTUATION ALTERNATE SECTION MARK to SECTION MARK WITH REPHA

While it is indeed common to differentiate alternate section mark by adding repha-like flourish to regular section mark, this is not the only way to do so. Below are some examples to clarify:

Source	Section marker	Alt section marker	Comment
Mpu Mada Inscription			Additional above-base flourishes that resembles repha
Serat Catur Bumi Gebang MS			Additional above base flourishes that resembles a series of vowel -i sign
Nipah, Kropak 24			Additional dots surrounding the right and bottom part of the base


When tallied up, there are many variants of this alternate section mark: with repha, with triple -i vowel signs, with surrounding dots, etc. But from what we have found, a single text only needs two variants: a plain one and an alternate one that is usually more intricate. Exactly how they are differentiated depends on the style and the scribe in question, so we prefer the more general name “alternate” to accommodate these scribal differences.

The name KAWI PUNCTUATION SECTION MARK WITH REPHA would also trigger the question why this character is not represented as a sequence repha+section mark instead. The Unicode Standard might allow for that representation, but the Universal Shaping Engine would not as punctuation characters cannot become part of clusters.

We have no objection with alternative names that are more general, such as PUNCTUATION SECTION MARK WITH FLOURISH, should a change of name is still desired.

3. Change name KAWI PUNCTUATION FILLED CIRCLE to CIRCLE WITH DOT

Similar to alternate section mark, we found some instances of this punctuation are rather difficult to be described specifically as “circle with dot”, and we would prefer a more general name to accommodate these scribal differences. Below are some examples to clarify:

Source	Filled Circle	Comment
Kakurungan Inscription		Circle filled with a single dot

