To the Unicode Consortium,

I am writing to request the inclusion of a new letter for the Alphabetic Presentation Forms block.

So far, since its establishment, the Unicode Committee has been quite liberal with its allowance of ligature letters; even beside scripts that mandate ligatures (Arabic, Hindi, or the others of their sort), there have been an abundance of historical and modern ligatures for the Latin script, most of which are in the Latin Extended-D and Alphabet Presentation Forms blocks of Unicode.—For this, I am quite grateful.

While the historical and phonetic ligatures of æ and œ are found reasonably frequently in writing, more common are typographical ligatures — letters such as fi, ffi, or ff — which appear in many typefaces automatically (whereas □ may need to be manually copied in or added by its code).

While many typographic ligatures have been covered by the Unicode Consortium before, one notably missing example is the older ct ligature, a sister to the ſt.

Back when printing was more common, plates would collide if not set far enough apart, but setting them too far from one-another would make the text less readable—the answer was to put two letters onto a single plate, which brings us to printed ligatures (not to be confused with the scribal ligatures of manuscripts, which existed for different reasons).

Again, most of these historical ligatures are either still used today (the aforementioned fi, ffi, and ff) or left unused by most programmes, but still included in the Unicode Standard, nonetheless (notably the ſt, but also others, like its older cousin, ſt).

The ct ligature fits perfectly within that second series as a ligature left largely forgotten today but still very relevant in the transliteration of historical papers and accurate preservation of documents, some as recent as the 19th century.

The ct is also not to be mistaken as a typeface issue, either. Although some typefaces do take care to turn any adjacent c's and t's into something that looks like the ct ligature, it is only a disguise and doesn't work in other files; the ct, like the ſt, is its own letter—its own printing plate—and deserves to be added to the standard.

For all consistency, I'd imagine it would sit as U+FB07 in the Alphabetic Presentation Forms block, beside the other typographic ligatures.

In any case, I am grateful for your time and consideration in reading this. A ct ligature would be useful for anyone interested in the Latin script and semi-recent typography, and I'd be happy to see it added.

–Finlay Liam Adkins,
independent researcher.
finlay.liam.aht@gmail.com

To the Unicode Consortium,

I am writing to request the inclusion of a new letter for the Alphabetic Presentation Forms block.

So far, since its establishment, the Unicode Committee has been quite liberal with its allowance of ligature letters; even beside scripts that mandate ligatures (Arabic, Hindi, or the others of their sort), there have been an abundance of historical and modern ligatures for the Latin script, most of which are in the Latin Extended-D and Alphabet Presentation Forms blocks of Unicode.—For this, I am quite grateful.

While the historical and phonetic ligatures [æ] (U+00E6) and [œ] (U+0153) are found reasonably frequently in writing, more common are typographical ligatures — letters such as [fi] (U+FB01), [ffi] (U+FB03), or [ff] (U+FB00) — which appear in many typefaces automatically (whereas [□] (U+A735) may need to be manually copied in or added by its code, U+A735).

While many typographic ligatures have been covered by the Unicode Consortium before, one notably missing example is the older [ct] ligature, a sister to the [ſt] (U+FB06).

Back when printing was more common, plates would collide if not set far enough apart, but setting them too far from one-another would make the text less readable—the answer was to put two letters onto a single plate, which brings us to printed ligatures (not to be confused with the scribal ligatures of manuscripts, which existed for different reasons).

Again, most of these historical ligatures are either still used today (the aforementioned [fi] (U+FB01), [ffi] (U+FB03), and [ff] (U+FB00)) or left unused by most programmes, but still included in the Unicode Standard, nonetheless (notably the [ſt] (U+FB06), but also others, like its older cousin, [ſt] (U+FB05)).

The [ct] ligature fits perfectly within that second series as a ligature left largely forgotten today but still very relevant in the transliteration of historical papers and accurate preservation of documents, some as recent as the 19th century.

The [ct] is also not to be mistaken as a typeface issue, either. Although some typefaces do take care to turn any adjacent [c] (U+0063)'s and [t] (U+0074)'s into something that looks like the [ct] ligature, it is only a disguise and doesn't work in other files; the [ct], like the [ſt] (U+FB06), is its own letter—its own printing plate—and deserves to be added to the standard.

For all consistency, I'd imagine it would sit as U+FB07 in the Alphabetic Presentation Forms block, beside the other typographic ligatures.

In any case, I am grateful for your time and consideration in reading this. A [ct] ligature would be useful for anyone interested in the Latin script and semi-recent typography, and I'd be happy to see it added.
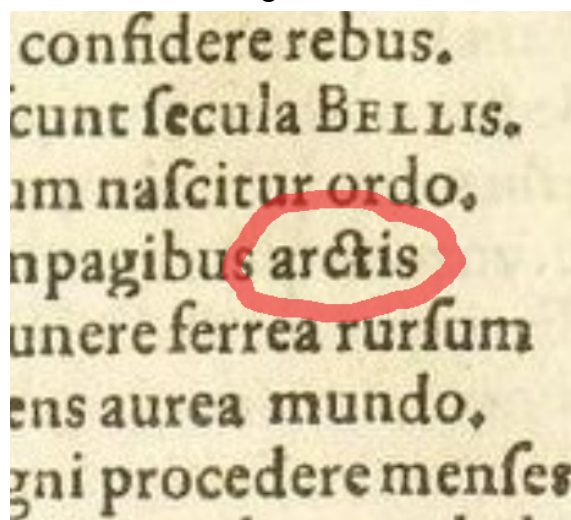
–Finlay Liam Adkins,
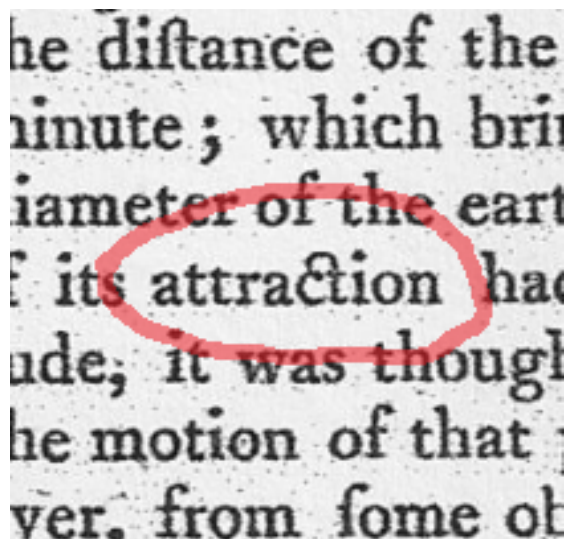Independent researcher.
finlay.liam.aht@gmail.com

Appendix—evidence of the [ct] ligature:

Figure 1:



The [ct] ligature seen alongside an [ft] ligature in Die Fried-erfreuete Teutonje, 1652, page number 107.

Figure 2:



The [ct] ligature seen alongside [ſt] (U+FB05) in the 5th edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, 1817.