

To: Unicode Technical Committee
From: Abraham Shvermer
Subject: Adding *elongated geres* to HEBREW
Date: 12/29/2025

This proposal seeks the encoding of the ELONGATED GERESH, the remaining character identified by the Script Encoding Working Group in the same analysis that led to the encoding of YOD TRIANGLE in Unicode Version 11.0, as part of a minimal set of characters accounting for a substantial subset of documented graphic representations of the Tetragrammaton

I Background

There exist multiple graphic representations of the Divine Name in Hebrew, some of which cannot be represented using existing Unicode characters. The preliminary document L2/15-092 (Typographic Concerns and the Hebrew Nomina Sacra, Shoulson) demonstrated the need to address this phenomenon. After review, the Script Encoding Working Group (SEWG) indicated that the encoding of two graphic characters could potentially account for a large subset of the attested forms. These were identified as the YOD TRIANGLE and a distinct stroke, referred to in related documents as a “flourish”.

Following this recommendation, the YOD TRIANGLE was formally proposed in L2/16-305 and accepted in Unicode Version 11.0, leaving the “flourish” stroke as the remaining unencoded element.

The “flourish” is best understood as a type of *geresh* (05F3), distinguished from the standard *geresh* primarily by its greater length. This interpretation is supported by the fact that, in some prints, the flourish is replaced by a regular *geresh*, apparently due to typographic limitations. Likewise, modern transcriptions and digitization of manuscripts frequently substitute a standard *geresh* in its place.

The elongated *geresh* typically appears as an elongated, curved stroke, in combination with two yods, three horizontally arranged yods, or a yod triangle. It is attested across Europe (including Portugal, Germany, Italy, and Poland) and appears in texts associated with Sephardic, Ashkenazic, and Italian traditions, from approximately the 13th through the 18th centuries.

A clear attestation appears in a 14th-century manuscript, Sefer Assufot (Montefiore College Library Codex no. 115, f. 113d, 165c), which explicitly describes the use of three yods in a triangle accompanied by a long retrograde stroke as an established scribal convention. This demonstrates that the elongated *geresh* was a distinct and conventionalized graphic element by the medieval period.

II Proposed character

U+05F5 HEBREW PUNCTUATION ELONGATED GERESH

In some printed sources, sequences consisting of a yod followed by an elongated *geresh* are consistently rendered using a ligated glyph form, as shown in the figures below.

III Properties

The properties of ELONGATED GERESH would be the same as U+05F3 (*geresh*).

IV Collation

The Collation of ELONGATED GERESH would be the same as U+05F3 (*geresh*).

V References

Lauterbach, Jacob Z. "Substitutes for the Tetragrammaton." *Proceedings of the American Academy for Jewish Research* 2 (1930): 39–67. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3622131>.

Spiegel, Yaakov Shmuel. *chapters in the History of the Jewish Book*, Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel, 2000, 611-632. (Hebrew)

VII Examples

Below are included examples of the ELONGATED GERESH from printed texts. Figures 1-12 show the regular form of this glyph, and figures 13-20 show the ligated form.

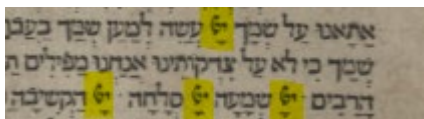


Figure 1. מחזור כפי הנהוג לקהל רומ"ה. Soncino, Italy, 1486, Italian tradition.
https://www.nli.org.il/he/books/NNL_ALEPH99001993278_0205171/NLI

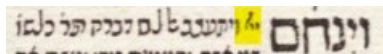


Figure 2. חודשי התורה לרמב"ן. Lisbon, Portugal, 1489.
https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH99001782846_0205171/NLI



Figure 3. תפילות כל השנה. Lisbon, Portugal, 1490, Sephardic tradition.
https://tablet.otzar.org/#/book/53870/p/1/t/3392095321_234/fs/0/start/0/end/0/c



Figure 4. תורה. Lisbon, Portugal, 1491.
[https://www.nli.org.il/en/manuscripts/NNL_ALEPH990001785030205171/NLI#\\$FL103444696](https://www.nli.org.il/en/manuscripts/NNL_ALEPH990001785030205171/NLI#$FL103444696)



Figure 5. משנה תורה. Istanbul, Turkey, 1509.
https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH001776808/NLI



Figure 6. מחזור מכל השנה. Mantua, Italy, 1557-1559, Italian tradition.
https://www.nli.org.il/he/books/NNL_ALEPH99001756228_0205171/NLI



Figure 7. מחזור כמנהג רומה. Mantua, Italy, 1557-1560, Italian tradition. Cover page.
https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH99001756216_0205171/NLI

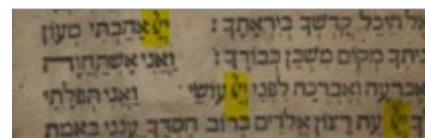


Figure 8. סדר תפלות מכל השנה. Mantua, Italy, 1558, Ashkenazy tradition.
https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH99001744467_0205171/NLI

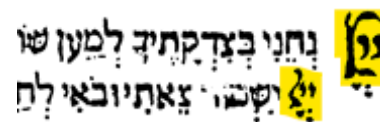


Figure 9. תפלות מכל השנה. Krakow, Poland, 1578, Ashkenazy/Polish tradition.
https://tablet.otzar.org/#/book/196085/p/1/t/3392095321_1234/fs/0/start/0/end/0/c

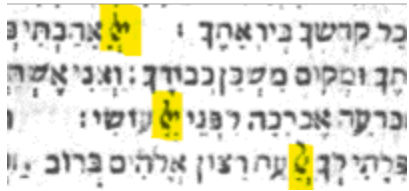


Figure 10. תפלה מכל השנה, Krakow, Poland, 1597, Ashkenazy/Polish tradition. https://www.nli.org.il/he/books/NNL_ALEPH99001213866_0205171/NLI

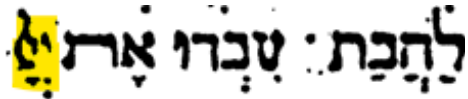


Figure 11. קבלת שבת, Lublin, Poland, 1621. https://tablet.otzar.org/#/book/85000/p/1/t/3392095321_234/fs/0/start/0/end/0/c



Figure 12. מחזור כמנהג אשכנזים, Wilhermsdorf, Germany, 1673, Ashkenazy tradition. <https://tablet.otzar.org/#/book/182130/p/1/t/3392095321234/fs/0/start/0/end/0/c>

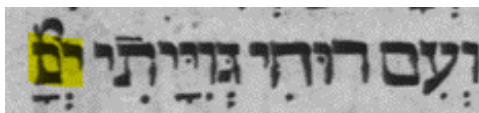


Figure 13. תפלות מכל השנה, Prague, Czech Republic, 1519, Ashkenazy tradition. https://www.nli.org.il/he/books/NNL_ALEPH99001160280_0205171/NLI

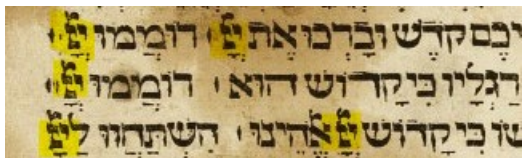


Figure 14. סליחות לפי מנהג ק"ק פראג, Prague, Czech Republic, 1535, Ashkenazy tradition. https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH001163163/NLI

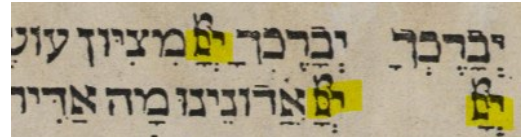


Figure 15. מחזור כסדר האשכנזים, Augsburg, Germany, 1536, Ashkenazy tradition. https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH99001175733_0205171/NLI

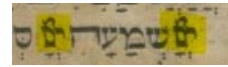


Figure 16. סליחות עם פרוש, Prague, Czech Republic, 1680, Ashkenazy/Polish tradition. https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH99004103794_0205171/NLI

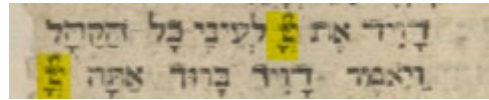


Figure 17. מחזור מכל השנה, Prauge, Czech Republic, 1703, Ashkenazy tradition. Here the *gersh* is ligated. https://www.nli.org.il/he/books/NNL_ALEPH99001773428_0205171/NLI



Figure 18. סליחות מכל השנה, Fürth, Bavaria, Germany, 1749, Ashkenazy tradition. Here the *gersh* is ligated. https://www.nli.org.il/he/books/NNL_ALEPH99001845439_0205171/NLI

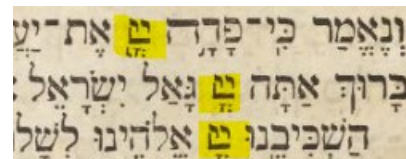


Figure 19. ספר קרובות הוא מחזור, Hannover, Germany, 1757, Ashkenazy/Polish tradition. https://www.nli.org.il/en/books/NNL_ALEPH99002516324_0205171/NLI

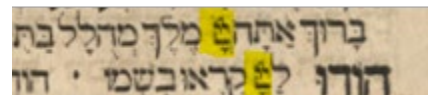


Figure 20. סדר המחזור, Palatinat, Germany, 1770, Ashkenazy/Polish tradition. Here the *gersh* is ligated. https://www.nli.org.il/he/books/NNL_ALEPH99001311191_0205171/NLI