

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N3196R

Title	Proposal to Disunify U+4039
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Document Type	Expert Contribution
Date	8th January 2007, revised 18th March 2007

Background

The character U+4039 is a unification of two different glyphs, one written as 𦉳 (i.e. mù 目 radical and jiā 夾 phonetic) and one written as 𦉴 (i.e. mù 目 radical and shǎn 𠂔 phonetic). It is the former of these two glyph forms that is used to represent this character in the code charts.

04039	G3-5952	𦉳 𦉴
34590	T4-3946	
34590		
0809.030		
42490.020		
目 7	KP1-5E34	

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There is also a simplified form of the *jiā* phonetic glyph (U+25174 𠂔), as well as two compatibility ideographs that are canonically equivalent to U+4039 : U+FAD4 𦉳 and U+2F949 𦉴.

We believe that the two characters 𦉳 (*jiā* phonetic) and 𦉴 (*shǎn* phonetic) are lexically distinct, and so should not have been unified according to the rules for CJK unification (see ISO/IEC 10646:2003 Annex S, S.1.1).

The character written with the *jiā* 𠂔 phonetic is used as a alternate form for a number of different characters, and has the following pronunciations and meanings :

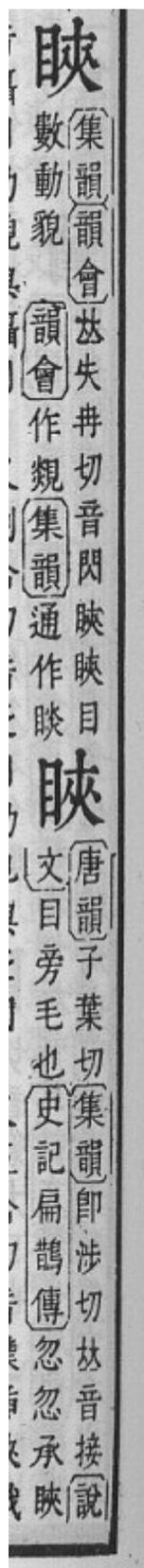
- *jié* = 睫 *jié* "eyelash"
- *zhǎ* = 眨 *zhǎ* "to blink"
- *jiá* "to close one's eye(s)"
- *shè* = 瞞 *shè* "to blink"
- *yà* in the compound 媯𦉳 *shà yà* "teasingly"

On the other hand the character written with the *shǎn* 𠂔 phonetic has only a single pronunciation and meaning :

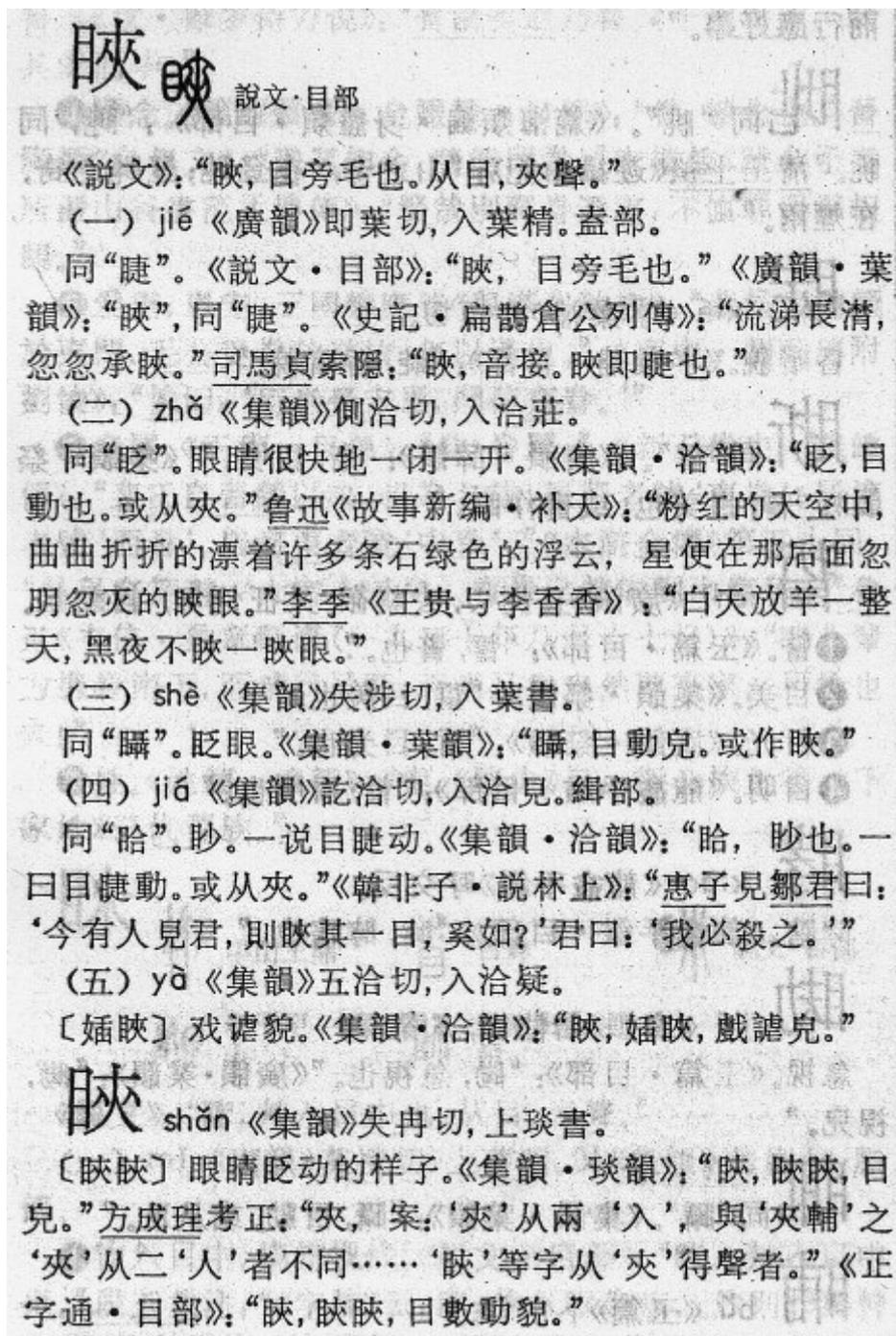
- *shǎn* = 𦉴 *shǎn* "to blink" or "to twinkle"

Whilst there is some semantic overlap between the two characters, it is clear that the characters are not cognate, and that the graphic similarity between them is coincidental. The lexical separation of these two characters is clearly demonstrated by the examples below, taken from various authoritative modern and traditional dictionaries. In smaller modern Chinese dictionaries such as *Xinhua Zidian* 新華字典 and *Xiandai Hanyu Cidian* 現代漢語詞典, the character with the *jiā* 𠂔 phonetic (i.e. the representative

glyph form of U+4039) does not occur, and only the character with the *shǎn* 爽 phonetic is found.



Kangxi Zidian 康熙字典 (Zhonghua Shuju, 1958) p.809.

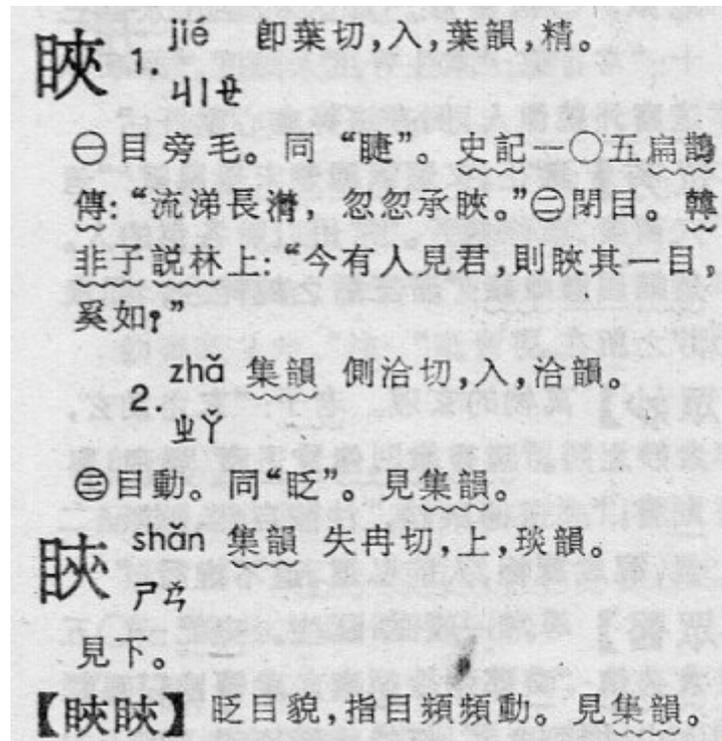


眅¹ [jié<廣韻> 卽葉切,入葉,精。] 眼睫毛。〈史記·扁鵲倉公列傳〉:“言未卒,因噓唏服臆,魂精泄橫,流涕長潛,忽忽承眅。”司馬貞索隱:“音接。眅卽睫也。承眅,言淚恒垂以承於睫也。”

眅² [jié<集韻> 訖洽切,入洽,見。] 眼睛閉上。〈韓非子·說林上〉:“惠子見鄒君曰:‘今有人見君,則眅其一目,奚如?’君曰:‘我必殺之。’”王煥鑣注:“眅,閉目;眅其一目,故意閉一目,是輕蔑人的態度。”清錢謙益〈復吳江潘力田書〉:“杜詩非易注之書,注杜非聊爾之事,固不妨慎之又慎,精之又精,終不應草次裨販,冀幸舉世兩目盡眅,而以爲予雄也。”

眅³ [zhǎ<集韻> 側洽切,入洽,莊。] 眨眼; 上下眼皮很快地開閉。魯迅〈野草·秋夜〉:“他仿佛要離開人間而去,使人們仰面不再看見。然而現在却非常之藍,閃閃地眅着幾十個星星的眼,冷眼。”艾蕪〈端陽節〉九:“張大爺光着頭赤着足尾着跑來。老三不禁笑了眅一眅眼睛。”

眅 [shǎn<集韻> 失冉切,上琰,書。] 眼很快地開閉。茅盾〈賽會〉二:“說不到三句話,他就搔着頭皮,眅着一隻眼。”趙樹理〈李有才板話〉一:“這人的相貌不大好看,臉像個葫蘆瓢子,說一句話眅十來次眼皮。”徐遲〈地質之光〉:“說到這兒,白髮蒼蒼的李四光眅眅眼睛,笑了一笑,輕輕撥動他桌上一個地球儀,一下子使小小寰球急速地旋轉了起來。”



Ci Yuan 辭源 (Shangwu Yinshuguan, compact ed., 1988) p.1202.

Proposed Solution

From the above examples it is clear that the two characters 眅 and 眅 are distinct and need to be encoded separately. There are two possibilities :

Solution A

The existing U+4039 is identified with the *jiā* phonetic character 眅

A new character U+XXXX is encoded for the *shǎn* phonetic character 眅

Solution B

The existing U+4039 is identified with the *shǎn* phonetic character 眅

A new character U+XXXX is encoded for the *jiā* phonetic character 眅

With regard to the simplified character U+25174 眅, it does not matter whether Solution A or Solution B is accepted as there is no formal relationship between it and U+4039 (the UniHan database does not currently give a kTraditionalVariant mapping for U+25174). Note that although U+965D 陝 simplifies to U+9655 陕, this simplification is anomalous, and U+25174 would be expected to only be the simplified form of 眅 (*jiā* phonetic) and not of 眅 (*shǎn* phonetic).

Unfortunately the issue is complicated by the existence of two compatibility ideographs, both canonically equivalent to U+4039, but one with the *jiā* 夾 phonetic (U+2F949 𠄎) and one with the *shǎn* 𠄎 phonetic (U+FAD4 𠄎). The former should be equivalent to the *jiā* phonetic character and the latter should be equivalent to the *shǎn* phonetic character, but as they are both immutably equivalent to U+4039, if Solution A is accepted U+FAD4 will be canonically equivalent to the wrong character, whereas if Solution B is accepted U+2F949 will be canonically equivalent to the wrong character -- whichever solution is chosen one of the compatibility characters will end up with an incorrect canonical equivalence.

However, U+FAD4 was only encoded because of the need to distinguish the two characters (*jiā* phonetic and *shǎn* phonetic), so accepting Solution A will make U+FAD4 redundant, and it can effectively be deprecated in favour of the new character U+XXXX (indeed it may be prudent to formally deprecate U+FAD4 if Solution A is accepted). Thus, leaving U+FAD4 with an incorrect canonical equivalence should not have a significant negative impact.

A further advantage of Solution A over Solution B is that the vast majority of existing CJK fonts use the *jiā* phonetic glyph for U+4039, so keeping U+4039 as the *jiā* phonetic character will minimise the need to change existing fonts.

Therefore we believe that the best solution would be to encode the character *shǎn* 𠄎 (*mù* 目 radical and the *shǎn* 夾 phonetic) as a separate character in its own right in a future amendment to ISO/IEC 10646.

UniHan Data

The UniHan data for U+4039 is currently (Unicode 5.0.0) as follows :

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U+4039 kCangjie BUKOO
U+4039 kCantonese gap6 sip3 zip3
U+4039 kCheungBauer 109/07;BUKOO;gap6,sip3
U+4039 kCheungBauerIndex 443.11 444.01
U+4039 kCihaiT 951.404
U+4039 kDefinition (same as U+7728 眨) to wink; (same as U+776B 睫) eyelashes,
having one eye smller than the other, joke; witticism; pleasantry; jest; fun;
(Cant.) to peep at; to blink, wink
U+4039 kFennIndex 57.01
U+4039 kHKSCS 98E6
U+4039 kHanYu 42490.020 42490.030
U+4039 kIRGHanyuDaZidian 42490.020
U+4039 kIRGKangXi 0809.030
U+4039 kIRG_GSource 3-5952
U+4039 kIRG_HSource 98E6
U+4039 kIRG_JSource 4-7222
U+4039 kIRG_KPSource KP1-5E34
U+4039 kIRG_TSource 4-3946
U+4039 kJIS0213 2,82,02
U+4039 kKPS1 5E34
U+4039 kMandarin JIA2 SHE4
U+4039 kMatthews 790
U+4039 kPhonetic 550
U+4039 kRSAdobe_Japan1_6 C+18191+109.5.7
U+4039 kRSUnicode 109.7
U+4039 kSBGY 538.34
U+4039 kSemanticVariant U+776B<kMatthews
U+4039 kTotalStrokes 12

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If Solution A proposed above is accepted we would expect the UniHan data for the two characters to be as follows (where U+4039 is the *jiā* phonetic character and U+XXXX is the *shǎn* phonetic character) :

U+4039 kCangjie BUKOO
 U+4039 kCantonese gap6 sip3 zip3
 U+4039 kCheungBauer 109/07;BUKOO;gap6,sip3
 U+4039 kCheungBauerIndex 443.11
 U+4039 kCihaiT 951.308
 U+4039 kDefinition (same as U+7728 眨) to wink; (same as U+776B 睫) eyelashes, having one eye smller than the other, joke; witticism; pleasantry; jest; fun; (Cant.) to peep at; to blink, wink
 U+4039 kFennIndex 57.01
 U+4039 kHKSCS 98E6
 U+4039 kHanYu 42490.020
 U+4039 kIRGHanyuDaZidian 42490.020
 U+4039 kIRGKangXi 0809.030
 U+4039 kIRG_GSource 3-5952
 U+4039 kIRG_HSource 98E6
 U+4039 kIRG_JSource 4-7222
 U+4039 kIRG_KPSource KP1-5E34
 U+4039 kJIS0213 2,82,02
 U+4039 kKPS1 5E34
 U+4039 kMandarin JIE2 ZHA3 JIA2 SHE4 YA4
 U+4039 kMatthews 790
 U+4039 kPhonetic 550
 U+4039 kRSAdobe_Japan1_6 C+18191+109.5.7
 U+4039 kRSUnicode 109.7
 U+4039 kSBGY 538.34
 U+4039 kSemanticVariant U+776B<kMatthews
 U+4039 kSimplifiedVariant U+25174
 U+4039 kTotalStrokes 12

U+XXXX kCangjie BUKOO
 U+XXXX kCantonese sim2
 U+XXXX kCheungBauer 109/07;BUKOO;
 U+XXXX kCheungBauerIndex 444.01
 U+XXXX kCihaiT 951.404
 U+XXXX kDefinition (same as U+7752 眨) to blink, twinkle
 U+XXXX kHanYu 42490.030
 U+XXXX kIRGHanyuDaZidian 42490.030
 U+XXXX kIRGKangXi 0809.020
 U+XXXX kMandarin SHAN3
 U+XXXX kPhonetic 1197
 U+XXXX kRSUnicode 109.7
 U+XXXX kTotalStrokes 12

N.B. Some of these fields need to be checked.