

ISO  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

ISO-IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2  
Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set

ISO-IEC/JTC1/SC2/WG2 N 2033

3rd June 1999

Title	<u>Proposal for Extension of Myanmar Coded Set</u>
Source	Professor John Okell*, SOAS London University and Hugh McG Ross U.K.
Status	Individual experts' contribution
Action	For further consideration of Myanmar script in UCS

- \* Professor Okell is author of the definitive books 'Burmese, an Introduction to the Script' and 'A Guide to the Romanization of Burmese' and 'A Reference Grammar of Colloquial Burmese'.

## 1 Introduction

The Proposal for a basic Myanmar (Burmese) coded character set which has been accepted for inclusion in UCS (given in SC2 N 3203) is adequate for the presentation of the letters of the Myanmar alphabet when substantial use is made of the combining or composition coding technique. This coded set will be here called the 'present UCS set'.

However further study has shown that for processing applications it is inadequate. For such processing applications an extension of that set of coded characters is needed to permit effective use of Myanmar in computers.

This present proposal has made full use of Myanmar's Proposal WG2 N 815. However, that document did not give the full character set, and was superseded by a Revised Myanmar Proposal tabled at the London WG2 meeting (in blue cover). For some reason, which might be merely a misunderstanding of committee procedures, this has not become a WG2 document. Nevertheless, its important changes are included in its code table and in its final page giving the official Myanmar orthography; these are included in this paper as Appendix 1. It is this Myanmar code table that will be referred to in this paper.

This present proposal completely implements, within the context of UCS, all the characters in the Revised Myanmar Proposal.

In this present paper it is shown in section 3 that Myanmar has the distinctive feature of tones associated with each vowel.

It is shown in section 4 that Myanmar has the distinctive feature of 'open' and 'closed' syllables, the latter having a 'final consonant' after the vowel. Appendix 2 records research done specifically for this paper by Professor John Okell which shows that the structure of closed syllables is more complex than previously thought.

It is shown in section 5 that in closed syllables the vowels use a different arrangement for their tone-values from that used in open syllables.

It is shown in section 6 that the processing applications of sorting and of establishing line-breaks are more complex than for other scripts, and impact on the character coding.

It is shown in section 7 that Myanmar has the distinctive feature of what is called 'induced creaky-tone'.

It is shown in section 8 that all requirements of the Myanmar national contributions have been satisfied.

It is shown in section 10 that the use of the composition technique for Myanmar presents serious difficulties for processing applications, which are avoided by use of the proposed extended set of characters.

## 2 Independent Vowels

It is an unusual and distinctive feature of Myanmar that all independent vowels may be written by the addition of a vowel-sign to the 'vowel-base' character 1021; this behaves as a consonant, so it may equally well be thought of as a 'pseudo-consonant'. In processing it is essential that it be treated as a consonant, not a vowel.

However some independent vowels (but not all) can also be written with distinctive characters, coded at 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1029, 102A in the present UCS set. These forms have to be distinguished for the correct spelling of words.

The Myanmar revised document shows one other with an explicit tone-mark ၵၶ LETTER HIGH-TONE U. See Myanmar code table in Appendix 1 at 14B6, and on the second page, right-hand column 14th item. In archival documents a similar letter ၵၶ LETTER HIGH-TONE E is used.

These are provided in the proposed extension set as distinctive characters.

## 3 'Tonal Vowels'

It is an unusual and distinctive feature of Myanmar that it is essential for a tone to be associated with each vowel. Therefore for convenience in this paper it may be said that Myanmar uses 'tonal vowels', although this term does not exactly carry the correct meaning. Furthermore, each vowel with its associated tone is regarded as a distinct letter of the alphabet -- this practice being normal both within Myanmar and also amongst foreign experts. The requirement is well illustrated in Myanmar's Proposals. See cells 14C3 to 14E3 of their code table, and in the right-hand column of the list on the last page (both in Appendix 1). It is the aim and purpose of this extension set to provide as single 16-bit coded characters all the Myanmar vowels with

their associated tone-values.

The full set of 'tonal' vowel-signs used with open syllables (see section 4 below) is given in Table 1 below. In open syllables there is no way to write a vowel without specifying its tone, either explicitly or implicitly, and absence of a tone-mark is of significance.

Table 1: 'Tonal' Vowel-Signs Used in Open Syllables

low-tone					-		
	*	*	*	*			
creaky-tone							
		*	*				
high-tone							
				*			
	A	I	U	E	AI	AU	O

Note 1: The matrix is not entirely full; one 'tonal vowel' does not occur, this is marked with a dash.

Note 2: Seven of the 'tonal' vowel-signs are provided in the present UCS set, these are marked with an asterisk.

As with all other Indic scripts, the glyph element , whether it represents the letter E or is part of letter AU, is coded after its associated consonant shown by a dotted circle.

It will be seen that amongst the creaky-tone vowel-signs two are of distinctive shape so it may be said their tone-value is implicit, whereas the others use the tone-mark to show an explicit tone-value. Likewise, for two of the high-tone vowel-signs the tone-value is implicit, while the others show an explicit tone-mark . The tone-value of all the low-tone vowel-signs is implicit. In open syllables the implicit vowel associated with each consonant has an implicit creaky-tone; that is to say, the absence of a vowel-sign and of a tone-mark indicates creaky-tone A.

These explicit tone-marks are coded at 1037 and 1038. However, their names in the present UCS set are misleading, so in this paper they will be referred to by their Myanmar names Aukmyit and Wisapauk.

Note 3: Aukmyit is correctly drawn as a small circle, not as Dot Below. It is entirely different from Indic NUKTA.

Note 4: Although Wisapauk is similar in appearance to VISARGA, it does not have the normal Indic grammatical uses nor does it add a final aspirate to a syllable.

Note 5: It might be very desirable that something be done to prevent users being confused by these misleading names, either in the standard or by explanation in Unicode.

The user of Myanmar learns to identify these groups of glyph-elements and recognize them as a whole, without relating the components to the letters as used individually. This practice of reading the glyph-elements of a character as an entity applies also where Myanmar 'borrows' the glyphs of certain characters and puts them together, as glyph-elements, to write an entirely different---and usually unrelated---character. For example the glyphs used alone for the characters ံ (VOWEL SIGN AA) and ့ (VOWEL SIGN E) and း VIRAMA are put together to give ံ့း VOWEL SIGN LOW-TONE AU; and for example where the HIGH-TONE VOWEL-SIGN O ံ is built up from ံ CREAKY-TONE I plus ံ CREAKY-TONE U plus ံ Wisapauk.

In archival documents VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE AI may take the form ံ. See Appendix 2, page 4.

It is thus shown that to simplify processing applications twelve extra vowel-signs used in open syllables require to be coded as entity characters; together with a thirteenth for archival documents. These are provided in the proposed extension set as distinctive characters.

#### 4 Structure of Syllables

Like all Indic scripts the syllables of Myanmar are important and have a significant effect on processing applications. However, the structure of Myanmar syllables is different from the structure of Indic syllables.

Myanmar employs the feature of open and closed syllables, the latter being those with a 'final consonant', that is with the inherent vowel of that consonant deleted by VIRAMA. As with the multiple-component vowels, the user reads the entire syllable as an entity.

In this paper a 'final consonant' will be represented by ံ

Two columns in the Myanmar document headed 'Devowelizer' show some of the combinations of vowel-sign and 'final consonant' that occur in practice. However the research done by Professor John Okell given in Appendix 2 shows in its last table that there are additional combinations not given in the Myanmar document. Notice also that three conjuncts may occur, which may be called 'final conjuncts'. Notice also that the final nasal letter in each varg, together with the character ံ ANUSVARA and together with the semi-vowels ံ YA and ံ RA, may have tone-marks associated with them.


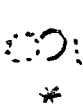



















Note specially that Professor Okell shows that, especially for transcription from other scripts (in particular, English words), there may be two (or occasionally three)

of the so-called 'final consonants' in a single syllable.

## 5 Vowels and Tones in Closed Syllables

Columns D and E in the main table of Appendix 2 give the vowel-signs and tone-marks used in closed syllables. Analysis of this set of combinations gives the set of vowel-signs used in closed syllables shown in Table 2 below. For the convenience of WG2 members this has been arranged to match Table 1 for vowels and tones in open syllables.

Table 2: 'Tonal' Vowel-Signs Used in Closed Syllables

low-tone						—		
	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
creaky-tone						—		
high-tone						—		
	A	AA	I	U	E	AI	AU	O

Notice that in a closed syllable the absence of an explicit tone-mark has the significance of specifying low-tone.


In closed syllables the implicit vowel associated with each consonant has an implicit low-tone; that is to say, the absence of a vowel-sign and of a tone-mark indicates low-tone A. This is different from open syllables.

Notice also that the explicit tone-marks are presented under or after the first 'final consonant', yet the vowel-sign and the tone-mark are read as an entity. Together they determine the non-consonantal sound-value of the whole syllable.

Note 6: Seven of these vowel-signs are the same as those used in open syllables (although the tone-value of some are different) and thus do not seem to need to be specifically coded. They are marked with an asterisk.

Note 7: Alternatively, for native syllables, one may say that, for closed syllables only, the vowel-sign is tone-free and that the tone of the whole syllable is determined by the tone-mark; and that the absence of a tone-mark indicates low-tone. In practice the tone of a syllable relates to the vowel and the 'final' nasal or semi-vowel.

However, this approach would not seem to give the desired simplification of programming.

Note 8: The addition of  VIRAMA to form a 'final consonant' does not mean the formation of a conjunct, nor does it necessarily give a syllable boundary.

Note 9: Only a limited number of 'final consonants' (the nasals and semi-vowels) occur in closed syllables that use explicit tone-marks. See final table in Appendix 3, on the right.

It is thus shown that for simplification of processing applications fourteen extra vowel-signs used in closed syllables require to be coded as entity characters.

## 6 Sorting and Line-breaks

As with other Indic scripts, two of the important processing applications are sorting and provision for line-breaks. Although not the direct responsibility of WG2, they must be considered because they have significant impact on the characters to be coded. By careful choice of these characters, the programming for these two processes can be much simplified. (Such simplification has been a major consideration in the choice of coded characters of all other scripts in UCS.)

First, sorting. In modern practice all open syllables are sorted before all closed syllables. It is considered it will be adequate for the sorting routine to distinguish the type of syllable by identifying the absence or presence of a 'final consonant'. This will make the sorting routine more complex than for any other script.

However, when the composing coding technique is used, for closed syllables the tone-mark, if present, will follow after a consonant + virama + ZWNJ, that is it will come four 16-bit bytes further along the data stream than the vowel-sign; or in the case of a 'final conjunct' six bytes. With the extended characters proposed in this paper, this problem would not arise. (For Latin script, accented letters have been provided to solve a much less-severe form of this problem.)

Second, line-breaking. As with other Indic scripts, line-breaks can only occur at a syllable boundary. To provide for automatic formatting, and more especially for re-formatting during text editing, it is important that the algorithm to determine each syllable boundary should be as simple as possible, and the choice of coded characters affects this.

For Myanmar the situation is more severe than for other Indic scripts for it is often written without Spaces between words. Furthermore, the structure of closed syllables presents a significant complication.

It is considered that the extended set of characters proposed in this paper will significantly simplify this processing application.

## 7 'Induced Creaky-Tone'

A unique feature of Myanmar is that the creaky-tone-mark Aukmyit may be added to a vowel-sign with its associated tone-mark. This is employed to indicate possession (much like 's in English), and has other grammatical uses. It then converts a syllable in low-tone (and sometimes a high-tone) into creaky-tone. This use may be called




'induced creaky-tone'.





When used for this purpose, according to UCS usage it would be coded independently. But because the glyph is superimposed on others, but NOT combined with them, it gives rise to the grouped glyphs shown in columns C and E of the main table in Appendix 2. This superimposition is a task for the presentation system. (It is this that accounts for the apparent anomaly of two tone-marks being associated with one vowel-sign.)

This use of Aukmyit has different graphical effects in open and closed syllables. However, when the characters proposed in this paper are used, a single rule that Aukmyit shall be coded immediately after the character for the vowel-sign with its associated tone-mark will suffice for all situations. If the composition technique is used, in conjunction with the normal rules of UCS, that simple rule would no longer apply.

## 8 Other Characters in Myanmar Proposal

The Myanmar Proposal includes a number of characters which, according to UCS usage, would be coded as sequences of characters, and thus form grouped-glyphs. These are discussed in this section but are not included in this proposal.

One such set comprises the character  ANUSVARA (1036) which is used to write a final nasal-m superimposed on vowel-signs (for example). According to UCS usage it would be separately coded and is then NOT combined. This gives the following grouped glyphs in the Myanmar Proposal:   to which others may be added.

Mention may be made of four other grouped glyphs that appear in the Myanmar document:    

However these are not recognized in this paper as being used in practice, or needing to be coded as individual characters.

It should be noted that the objectives of the Myanmar documents differ from UCS:

- o The characters in the Myanmar code table are based on the graphic elements that need to be presented at a single active-position. UCS leaves this to the sophistication of the presentation system. Likewise, UCS assumes the use of an 'intelligent' keyboard for input.
- o UCS code table need not follow sorting sequence.
- o UCS has to consider all languages written in Myanmar script.
- o UCS has to consider characters in archival documents, and transliteration.

## 9 Justification













This proposed extension to the Myanmar set comprises individually coded characters for the letters of sections 2, 3 and 5 above that are not already in the present UCS set. A suggested code table and the list of names are attached.

The justification for these is to reflect the practical use of Myanmar, to provide every one of what users of Myanmar regard as the letters of their alphabet each coded uniquely as a 16-bit entity, to deal effectively with the different requirements of open and closed syllables, to simplify programming, to permit the use of Implementation Level 2 and, in particular to avoid composition techniques which lead to the problems high-lighted in the next section.





The extended set reflects the fact that in Myanmar each vowel-sign and tone-mark comprise a single unit of information, even though they may be widely separated graphically. Each vowel+tone unit is coded individually, to aid processing of such units of information.

## 10 Problems with Composition Technique

Composition of Myanmar characters is significantly different from some other scripts e.g Latin. In processing applications its use would lead to significant problems. As examples:

- i The vowel-sign  HIGH-TONE AU would have to be composed from the sequence  VOWEL SIGN E plus  VOWEL SIGN AA. Note that these components are not related in any way to AU. Likewise for vowel-sign  LOW-TONE O from  VOWEL SIGN I plus  VOWEL SIGN U, and two other similar letters of the alphabet.
- ii For vowel-signs containing the glyph-element  it could be difficult to distinguish in the coded data stream its use to indicate possession (see section 7).
- iii The vowel-sign  LOW-TONE AU would have to be composed from a sequence of two vowel-signs plus a visible VIRAMA which is not acting to form a conjunct nor is it Explicit VIRAMA nor does it give a closed syllable. This distinction needs to be maintained.
- iv The coding of a closed syllable containing any of the creaky-tone or low-tone vowel-signs could be complex or confusing, because the syllable boundary does not occur after the Explicit VIRAMA.
- v The group of glyph-elements  is correctly the vowel-sign  CREAKY-TONE U followed by  ANUSVARA, Romanized as -um. According to UCS usage this would be coded erroneously in the sequence  ANUSVARA followed by the vowel-sign. This would occur with many other similar groups of glyph elements or characters.



- vi In the group  HIGH-TONE I WITH INDUCED CREAKY-TONE the UCS conventions would give the incorrect sequence  +  +  . There are three other groups of this type.
- vii In Myanmar a single unit of information may comprise one, two or three graphic elements in the vowel-sign together with one or two graphic elements in the tone-mark(s). With the composition technique, a single unit of such information would comprise a multiplicity of coded characters which, especially in closed syllables, may be widely separated in the coded data stream.

By use of the characters of the extension set none of these problems arise. Furthermore, the extension set provides all the letters of the alphabet with entity coding (each one 16 bits). Thus it provides an option for the user to employ entity coding. This facility has been provided for all Indic scripts, now including Sinhala, Tibetan and Khmer; also, entity coding is provided for the large set of tonal vowels used by Vietnamese (cells 1EA0 to 1EF9 in Extended Latin and elsewhere).

By use of Implementation Level 2 with the 'unique coding rule' of clause 24.2 of the new ISO 10646, ambiguous (or alternative or equivalent) coding is avoided.

It may be noted that, except for problem 10.i, these problems are unique to Myanmar.

#### 11 Procedure within WG2

It is left to WG2 to decide whether Myanmar should be treated in UCS as two collections, that is Basic (as in the present UCS set) and an Extended Set. Or whether the characters here proposed should be merely added to those in the present UCS set. This is what was done with the enhancement of Tibetan. It would have the advantage of providing within one collection all the characters needed when using the combining technique or alternatively using entity coding, as has been done with all Indic scripts, Sinhala, Tibetan and Khmer.

TABLE 240 - Row 10: EXTENDED MYANMAR

	102	103	104	105	106
0					၀
1					၀း
2					၀်
3					၀်း
4					၀််
5					၀််း
6					ိ်
7					ိ်း
8	၆း				ိ််
9					ိ််း
A		ိ်း		ဲ	၆၀််
B		၀း		ဲး	၆၀််း
C		ိ်း		၆၀်	၆၀််
D		ိ်း		၆၀်	၆၀််း
E		၆း		၆၀	ိ််
F		၆း		ိ်	ိ််း

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List of Names

1028	MYANMAR LETTER HIGH-TONE E (archival)
103A	MYANMAR LETTER HIGH-TONE U
103B	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE A
103C	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE I
103D	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE U
103E	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE E
105F	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE E
105A	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE AI
105B	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE AI (archival)
105C	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN LOW-TONE AU
105D	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE AU
105E	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE AU
106F	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN LOW-TONE O
1060	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE O
1061	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE O
1062	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE A CLOSED
1063	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE A CLOSED
1064	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE AA CLOSED
1065	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE AA CLOSED
1066	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE I CLOSED
1067	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE I CLOSED
1068	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE U CLOSED
1069	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE U CLOSED
106A	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE E CLOSED
106B	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE E CLOSED
106C	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE AU CLOSED
106D	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE AU CLOSED
106E	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN CREAKY-TONE O CLOSED
106F	MYANMAR VOWEL SIGN HIGH-TONE O CLOSED

Myanmar Code Table

	148	149	14A	14B	14C	14D	14E	14F
0	lc	က	တ	ဠ	lcm	ငး	ငံ	ငွ
1		ခ	ထ	အ	ဝု	ဂူ	ဝို	ရွ
2		ဝ	ဒ	ဏ	:	ဂူ	ဝို	ရွ
3		ဃ	ဓ	ဤ	ဝ၁	ဂူ	ဝို	ငး
4		င	န	ဥ	ဝ?	ဂူ	ဝံ	၏
5		စ	ပ	ဦ	ဝး	ဝေ	lvm	ဝံ
6	ဝ	ဆ	ဖ	ဦး	ဝး	ဝေ	ဂျ	နို
7	၁	ဇ	ပ	ဧ	ဝိ	ဝေ	ဂြ	ဝံ
8	၂	ဈ	ဘ	ဩ	ဝို	ဝဲ	ဝွ	၊
9	၃	ဥ	မ	ဩ	ဝိး	ဝဲ	ဝု	။
A	၄	ဉ	ယ		ဝိ	ဝေ၁	ရွ	
B	၅	ဋ	ရ		ဝို	ဝေ?	ငွ	
C	၆	ဌ	လ		ဝိး	ဝေ၁:	ဂျ	
D	၇	ရ	ဝ	Ln	ဝိး	င	ငြ	
E	၈	ဗ	ဆ	Sh	ဂု	ဝေ၁	ဝွ	
F	၉	ဏ	ဟ	ln	ဂူ	ဝံ	ရွ	

Appendix  
page 2.

Reference : Myanmar Orthography prescribed by Myanmar Language Commission (1986).

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Appendix 2 - page 1



Tue 11 May 1999

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Dear Hugh,

The attached chart is an attempt to do what I promised some weeks back, namely to make a comprehensive list of all combinations of vowel, tone mark and final. The exercise has thrown up something that all of us had overlooked before, namely the "added finals" that Burmese writers use to represent final consonants in non-Burmese words and names.

We have all — including the Myanmar delegation — been so preoccupied with establishing the regular system which all Burmese know, plus its mildly eccentric spellings for Pali words and Sanskrit words and grammatical relations, that we have failed to take into account the bizarre sequences of characters that writers use when they want to represent final consonants in a non-Burmese word or name.

The addition of "added finals" has some surprising consequences. Hitherto we have all agreed that the syllable boundary occurs after a tone mark, or virama, or virama with tone mark, etc, but the syllables now brought to light make nonsense of these rules. A final consonant may be followed by a second final, and a tone mark may be followed by a final, and so on — sequences that never occur in the regular Burmese system. It makes me think that the best solution for syllable boundaries is the one I suggested to you before: abandon the attempt to define the boundary by listing the possible *ends* of syllables, and approach it instead from the far side of the boundary: it is far easier to list the *beginnings* of new syllables. And once you have identified a new syllable by its starting character, then you know it is safe to put a boundary before it.

I would expect most Burmese — including the Myanmar delegation — to dismiss the "added final" sequences on the grounds that they are by definition not Burmese words. On the other hand they do appear daily in newspapers and magazines, almost all of which are typeset by computer, so any coding system must cater for them. The accompanying chart includes many examples taken from published material that was computer typeset.

As you will see, I have put in separate columns combinations that relate to open syllables and closed syllables in the regular system, and those that are devised to represent non-Burmese final consonants.



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES

1996

School of Oriental and African Studies

-14-

**THE BURMESE WRITING SYSTEM**

Sequences of vowel sign, final consonant, tone mark

*Key to following table***1. REGULAR SYSTEM****1.1 open syllables**

A = basic vowel sign

B = vowel sign modified to show different tone

C = vowel sign from column B with additional tone mark (◌̣) to show induced creaky tone (for possessive and other grammatical relations)

**1.2 closed syllables**

D = basic vowel sign (i.e. column A, now tone-free) followed by final consonant

In the chart "+" stands for any final consonant:

Note that ꠁ should be read as representing either a consonant bearing the "killer stroke" (athat/ virama) or a consonant forming the first of a conjunct pair. The difference is that while ꠁ may be followed by a tone mark or (if there is no tone mark) a linebreak, the latter may not be followed by either.

E = vowel sign followed by final consonant (i.e. column D) followed by tone marks

**2. SYLLABLES WITH ADDED FINALS**

Added finals are used to represent final consonants in non-Burmese words and names. They are added to regular syllables, or to a regular syllable with an added final.

Note that added finals in non-Burmese words may be written optionally in brackets: e.g. ဆွစ်စ်ရို:လ် or ဆွစ်(စ်)ရို:လ် "Swiss roll"

F = regular open syllable with added final (thereby becomes closed syllable)

G = regular closed syllable with added final (or regular open syllable with two added finals, e.g. ဝဲꠁ &gt; ဝဲꠁꠁ)

Maximum possible sequence:

vowel sign	+ tone mark	+ final cons	+ tone mark	+ final cons	+ tone mark
------------	-------------	--------------	-------------	--------------	-------------

Normally there will only be one tone mark in a syllable.

Rarely, a non-Burmese word may be written with *three* final consonants; e.g.

ဖိ:လ်စ်(စ်)(စ်) "Phillips", ဖုလ်စ်စ်စ် "fax"

H = examples of F and G, mainly taken from printed texts. Words in square brackets are not attested from printed texts, but suggest ways in which Burmese script might on occasion be adapted by a resourceful Burmese typesetter to represent some non-Burmese sequence of vowel and final consonant. It would be sensible to anticipate and cater for such sequences even though they are not attested in the small corpus I have to hand.

The sequences of characters in cols A to E are too common and well known to require exemplification.

In this chart Minus stands for the consonant with which the vowel-sign is associated; it is written ် in UCS. It is coded before the vowel-sign. Plus stands for a 'final consonant', and is written ် in this paper. It is coded after the vowel-sign.

REGULAR SYSTEM					REGULAR SYLLABLES WITH		
Open syllables			Closed syllables		ADDED FINALS		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
-			-f	-f -f: -f:		-ff -ff: -ff:	ဖရန့်ဇ်ကပ်ဖ်ကာ။ အောဘယ်လ်ဂန့်စ်။ ဘတ်စ်ကား။ ပေါဂီတာစရပ်စ် မူလတန်းကျောင်း။ ဆော့(ဘ်)မက်ဒေါ့ဝယ်လ်။ အောလစ်စ်။ ဖီးလစ်(ပ်)(စ်) ဖေါက်(စ်) ရှေ့နေ။ ဆိုက်ပရပ်စ်ပင်။ ရှစ်(ထ်)။ မင်းသား ကယ်ရီဂရန့်ထ်။
	၁		၁f	၁f ၁f: ၁f:			
		၁			၁f	၁ff	ဟာဒ်ဝဲ၊ ဆော့ဖ်ဝဲ၊
	၁:				၁:f	၁:ff	ချားလ်စ်ရှိုင်ရာဝယ်။
		၁:					
၁			၁f	၁f ၁f: ၁f:		၁ff ၁ff: ၁ff:	ကဗျာဆရာယိတ်စ်။ ဂျိမ်းစ်လှကျော်။
	၁				၁f	၁ff	[ယတ်ဇ်မိန်]
		၁					
	၁:				၁:f	၁:ff	[ရဘီးန်]
		၁:					
၁			၁f	၁f ၁f: ၁f:		၁ff ၁ff: ၁ff:	ကုတ်(စ်)
					၁f	၁ff	ထရစ်ပယ်ဒီဗြစ်ရှင်းနည်း
	၁				၁f	၁ff	[ယုလ်]
		၁					
	၁:				၁:f	၁:ff	နယူးစ်ဝိမ်မဂ္ဂဇင်း။
		၁:					



e	၆		၆	၆ ၆: ၆:		၆ ၆: ၆:	[ဆန်ဇာရီ]
	၆				၆	၆	ဗင်္ဂလားဒေ့ရှ်
	၆:				၆:	၆:	နယူးဆောက်ဝေးစ်။
		၆:					
ai	၆				၆	၆	ပလပ်စမာဂျဲလ်။ ဟိမိုဂလိုဗင်ရောင်ချယ်ဆဲလ်။ တွဲလ်ဗို။ အဲရ်ကွန်ဒီးရှင်း။
	၆				၆	၆	[ဘွဲန့်ထ်]
	၆:						
au	၆		၆	၆ ၆: ၆:		၆ ၆: ၆:	ဘလောက်စ်အင်္ကျီ။ ဖီးလစ်(ပ်)(စ်) ဖေါက်(စ်) ရှေ့နေ။
	၆				၆	၆	လော့ဒ် ကစ်ချင်နာ။ အာဇော့ဗ်ပင်လယ်။ မက်ကင်းတော့ရှ်ကွန်ပျူတာ။
	၆				၆	၆	[ကျော်န့်]
		၆					
o	၆		၆	၆ ၆: ၆:		၆ ၆: ၆:	[ရိုစ်ထ်]
	၆				၆	၆	အောက်စဖို့ဒ်။ “ပိုဗေးရိုလ်” မဂ္ဂဇင်း။ ဝါရှင်တန်ပို့စ်
	၆:				၆:	၆:	ဝင်းဒိုးစ် 3.1။ ဝူပီဂိုးလ်ဘတ်စ်။
		၆:					

\* obsolescent sequence, still found in some older texts

Originals of non-Burmese words shown in Burmese script in column H

Franz Kafka, Abel Gants, Bus car, Port Gita Strasse (?) elementary school, Bob  
McDowell, Olive, Phillips Fox Advocates, cypress tree, shit, the actor Cary  
Grant  
hardware, software  
Charles Shirewell (?)  
the poet Yeats, James Hla Gyaw  
Yasmeen

Continued

Rabin  
 Coke  
 The Triple Diffusion Process  
 Newsweek Magazine  
 Sainsbury  
 Bangladesh  
 New South Wales  
 plasma gel, haemoglobin staining cell (?), twelve volt, air conditioned  
 Bent  
 blouse, Phillips Fox Advocates  
 Lord Kitchener, the Sea of Azov, Macintosh computer  
 Quorn  
 roast  
 Oxford, Poveroll (?) magazine, Washington Post  
 Windows 3.1, Whoopie Goldbergs

## The full range of possible final consonants

Final consonants	Final consonants followed by tone marks
က် ခ် ဂ် ဃ် င် ဖ် ဆ် ဇ် ဈ် ည် ည် င် င် ခ် ဖ် က် တ် ထ် ဒ် ဖ် န် ဝ် ဖ် ဝ် ဝ် ဝ် ယ် ရ် လ် ဝ် သ် ဟ် င် အ်	င် င်: င်: ည် ည်: ည်: ည် ည်: ည်: က် က်: က်: န် န်: န်: ဝ် ဝ်: ဝ်: ဝ် ဝ်: ဝ်: ယ် ယ်: ယ်: ရ် ရ်: ရ်: (လ်: ဝ်: not found) သ် ဟ်: သ်: ရ် ရ်: ရ်: (ဟ်: င်: not found; သ်: အ်: not poss)
Combined consonants used as finals in non-Burmese words	Examples:
ချ် = kh y (prau ch)	မစ္စတာရတ်(ချ်)။ စတိတ်ချ်ရှီး။ ပီအိတ်ချ်ဒီ။ Mr Ratch. Stage show. PhD.
ရှ် = rh (pram sh)	မက်ကင်းတော့ရှ်ကွန်ပျူတာ။ ရပ်ရှ်မိုးတောင်။ ပွတ်ရှ်ပူးအောက်ပွတ်။ Macintosh computer. Mt Rushmore. Push-pull output
ဂျ် = gy (pran ge)	နစ်ခိုးလပ်စ်ခေဂျ်။ ဒေါက်တာဆတြိုန်းဂျ်လပ်စ် Nicholas Cage. Dr Strangelove.



# PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM

## A. Administrative

1. Title: **Proposal for Extension to Myanmar Coded Set**

2. Requester's name: **Professor John Okell and Hugh McG Ross, U.K.**

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): **Individual contribution**

4. Submission date:

5. Requester's reference (if applicable):

6. (Choose one of the following:)  
This is a complete proposal: ; or, **Complete proposal**  
More information will be provided later:

## B. Technical - General

1. (Choose one of the following:)

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):  
Proposed name of script:

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:  
Name of the existing block: **Addition to existing Myanmar block**

2. Number of characters in proposal: **Twenty nine**

3. Proposed category (see section II, Character Categories): **A**

4. Proposed Level of Implementation (see clause 15, ISO/IEC 10646-1): **Levels 3 and 2**  
Is a rationale provided for the choice? **Yes, in this Proposal**  
If Yes, reference:

5. Is a repertoire including character names provided?: **Yes**

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the 'character naming guidelines' in Annex K of ISO/IEC 10646-1? **Yes**

b. Are the character shapes attached in a reviewable form? **Yes**

6. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, PostScript or 96x96 bit-mapped format) for publishing the standard?  
**Michael Everson, Everson Gunn Teoranta, Ireland**  
If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used: **Michael Everson. Truetype**

7. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?  
**Definitive books by Professor Okell 'Burmese, an Introduction to the Script' and 'A Guide to the Romanization of Burmese' and 'A Reference Grammar of Colloquial Burmese'. Also: Myanmar's Proposal WG2 N 815, as superseded by the Revised Myanmar Proposal tabled at the London WG2 meeting (in blue cover). Also: Official National Statement of Myanmar Orthography.**

b. Are published examples (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of use of proposed characters attached?  
**Yes, attached to this Proposal. Myanmar is well known.**

8. Special encoding issues: **No**

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information):  
**Yes, in particular presentation, formatting, sorting, searching, matching, indexing, transliteration.**

## C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?

No

If YES explain

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

Yes.

If YES, with whom?

If YES, available relevant documents?

Myanmar national body, and Myanmar national experts. Experts and users within School of Oriental and African Studies, London University.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

Reference:

45 million people live in Myanmar. All are potential users of these characters,

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

Common

Reference: See Nakanishi page 73

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

If YES, where? Reference:

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in N 1352 must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

If YES, is a rationale provided?

If YES, reference: See FPDAM 26.

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Preferably adjacent to Basic set of FPDAM 26.

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

If YES, reference:

Yes for presentation only. But problems, most unique to use of Myanmar writing system, arise for processing applications. Rationale is included in this Proposal.

9. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

No.

If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

If YES, reference:

10. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clause 4.11 and 4.13 in ISO/IEC 10646-1)?

No.

If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

If YES, reference:

Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

If YES, reference:

11. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

## D. SC 2/WG 2 Administrative (To be completed by SC 2/WG 2)

1. Relevant SC 2/WG 2 document numbers:

2. Status (list of meeting number and corresponding action or disposition):

3. Additional contact to user communities, liaison organizations etc:

