

## Updating the Arabic Shaping normative data

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*For consideration by the UTC.*

1. The ArabicShaping.txt data for Unicode 4.0 contains a number of oddities that should be corrected.

The character names (second data field) in the list are not the normative Unicode names. This is confusing, and sometimes misleading. Do one of:

- a) The “short names” should be replaced by the normative ones. The additional information that the “short names” may carry should be placed elsewhere (if there is any suitable elsewhere).
- b) The list could be complemented by the normative name in a comment after each data line. In this case the “short names” should be turned into being *fully descriptive* (telling number of dots or other adornments, where and how they are placed, and movement of dots between different shapes).

Note: this edit is not done in the data file quoted below, to make it easier to compare to the existing ArabicShaping.txt.

2. Some of the characters have oddly assigned joining type or joining group. In some cases to such a degree that canonically equivalent substrings have different joining behaviour, in other cases so that adding dots changes the joining behaviour, which would be unexpected, especially where the use of the dotted versus undotted character is a spelling option. The characters that should be changed w.r.t. this are: ARABIC LETTER TEH MARBUTA, ARABIC LETTER HEH WITH HAMZA, ARABIC LETTER HEH GOAL WITH HAMZA, ARABIC LETTER TEH MARBUTA GOAL, and ARABIC LETTER AE. *Note that the latter could have the same joining group as HEH, while only being R-joining.*
3. The “Cf” **graphic(!)** characters currently have the joining metagroup <no shaping> which is not very descriptive of their true behaviour, since they are shaped. Change to the new joining metagroup <span> since these span under (around in one case) a following sequence of digits (or any sequence of non-spaces?). The SYRIAC ABBREVIATION SIGN is similar (<span>), but has the joining type T.

4. The Arabic vowel marks currently have the default joining properties (“T; <no shaping>”). But apparently it is ok to put the vowel (harakat, tashkeel?) on a subsequent line (a tatweel glyph, autoinserted during line justification), or just isolated (in case there is no join between the preceding and following base characters, and the word is “stretched” for line justification). Other combining marks do not behave that way. Change the joining metagroup to <tashkeel> or <harakat> (whichever is the better designation), to indicate this behaviour.
5. At least one character should be considered medial-joining: ARABIC LETTER HIGH HAMZA. This optionally applies also to the harakat, when they are not placed on the consonant, but instead on a tatweel or SPACE (INVISIBLE LETTER...). **This is a new joining type, M.**
6. Enclosing and reordrant combining characters should break the joining not only where they occur, but also before the letter to which one is applied. **This is a new joining type, B.**

Below is an edited ArabicShaping.txt file where the changes mentioned in points 2-6 above are done, including some updates to introductory comments.

```
#####
ORIGIN:  # ArabicShaping-4.0.1.txt
#
# This file is a normative contributory data file in the
# Unicode Character Database.
#
# This file defines the shaping classes for Arabic and Syriac
# positional shaping, repeating in machine readable form the
# information printed in Tables 8-3, 8-7, 8-8, 8-11, 8-12, and
# 8-13 of The Unicode Standard, Version 4.0, but updated for
# Unicode 4.x
#
# See sections 8.2 and 8.3 of The Unicode Standard, Version 4.0
# for more information.
#
# Each line contains four fields, separated by a semicolon.
#
# Field 0: the code point, in 4-digit hexadecimal form, of an Arabic or
#          Syriac character (there are no such characters on higher planes).
#
# Field 1: the Unicode character name.
##### NOTE: THIS EDIT IS STILL TO BE DONE FOR EASE OF COMPARISON
##### WITH THE CURRENT ArabicShaping.txt FOR THE OTHER CHANGES.
#
# Field 2: defines the joining type
#   R right-joining,
#   L left-joining, there are no characters of type L defined in Unicode,
#   D dual-joining,
#   M medial-joining, like T, but there are isolated and medial glyphic forms,
#   C join-causing,
#   U non-joining,
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# B enclosing/reordrant combining character, makes the combining sequence U,
# T transparent, join processing ignores such a character.
# See the Arabic block description for more information on these types.
#
# Field 3: defines the joining group. The following joining groups are defined:
# Arabic: AIN, ALEF, BEH, DAL, FEH, HAH, HEH, HEH GOAL, KNOTTED HEH,
# HIGH HAMZA, KAF, SWASH KAF, GAF, LAM, MEEM, NOON, QAF,
# REH, SAD, SEEN, WAW, YEH, YEH BARREE, YEH WITH TAIL.
#
# Syriac: ALAPH, BETH, DALATH RISH, E, FE, GAMAL, HE, HETH,
# KAPH, KHAPH, LAMADH, MIM, NUN, PE, REVERSED PE, QAP,
# SADHE, SEMKATH, FINAL SEMKATH, SHIN, SYRIAC WAW,
# TAW, TETH, YUDH, YUDH HE, ZAIN, ZHAIN.
#
# Meta: <no shaping>, <tashkeel>, <span>. <tashkeel> is used for vowels,
# that optionally may be shaped using isolated and medial forms
# (the latter on a tatweel), but normally are placed on the
# consonant. Note that double vowels (e.g. <kasra, shadda>) are
# placed together. <span> is used for characters that span
# under (or around) a following sequence of letters or digits.
# <span> characters are visible characters in all circumstances,
# despite that they have the Cf General_Category property.
#
# Retired (mistaken) joining groups: TEH MARBUTA and HAMZA ON HEH GOAL.
#
# Note: Code points that are not explicitly listed in this file are either of
# type T, B, or U:
#
# - Those that are not explicitly listed below that are of General Category
# Mn or Cf have joining type T, and are of joining metagroup <no shaping>.
#
# - Those that are not explicitly listed below that are of General Category
# Me or Mc have joining type B, and are of joining megagroup <no shaping>.
#
# - All others not explicitly listed below have joining type U, and are of
# joining metagroup <no shaping>, including the Arabic presentation forms.
#
# For an explicit listing of characters of joining type T, see
# the derived property file DerivedJoiningType.txt.
#
# #####

# Code point; Character name; Joining type; Joining group

# Arabic characters

0600; ARABIC NUMBER SIGN; U; <span>
0601; ARABIC SIGN SANAH; U; <span>
0602; ARABIC FOOTNOTE MARKER; U; <span>
0603; ARABIC SIGN SAFHA; U; <span>
#0621; HAMZA; U; <no shaping> ### has default values; need not be listed.
0622; MADDA ON ALEF; R; ALEF
0623; HAMZA ON ALEF; R; ALEF
0624; HAMZA ON WAW; R; WAW
0625; HAMZA UNDER ALEF; R; ALEF
0626; HAMZA ON YEH; D; YEH
0627; ALEF; R; ALEF

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0628; BEH; D; BEH  
**0629; TEH MARBUTA; D; HEH**      ### was:    R; TEH MARBUTA  
 062A; TEH; D; BEH  
 062B; THEH; D; BEH  
 062C; JEEM; D; HAH  
 062D; HAH; D; HAH  
 062E; KHAH; D; HAH  
 062F; DAL; R; DAL  
 0630; THAL; R; DAL  
 0631; REH; R; REH  
 0632; ZAIN; R; REH  
 0633; SEEN; D; SEEN  
 0634; SHEEN; D; SEEN  
 0635; SAD; D; SAD  
 0636; DAD; D; SAD  
 0637; TAH; D; TAH  
 0638; ZAH; D; TAH  
 0639; AIN; D; AIN  
 063A; GHAIN; D; AIN  
 0640; TATWEEL; C; <no shaping>  
 0641; FEH; D; FEH  
 0642; QAF; D; QAF  
 0643; KAF; D; KAF  
 0644; LAM; D; LAM  
 0645; MEEM; D; MEEM  
 0646; NOON; D; NOON  
 0647; HEH; D; HEH  
 0648; WAW; R; WAW  
 0649; ALEF MAKSURA; D; YEH  
 064A; YEH; D; YEH  
**064B; ARABIC FATHATAN; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
**064C; ARABIC DAMMATAN; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
**064D; ARABIC KASRATAN; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
**064E; ARABIC FATHA; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
**064F; ARABIC DAMMA; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
**0650; ARABIC KASRA; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
**0651; ARABIC SHADDA; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
**0652; ARABIC SUKUN; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
 066E; DOTLESS BEH; D; BEH  
 066F; DOTLESS QAF; D; QAF  
**0670; ARABIC LETTER SUPERScript ALEF; T or M; <tashkeel>**  
 0671; HAMZAT WASL ON ALEF; R; ALEF  
 0672; WAVY HAMZA ON ALEF; R; ALEF  
 0673; WAVY HAMZA UNDER ALEF; R; ALEF  
**0674; HIGH HAMZA; M; HIGH HAMZA**      ### was:    U; <no shaping>  
 0675; HIGH HAMZA ALEF; R; ALEF  
 0676; HIGH HAMZA WAW; R; WAW  
 0677; HIGH HAMZA WAW WITH DAMMA; R; WAW  
 0678; HIGH HAMZA YEH; D; YEH  
 0679; TEH WITH SMALL TAH; D; BEH  
 067A; TEH WITH 2 DOTS VERTICAL ABOVE; D; BEH  
 067B; BEH WITH 2 DOTS VERTICAL BELOW; D; BEH  
 067C; TEH WITH RING; D; BEH  
 067D; TEH WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE DOWNWARD; D; BEH  
 067E; TEH WITH 3 DOTS BELOW; D; BEH  
 067F; TEH WITH 4 DOTS ABOVE; D; BEH  
 0680; BEH WITH 4 DOTS BELOW; D; BEH

0681; HAMZA ON HAH; D; HAH  
0682; HAH WITH 2 DOTS VERTICAL ABOVE; D; HAH  
0683; HAH WITH MIDDLE 2 DOTS; D; HAH  
0684; HAH WITH MIDDLE 2 DOTS VERTICAL; D; HAH  
0685; HAH WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; HAH  
0686; HAH WITH MIDDLE 3 DOTS DOWNWARD; D; HAH  
0687; HAH WITH MIDDLE 4 DOTS; D; HAH  
0688; DAL WITH SMALL TAH; R; DAL  
0689; DAL WITH RING; R; DAL  
068A; DAL WITH DOT BELOW; R; DAL  
068B; DAL WITH DOT BELOW AND SMALL TAH; R; DAL  
068C; DAL WITH 2 DOTS ABOVE; R; DAL  
068D; DAL WITH 2 DOTS BELOW; R; DAL  
068E; DAL WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; R; DAL  
068F; DAL WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE DOWNWARD; R; DAL  
0690; DAL WITH 4 DOTS ABOVE; R; DAL  
0691; REH WITH SMALL TAH; R; REH  
0692; REH WITH SMALL V; R; REH  
0693; REH WITH RING; R; REH  
0694; REH WITH DOT BELOW; R; REH  
0695; REH WITH SMALL V BELOW; R; REH  
0696; REH WITH DOT BELOW AND DOT ABOVE; R; REH  
0697; REH WITH 2 DOTS ABOVE; R; REH  
0698; REH WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; R; REH  
0699; REH WITH 4 DOTS ABOVE; R; REH  
069A; SEEN WITH DOT BELOW AND DOT ABOVE; D; SEEN  
069B; SEEN WITH 3 DOTS BELOW; D; SEEN  
069C; SEEN WITH 3 DOTS BELOW AND 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; SEEN  
069D; SAD WITH 2 DOTS BELOW; D; SAD  
069E; SAD WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; SAD  
069F; TAH WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; TAH  
06A0; AIN WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; AIN  
06A1; DOTLESS FEH; D; FEH  
06A2; FEH WITH DOT MOVED BELOW; D; FEH  
06A3; FEH WITH DOT BELOW; D; FEH  
06A4; FEH WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; FEH  
06A5; FEH WITH 3 DOTS BELOW; D; FEH  
06A6; FEH WITH 4 DOTS ABOVE; D; FEH  
06A7; QAF WITH DOT ABOVE; D; QAF  
06A8; QAF WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; QAF  
06A9; OPEN KAF; D; GAF  
06AA; SWASH KAF; D; SWASH KAF  
06AB; KAF WITH RING; D; GAF  
06AC; KAF WITH DOT ABOVE; D; KAF  
06AD; KAF WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; KAF  
06AE; KAF WITH 3 DOTS BELOW; D; KAF  
06AF; GAF; D; GAF  
06B0; GAF WITH RING; D; GAF  
06B1; GAF WITH 2 DOTS ABOVE; D; GAF  
06B2; GAF WITH 2 DOTS BELOW; D; GAF  
06B3; GAF WITH 2 DOTS VERTICAL BELOW; D; GAF  
06B4; GAF WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; GAF  
06B5; LAM WITH SMALL V; D; LAM  
06B6; LAM WITH DOT ABOVE; D; LAM  
06B7; LAM WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; LAM  
06B8; LAM WITH 3 DOTS BELOW; D; LAM  
06B9; NOON WITH DOT BELOW; D; NOON

06BA; DOTLESS NOON; D; NOON  
 06BB; DOTLESS NOON WITH SMALL TAH; D; NOON  
 06BC; NOON WITH RING; D; NOON  
 06BD; NOON WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; NOON  
 06BE; KNOTTED HEH; D; KNOTTED HEH  
 06BF; HAH WITH MIDDLE 3 DOTS DOWNWARD AND DOT ABOVE; D; HAH  
**06C0; HAMZA ON HEH; D; HEH** ### was: R; TEH MARBUTA  
 06C1; HEH GOAL; D; HEH GOAL  
**06C2; HAMZA ON HEH GOAL; D; HEH GOAL** ### was: R; HAMZA ON HEH GOAL  
**06C3; TEH MARBUTA GOAL; D; HEH GOAL** ### was: R; HAMZA ON HEH GOAL  
 06C4; WAW WITH RING; R; WAW  
 06C5; WAW WITH BAR; R; WAW  
 06C6; WAW WITH SMALL V; R; WAW  
 06C7; WAW WITH DAMMA; R; WAW  
 06C8; WAW WITH ALEF ABOVE; R; WAW  
 06C9; WAW WITH INVERTED SMALL V; R; WAW  
 06CA; WAW WITH 2 DOTS ABOVE; R; WAW  
 06CB; WAW WITH 3 DOTS ABOVE; R; WAW  
 06CC; DOTLESS YEH; D; YEH ## has two dots below in init and medi forms  
 06CD; YEH WITH TAIL; R; YEH WITH TAIL  
 06CE; YEH WITH SMALL V; D; YEH  
 06CF; WAW WITH DOT ABOVE; R; WAW  
 06D0; YEH WITH 2 DOTS VERTICAL BELOW; D; YEH  
 06D1; YEH WITH 3 DOTS BELOW; D; YEH  
 06D2; YEH BARREE; R; YEH BARREE  
 06D3; HAMZA ON YEH BARREE; R; YEH BARREE  
**06D5; AE; R; HEH** ### was: 06D5; AE; R; TEH MARBUTA  
**06DD; ARABIC END OF AYAH; U; <span>**  
     *#06E5; ARABIC SMALL WAW; M; <tashkeel>??? no*  
     *#06E6; ARABIC SMALL YEH; M; <tashkeel>??? no*  
 06EE; DAL WITH INVERTED V; R; DAL  
 06EF; REH WITH INVERTED V; R; REH  
 06FA; SEEN WITH DOT BELOW AND 3 DOTS ABOVE; D; SEEN  
 06FB; DAD WITH DOT BELOW; D; SAD  
 06FC; GHAIN WITH DOT BELOW; D; AIN  
 06FF; HEH WITH INVERTED V; D; KNOTTED HEH      *### KNOTTED?*

# Syriac characters

**070F; SYRIAC ABBREVIATION MARK; T; <span>**  
 0710; ALAPH; R; ALAPH  
 0712; BETH; D; BETH  
 0713; GAMAL; D; GAMAL  
 0714; GAMAL GARSHUNI; D; GAMAL  
 0715; DALATH; R; DALATH RISH  
 0716; DOTLESS DALATH RISH; R; DALATH RISH  
 0717; HE; R; HE  
 0718; WAW; R; SYRIAC WAW  
 0719; ZAIN; R; ZAIN  
 071A; HETH; D; HETH  
 071B; TETH; D; TETH  
 071C; TETH GARSHUNI; D; TETH  
 071D; YUDH; D; YUDH  
 071E; YUDH HE; R; YUDH HE  
 071F; KAPH; D; KAPH  
 0720; LAMADH; D; LAMADH

0721; MIM; D; MIM  
0722; NUN; D; NUN  
0723; SEMKATH; D; SEMKATH  
0724; FINAL SEMKATH; D; FINAL SEMKATH  
0725; E; D; E  
0726; PE; D; PE  
0727; REVERSED PE; D; REVERSED PE  
0728; SADHE; R; SADHE  
0729; QAPH; D; QAPH  
072A; RISH; R; DALATH RISH  
072B; SHIN; D; SHIN  
072C; TAW; R; TAW  
072D; PERSIAN BHETH; D; BETH  
072E; PERSIAN GHAMAL; D; GAMAL  
072F; PERSIAN DHALATH; R; DALATH RISH  
074D; SOGDIAN ZHAIN; R; ZHAIN  
074E; SOGDIAN KHAPH; D; KHAPH  
074F; SOGDIAN FE; D; FE

# Other

200D; ZERO WIDTH JOINER; C; <no shaping>  
200C; ZERO WIDTH NON-JOINER; U; <no shaping>