Irish comments on CD ISO/IEC 10646-1/FPDAM 14 (Yi)

Reference: SC2 N3215
Closes: 1999-03-05
Date: 1999-01-19

Q1: Ireland disapproves the FPDAM draft with the technical comments given below. Acceptance of these comments and appropriate changes in the text will change our vote to approval.

Technical:

1. General. Irish negative comments regarding the Yi radicals in the PDAM for Yi were not able to be taken into account because no Chinese expert representing the Yi nationality was present at the London meeting of WG2. We give here a full account of the situation regarding the Yi radicals which has given rise to our continued No vote.

2. Sources. We have now *two* sources for Yi radicals: Bburx 1984 and Bburx 1990. The first of these is an introduction to the Yi writing system; the second a Yi-Chinese dictionary. When Yi radicals were introduced to WG2 in 1995 – in N1187 – and we point out that it was *Ireland*, not any other national body, which came to WG2 with a requirement for Yi radicals – only Bburx 1984 was available to us. Figure 1 below shows the radical repertoire of Bburx 1984: 26 main radicals (used as an index for classification) and an additional 29 radical variants totalling 55 characters. Figure 2 below shows the repertoire found in Bburx 1990: only the 26 main radicals are given.

3. Missing characters. The FPDAM contains 7 additional radicals proposed by China, but omits 5 of the radical variants found in Bburx 1984. No substantive rationale has been given for their omission, except – in N1611 – that some Yi experts do not think that they are needed. This does not satisfy the Irish requirement that all of the radicals in Bburx 1984 be included in the UCS. This requirement is lexicographical in nature – the absence of these characters in the UCS, would, for instance, make it impossible to completely represent Bburx 1984, and any derivative works dealing with Yi radicals and their variants, in UCS encoding.

4. Ordering. The order of the Yi radicals and variants in the FPDAM does not follow the ordering used by Bburx 1984. We consider this to be inconsistent with the agreement of WG2 that Bburx be used to order all Yi characters, which was reflected in the reordering of all of the Yi syllables between the PDAM and the FPDAM. Why should radicals HXUO, VE, HXOT, JJIE, OP, and JJUT not be found in their natural positions in the radical order? Our *minimum* requirement for correcting the FPDAM would be to order the table according to Bburx and to leave empty positions for the 5 missing radical variants if they cannot be added at this time.

5. Additional characters. Of the 7 additional radicals proposed by China, we believe that only 3 are mature candidates for encoding in the UCS. As radical variants, YI RADICAL VU ⟩ can be seen in YI SYLLABLE VU ⟩ (though it is clearer in YI SYLLABLE RRUR ⟨), which name we prefer for the radical); YI RADICAL JY ⟦ can be seen in YI SYLLABLE JY ⟦; YI RADICAL X ⁀ is the tone mark found in 345 of the Yi syllables. The remaining 4 radicals do not appear to be found as variants of any other primary radical. Of these YI RADICAL CY ╳ would seem to be a candidate primary form for two of them, but none of the syllables contain these to the exclusion of the primary form ╳. We believe the inclusion of these 4 radicals in the UCS at this time to be a mistake, and we strongly urge WG2 to withdraw them from the FPDAM pending stronger substantiation – indeed substantiation of any kind – of their existence. It appears to us that these are *strokes*, not *radicals*, and WG2 has not encoded Yi strokes in the UCS. Further, the 4 radicals have names which are inconsistent with the names of the other radicals. LAVT ⁻ , YRRT ⁄ , and VRRT ╲ are not permitted syllables in Yi (which is a warning in itself); CI SSEP ⸝ appears to translate to *shí mó guǐ* in Chinese, meaning ‘ten sharp devils’. These radicals should not be encoded at the present time.

6. Character names. With regard to the names of the radicals, the 26 basic forms are given names in Bburx 1984 in the column preceding the page number (see Figure 1). Note that in general the radical is named for the syllable which contain it with the least additional “graphic interference” of other elements. In the FPDAM the names for radicals WO (<) and DU (<) have been reversed. We further propose a number of other radical name changes: ZIP for YO (); TAT for HXOT (); BE for JJIE ( ).

6. Characters not in Bburx 1990. Fourteen syllables (EX, WU, MUOX, HLOX, GURX, ZE, CUOX, ZZIEP, CHUOT, NRYRX, SHYRX, NJURX, XYRX, and YYX) do not appear in Bburx 1990 but we have verified that they appear in GB 13134-91, *Yi coded character set for information interchange*, so this is not problematic.

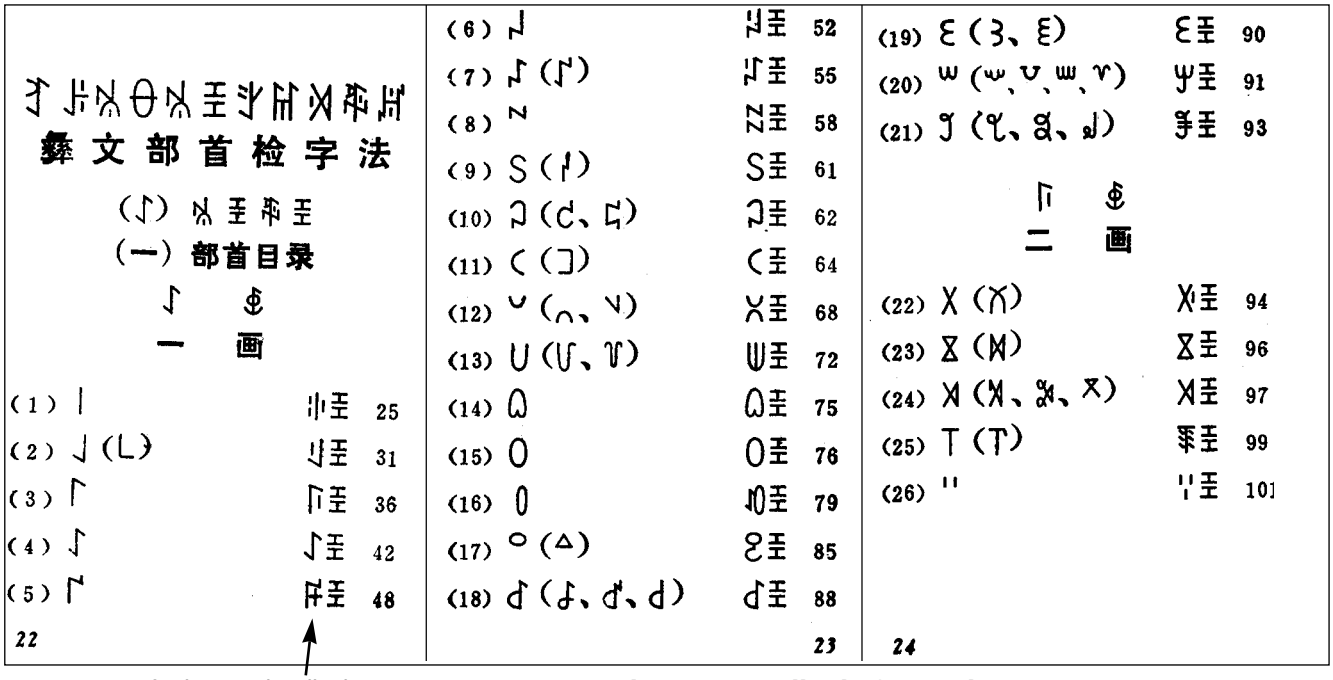


Figure 1: Radicals from Bburx 1984

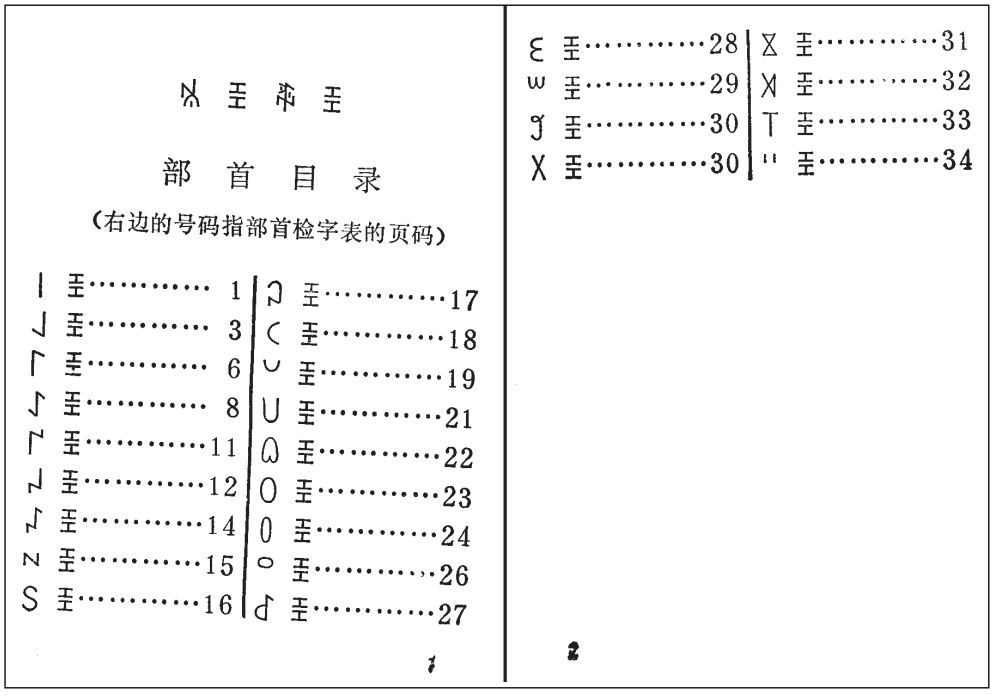


Figure 2: Radicals from Bburx 1990

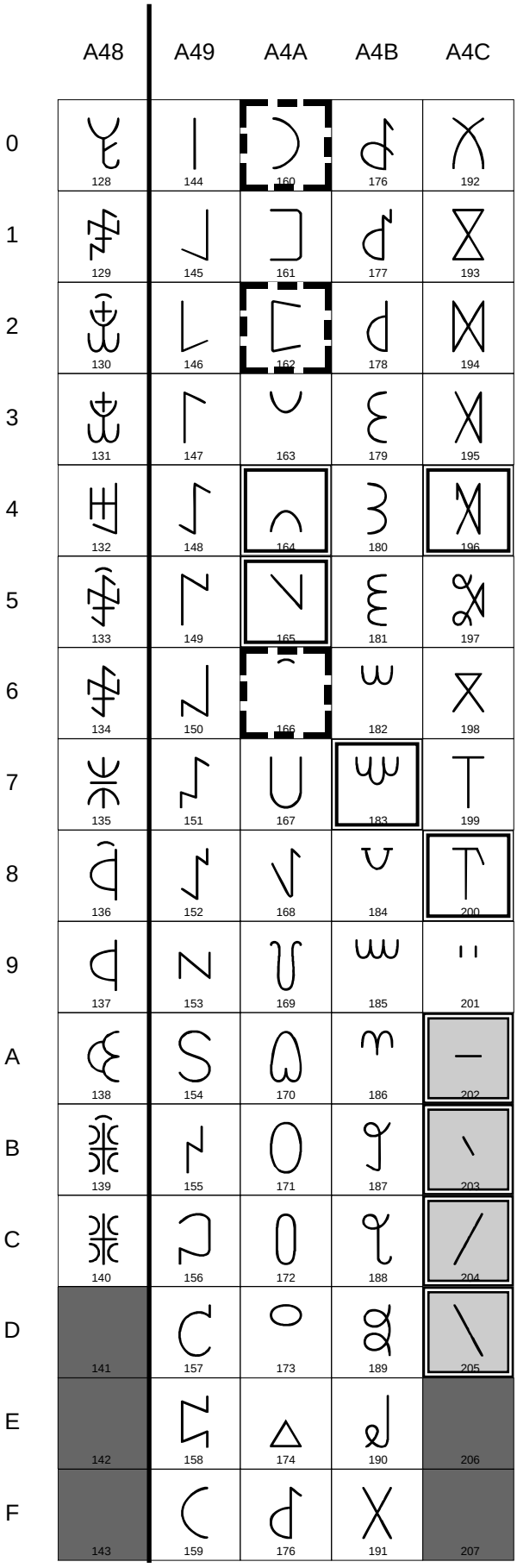
7. Recommendations. We recommend that the table attached be adopted by WG2 for the FDAM. To assist the reader, we have used two conventions: a double line around a cell indicates one of the 5 characters from Bburx 1984 omitted in the PDAM; a bold dotted line around a cell indicates one of the 3 characters proposed by China which we agree should be added to the repertoire; the double line and grey background in the last 4 cells indicates that we propose them to be withdrawn from the FPDAM. For the convenience of the reader, we have added an asterisk next to the name of the primary radicals from Bburx 1984.

8 . References

Bburx Ddie Su. 1984. *Nuo-su bbur-ma shep jie zzit: Syp-chuo se nuo bbur-ma syt mu curx su niep sha zho ddop ma bbur-ma syt mu wo yuop hop, Bburx Ddie da Su*. [Chengdu]: Syp-chuo co cux tep yy ddurx dde. = Biān Xiězhě. 1984. *Yí wén jiǎn zì běn: Yí Hàn wén duìzháo biǎn*. Chéngdū: Sìchuān mínzú chūbǎnshè.

Bburx Ddie Su. 1990. *Nip Huo bbur-ma ssix jie: Nip Huo bbur-ma ssi jie Bburx Ddie curx Su*. [Chengdu]: Syp-chuo co cux tep yy ddurx dde. = Biān Xiězhě. 1984. *Yí Hàn zìdiǎn*. Chéngdū: Sìchuān mínzú chūbǎnshè. ISBN 7-5409-0128-4

YI RADICALS as proposed



G = 00
P = 00

YI RADICALS as proposed

dec	hex	Name
144	90	YI RADICAL QOT *
145	91	YI RADICAL LI *
146	92	YI RADICAL KIT
147	93	YI RADICAL NYIP *
148	94	YI RADICAL CYP *
149	95	YI RADICAL SSI *
150	96	YI RADICAL GGOP *
151	97	YI RADICAL GEP *
152	98	YI RADICAL MI
153	99	YI RADICAL HXIT *
154	9A	YI RADICAL LYR *
155	9B	YI RADICAL BBUT
156	9C	YI RADICAL MOP *
157	9D	YI RADICAL ZIP
158	9E	YI RADICAL PUT
159	9F	YI RADICAL HXUO *
160	A0	YI RADICAL RRUR
161	A1	YI RADICAL HXOT
162	A2	YI RADICAL JY
163	A3	YI RADICAL GA *
164	A4	YI RADICAL ZZIP
165	A5	YI RADICAL CYT
166	A6	YI RADICAL X
167	A7	YI RADICAL DDUR *
168	A8	YI RADICAL BUR
169	A9	YI RADICAL GGUO
170	AA	YI RADICAL NYOP *
171	AB	YI RADICAL TU *
172	AC	YI RADICAL OP *
173	AD	YI RADICAL JJUT *
174	AE	YI RADICAL ZOT
175	AF	YI RADICAL PYT *
176	B0	YI RADICAL HMO
177	B1	YI RADICAL YIT
178	B2	YI RADICAL VUR
179	B3	YI RADICAL SHY *
180	B4	YI RADICAL VEP
181	B5	YI RADICAL ZA
182	B6	YI RADICAL JO *
183	B7	YI RADICAL NZUP
184	B8	YI RADICAL JJY
185	B9	YI RADICAL GOT
186	BA	YI RADICAL BE
187	BB	YI RADICAL WO *
188	BC	YI RADICAL DU
189	BD	YI RADICAL SHUR
190	BE	YI RADICAL LIE
191	BF	YI RADICAL CY *
192	C0	YI RADICAL CUOP
193	C1	YI RADICAL CIP *
194	C2	YI RADICAL HXOP
195	C3	YI RADICAL SHAT *
196	C4	YI RADICAL ZUR
197	C5	YI RADICAL SHOP
198	C6	YI RADICAL CHE
199	C7	YI RADICAL ZZIET *
200	C8	YI RADICAL NBIE
201	C9	YI RADICAL KE *
202	CA	YI RADICAL LAVT (to be deleted)
203	CB	YI RADICAL CI SSEP (to be deleted)
204	CC	YI RADICAL YRRT (to be deleted)
205	CD	YI RADICAL VRRT (to be deleted)
206	CE	(This position shall not be used)
207	CF	(This position shall not be used)

dec	hex	Name