PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM

A. Administrative

1.Title
Proposal to encode New Testament editorial characters in the UCS
2. Requester's name
Thesaurus Linguae Graecae Project (University of California, Irvine)
3. **Requester type**
Expert contribution
4. Submission date:
2002-11-07
5. Requester's reference
6. Completion
This is a complete proposal.

B. Technical - General

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:
Name of the existing block:
General Punctuation
2. Number of characters in proposal:
13
3. Proposed category
Category B.1
4. Proposed Level of Implementation:
Level 1
5a. Character names provided?
Yes.
5b. Character names in accordance with guidelines
Yes.
5c. Character shapes reviewable?
Yes.
6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font for publishing the standard?
TLG Project
6b. Fonts currently available.
Proposed characters are included in the LaserGreek® font distributed by Linguists' Software.
6c. Font format
True Type
7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?
Yes
7b. Are published examples of use of proposed characters attached?
Yes.
8. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing
No.

C. Technical - Justification

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

No.

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community?

Yes.The TLG has been in contact with experts in the field of Biblical Studies. We have consulted with members of the Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung at theUniversity of Muenster, Westfalia, Germany, especially, Luc Herren, Editor of the forthcoming digital version of the Nestle-Aland edition of the New Testament and Dr. Klaus Wachtel. The proposal has also been reviewed by Dr. James Adair, General Editor of *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*, and Tim Feeney, organizer of the Greek New Testament Project.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters:

Scholarly community and readers of the Greek text of the New Testament.

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

These characters are used in the Nestle-Aland edition and critical apparatus of the New Testament and other secondary sources about it or derived from it.

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

Yes. Characters are present in the Nestle-Aland (UBS) edition and used extensively by scholars in the field. A new digital version of the Nestle-Aland edition is currently under preparation. General references provided in attached bibliography.

6. After giving due consideration to the principles in *Principles and Procedures document*, must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

If YES, is a rationale provided?

Accordance with the Roadmap.

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

Characters should be kept together in the General Punctuation section.

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

No.

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

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

Yes. Left Omission Bracket is similar to <superscript> 25A1 which has different properties.

Upper-Half Right Angle Substitution Marker is similar but not identical to <superscript> 231C and <superscript> 250C.

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences

No.

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

No.

13. Does the proposal contain any ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

Proposal

The Greek text of the New Testament exists in a large number of manuscripts with many textual variants. New Testament scholars need special characters (in addition to standard papyrological symbols) in order to discuss these textual variants. The most widely used critical edition of the New Testament is the Nestle-Aland edition published by the United Bible Societies (UBS), currently in its 27th revised edition. In order to clearly and accurately represent and discuss the various textual variants in the New Testament while still leaving the text clear and readable, Nestle introduced a set of editorial characters.[1] The editorial system introduced by Nestle goes far beyond a standard system of critical apparatus: rather than simply referring the reader to the footnotes, the sigla in the text show the reader instantly exactly what sort of textual variants exist. So, for instance, there are sigla to show that a word or words have been substituted with others in the textual variants; there are sigla to show that there is extra text in the variants and sigla to show that a piece of text is missing from some or all of the textual variants.

A digital version of the Nestle-Aland edition which makes use of these symbols is currently under preparation by the Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung at the University of Münster, Germany. In addition, these editorial characters are regularly used in a number of journals and other publications[2] and have, thus, become the recognized method of annotating the New Testament. LaserGreek, one of the most popular and widely used set of Greek fonts (distributed by Linguists Software) already includes these sigla in its repertoire.

Approximately half of the editorial NT characters can currently be encoded in the Unicode Standard. There are, however, 13 sigla which cannot currently be encoded in Unicode. These are proposed below.

Bibliography

Aland, K. et al. (eds.), *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 27th edn. (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993)

Aland, K., *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum,* 15th ed. (Stuttgart, 1997)

Aland, K. and Aland, B., *The Text of the New Testament: An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism*, 2nd ed. (Leiden: Brill, 1989),

David M., and Van Groningen B.A., *Papyrological Primer*, 4th ed. (Leiden: Brill, 1965).

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[1] Nestle, Nestle, Aland (1993) 49*

[2] E.g. *New Testament Studies*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Novum Testamentum*, etc.

Modern New Testament Editorial Characters

Table of Characters Proposed

Full Documentation available at: http://www.tlg.uci.edu/Uni.prop.html

Number	Character	Name	Codepoint	Comment
Modern New Testament Editorial Sigla				
1	⌐	Upper-Half Right Angle Substitution Marker	2058	Similar to <superscript> 231C and <superscript> 250C
2	⌐	Upper-Half Right Angle Dotted Substitution Marker	2059	
3	(	Upper-Half Left Substitution Bracket	205A	
4	)	Upper-Half Right Substitution Bracket	205B	
5	(·	Upper-Half Dotted Left Substitution Bracket	205C	
6	)·	Upper-Half Dotted Right Substitution Bracket	205D	
7	⊤	T-Like Raised Interpolation Marker	205E	
8	⊤·	T-Like Raised Dotted Interpolation Marker	2064	
9	⌐	Upper-Half Dotted Transposition Marker	2065	
10	⌐	Upper-Half Left Transposition Bracket	2066	
11	⌐	Upper-Half Right Transposition Bracket	2067	
12	▣	Left Raised Omission Bracket	2068	Similar to <superscript> 25A1
13	＼	Right Raised Omission Bracket	2069	

TABLE 2050-206F: GENERAL PUNCTUATION

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TABLE 2050-206F: GENERAL PUNCTUATION

hex	Name
2058	UPPER-HALF RIGHT ANGLE SUBSTITUTION MARKER
2059	UPPER-HALF RIGHT ANGLE DOTTED SUBSTITUTION MARKER
205A	UPPER-HALF LEFT SUBSTITUTION BRACKET
205B	UPPER-HALF RIGHT SUBSTITUTION BRACKET
205C	UPPER-HALF DOTTED LEFT SUBSTITUTION BRACKET
205D	UPPER-HALF DOTTED RIGHT SUBSTITUTION BRACKET
205E	T-LIKE RAISED INTERPOLATION MARKER
2064	T-LIKE RAISED DOTTED INTERPOLATION MARKER
2065	UPPER-HALF DOTTED TRANSPOSITION MARKER
2066	UPPER-HALF LEFT TRANSPOSITION BRACKET
2067	UPPER-HALF RIGHT TRANSPOSITION BRACKET
2068	LEFT RAISED OMISSION BRACKET
2069	RIGHT RAISED OMISSION BRACKET