Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
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Title: **Revised proposal to encode symbols for genealogy and gender studies in the UCS**
Source: **Michael Everson**
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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 encoded in the UCS. Further discussion has suggested revised names for some of these characters.

263F ☿ MERCURY
= hermaphrodite, double sexed (botany, biology)
= virgin (entomology)

2640 ♀ FEMALE SIGN
= Venus

2642 ♂ MALE SIGN
= Mars
= iron (alchemy)

The first six (proposed for U+2692-U+2697) have during the last decades become rather widespread throughout the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, and are used both in print and on web sites as widely – or more widely – as the recycling symbols which were presented in N2240 on 2000-08-27. The seventh and eighth characters (proposed for U+2698-U+2699) are related to the character proposed for U+2696 but have unique semantics in alchemy and early chemistry; note the alchemical value also given for U+2642. The ninth character (proposed for U+269A) 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".) A similar but unrelated symbol (the tenth proposed here, for U+269B) is used in genealogy, it symbolizes an engagement ring and indicates a state of betrothal. Because both the MALE OR FEMALE SIGN BASE SYMBOL and the RING SYMBOL belong to different sets of semantically-related symbols, and can be expected to require glyph presentations harmonious with the other members of the set, it is strongly suggested that these characters not be unified with any of the many generic circles already encoded, as those may not be suitable. The eleventh through sixteenth characters (proposed for U+269C-U+26A3) are also used in genealogy (the first three of these are related to the RING SYMBOL); the fourteenth is used generically for "battle" in historical literature such as encyclopaediae, dictionaries, and maps.

2692 ⚒ DOUBLED FEMALE SIGN
= lesbianism

2693 ⚓ DOUBLED MALE SIGN (glyph variant ⚓)
= male homosexuality

2694		INTERLOCKED FEMALE AND MALE SIGN (glyph variant ⚥)
		= bisexuality
2695		MALE AND FEMALE SIGN
		= transgendered sexuality
		= hermaphrodite (in entomology)
2696		MALE WITH STROKE SIGN
		= transgendered sexuality
2697		MALE WITH STROKE AND MALE AND FEMALE SIGN
		= transgendered sexuality
2698		VERTICAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN
		= ferrous iron sulphate (alchemy and older chemistry)
2699		HORIZONTAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN
		= magnesium (alchemy and older chemistry)
269A		MALE OR FEMALE SIGN BASE SYMBOL
		= asexuality, sexless, genderless
		= engaged, betrothed
269B		RING SYMBOL
		= engaged, betrothed (genealogy)
269C		MARRIAGE SYMBOL
269D		DIVORCE SYMBOL
269E		UNMARRIED PARTNERSHIP SYMBOL
269F		BATTLE SIGN (glyph variant ⚔)
		= battleground
		= died in battle (genealogy)
26A2		COFFIN
		= buried (genealogy)
26A3		FUNERAL URN
		= cremated (genealogy)

Genealogische Zeichen

Familiengeschichtliche Zeichen können in entsprechenden Texten zur Raumersparnis 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.),* ⚱ = *eingeäschert*

Tecken för *frånskild* i genealogin. Tecknet ⚯ är synonymt. Jämför med ⚭ för gift och ⚮ ovan.

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

Above, text from the 21st edition of *Die deutsche Rechtschreibung* (Mannheim: Duden, 1996, ISBN 3-411-04011-4), showing genealogical symbols. Above right, the DIVORCE SYMBOL, with references to MARRIAGE SYMBOL and UNMARRIED PARTNERSHIP SYMBOL, from Carl G. Liungman's *Tanketecken* (Trondheim: Polaris, 1993, ISBN 91-88-32601)

Right, gender symbols from Carl G. Liungman's *Tanketecken* (ISBN 91-88-32601). Below, a discussion of gender symbols from a site in Wales (**http://www.lamp.ac.uk/su/nuswaleslgb/ 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.

Ett tecken från äldre botanik med innebörden *hermafrodit, dubbelkönad växt.* Av ♂ för *hankön* och ♀ för *honkön.* Vanligen lät man ☿, tecknet för guden Hermes eller Merkurius, stå för hermafrodit i botaniken. För härledning av denna synonym se ☿ i grupp 41:a.
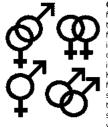
Modernt ideogram för *manlig homosexuell kärlek.* Jfr. tecknet ▽ för homosexuella.
Jämför med ♀♀ i grupp 41:b och ⊙⊙ i grupp 25.

Modernt ideogram för *lesbisk kärlek.*
Jämför med ⊙⊙ för gemenskap, äktenskap, och ⚣ 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 ☿ has been used both in biology and botany to mean *double-sexed*.

Right, the VERTICAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN, used in alchemy and older chemistry to denote "ferrous hydrosulphate", from Carl G. Liungman's *Tanketecken* (ISBN 91-88-32601). Also shown are the HORIZONTAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN, used to indicate "magnesium", and the MALE WITH STROKE SIGN, used to indicate "steel" from the 1700s; this symbol is also used now to indicate "transgendered sexuality" by some members of the LGBT community.

Det gamla tecknet för planeten Mars, ♂, som också är ett tecken för järn, blev med ett tvärstreck tecken för en förening mellan järn och svavel, *ferrohydrosulfat*, i alkemi och äldre kemi.
Ställd horisontellt, ⊶, blev samma struktur till ett tecken för *magnesium.*
Jämför med tecknet ⚦ för svavel.
Ställd diagonalt, som ♂, blir strukturen ett tecken för *stål, chalybs*, från 1700-talets kemi. Se ⚑ i grupp 41:b för fler ståltecken.

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
2003-05-24
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
16
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

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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?

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