

Doc Type: Working Group Document**Title: Proposal to encode symbols for genealogy and gender studies in the UCS****Source: Michael Everson****Status: Individual Contribution****Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC****Date: 2003-03-26**

Discussion on the Unicode e-mail list has brought to light the existence of a number of related symbols. These are used in discussions of genealogy, botany, and modern gender studies. Some of the characters used in these fields are already encoded, and the others fill out a set of symbols, all of which should be encoded in the UCS.

263F		MERCURY = Hermaphrodite
2640		FEMALE SIGN = Venus
2642		MALE SIGN = Mars

The first four (proposed for U+2692-U+2695) have during the last decades become rather widespread throughout the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, and are used as widely – or more widely – both in print and on web sites as the recycling symbols which were presented in N2240 in 2000-08-27. The fifth character (proposed for U+2696) is used in a number of contexts. In botany and other sciences, it forms a set with the already-encoded U+263F, U+2640, and U+2642: hermaphrodite, male, female, and sexless. (Entomologists use U+263F for “virgin” and therefore use the proposed U+2695 for “hermaphrodite”.) In genealogy, it symbolizes an engagement ring and indicates a state of betrothal. Because it belongs to a set of semantically-related symbols, and can be expected to require a similar glyph presentation, it is strongly suggested that this character not be unified with one of the many generic circles already encoded, as these may not be suitable. The sixth through twelfth characters (proposed for U+2697-U+269C) are also used in genealogy; the ninth is used generically for ‘battle’ in historical literature such as encyclopaediae, dictionaries, and maps.

2692		FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY SIGN
2693		MALE HOMOSEXUALITY SIGN (glyph variant )
2694		BISEXUALITY SIGN (glyph variant )
2695		TRANSGENDERED SEXUALITY SIGN (glyph variants  , )
2696		ASEXUALITY SIGN = sexless, genderless = engaged, betrothed

2697		MARRIED PARTNERSHIP SIGN
2698		DIVORCED PARTNERSHIP SIGN
2699		UNMARRIED PARTNERSHIP SIGN
269A		BATTLE SIGN (glyph variant \times_x) = died in battle
269B		COFFIN = buried
269C		FUNERAL URN = cremated

Genealogische Zeichen

Familiengeschichtliche Zeichen können in entsprechenden Texten zur Raumerparnis verwendet werden.

* = geboren (geb.), (*) = außerehelich geboren, †* = tot geboren, *† = am Tag der Geburt gestorben, ~ = getauft (get.), ◦ = verlobt (verl.), ∞ = verheiratet (verh.), ∞ = geschieden (gesch.), ∞ = außereheliche Verbindung, † = gestorben (gest.), ✕ = gefallen (gef.), □ = begraben (begr.), ◻ = eingäschert

Above, text from the 21st edition of *Die deutsche Rechtschreibung* (Mannheim: Duden, 1996, ISBN 3-411-04011-4), showing genealogical symbols. Above right, the symbol for DIVORCED PARTNERSHIP, with references to MARRIED PARTNERSHIP and UNMARRIED PARTNERSHIP, from Carl G. Liungman's *Tanketecken* (ISBN 91-88-32601); right, gender symbols from the same source. Below, a discussion of gender symbols from a site in Wales (<http://www.lamp.ac.uk/sunuswaleslgb/english/symbols.htm>). Below right, discussion of the botanical use of the already-encoded MERCURY symbol, taken from a website somewhere; Liungman offers a similar description.



Tecken för *frånskild* i genealogin. Tecknet ϕ är synonymt. Jämför med ∞ för gift och $\circ\circ$ ovan.

Frånskild kan även tecknas \diamond i heraldiken. Se detta tecken i grupp 28.

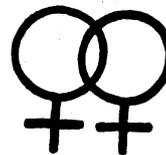


Ett tecken från äldre botanik med innebörden *hermafrodit, dubbelkönad växt*. Av σ för *hankön* och ρ för *honkön*. Vanligen lät man ρ , tecknet för guden Hermes eller Mercurius, stå för *hermafrodit* i botaniken. För härledning av denna synonym se ρ i grupp 41:a.



Modernt ideogram för *manlig homosexuell kärlek*. Jfr. tecknet ∇ för *homosexuella*.

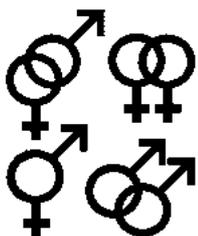
Jämför med $\rho\rho$ i grupp 41:b och ∞ i grupp 25.



Modernt ideogram för *lesbisk kärlek*.

Jämför med ∞ för *gemenskap, äktenskap*, och σ för *manlig homosexuell kärlek*.

GENDER SYMBOLS



Gender Symbols are common astrological signs handed down from ancient Roman times. The pointed Mars symbol represents the male and the Venus symbol with the cross represents the female. **Gay men** quickly adopted the double Mars symbol as an icon, but the history of the double Venus symbol is slightly more complicated... In the 1970s, some **lesbians** started using two interlocking female symbols to symbolise female homosexuality. However, this soon ran into trouble because some women in the feminist movement were using the same symbol to represent the sisterhood of women. Two symbols now stand for lesbianism and three symbols stand for the sisterhood of women. The **bisexual** symbol incorporates an interlocking male symbol with that of a woman's symbol, while the **transgendered** symbol merges the male and female symbols onto the same circle.

Hermes was, contrary to the other Greek gods, both male and female, a *hermaphrodite*. For this reason the sign ρ has been used both in biology and botany to mean *double-sexed*.

A. Administrative

1. Title

Proposal to encode symbols for genealogy and gender studies in the UCS.

2. Requester's name

Michael Everson

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

Individual contribution.

4. Submission date

2003-03-26

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

Yes.

6b. More information will be provided later

No.

B. Technical -- General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

No.

Proposed name of script

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

Yes.

1b. Name of the existing block

Miscellaneous Symbols.

2. Number of characters in proposal

11

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

Category A.

4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see clause 14, ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)

Level 1.

4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Yes.

4c. If YES, reference

Spacing characters.

5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the character naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000?

Yes.

5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Michael Everson.

6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, Fontographer.

7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

No.

7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

8. 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)?

No.

9. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other

scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

The characters should have the same properties as the MALE SIGN and FEMALE SIGN.

C. Technical -- Justification

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

No.

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

No. Well, other experts proposed some of the characters on the Unicode list.

2b. If YES, with whom?

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

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

Biologists, botanists, students of gender, and members of the LGBT community.

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

Common symbols used as described above.

4b. Reference

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

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

Scientific papers, web sites, educational material.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document (a WG 2 standing document) must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

Yes.

6c. If YES, reference

Keep with similar symbols.

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

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

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

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

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

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

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

No.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

12a. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

12b. If YES, reference

13a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

13b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

14a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

14b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?