In document N2840 we proposed to encode HEBREW POINT HOLAM HASER FOR VAV as a disunification solution to be distinguished from the existing HEBREW POINT HOLAM also used with the letter VAV. The present document elaborates on that proposal, in particular the reason for the choice of the new character we recommended. In N2840, we stated the following:

By far and away the most common use of VAV with POINT HOLAM is that of the mater lectionis vowel; the VAV with holam haser is the marked case, which is why we propose that a new character be added to represent that case. To quantify the matter, we compared the use of holam male vs. VAV with holam haser in the online Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (eBHS): there are 34,699 instances of the former, and 421 instances of the latter – in other words, holam male comprises 98.79% of the cases involving holam on VAV and consonantal VAV with holam haser comprises only 1.21% of the cases in the same text.

It is apparent that further statistics will help understand the kinds of choices which could be made in terms of disunifying HEBREW POINT HOLAM from another character in order to make the particular distinction required. Returning to the eBHS, we note that the total number of holams in the text is 74,415. Of these, 46.63% represent holam male, that is, a vav with a dot above or slightly to the right of it. This means that 53.37% of the holams in the eBHS represent holam haser on VAV and on other letters.

While one problem has been how to represent the relevant distinctions in text, another has been to address the disunification costs. There are basically three disunification scenarios. Before discussing them, it should be noted that currently, most fonts draw HEBREW POINT HOLAM on the top left of the letters, with the exception of VAV, where the dot will be drawn above or above and slightly to the right. (Whether most fonts actually do this may be debatable; but it is probably reasonable to say that they should.) The glyph which cannot be distinguished by such fonts is that of VAV with holam haser on its top left.

1. Retain HEBREW POINT HOLAM for all instances of holam male (46.63% of all holams) and for all instances of holam haser on letters other than VAV (52.81% of all holams), and add HEBREW POINT HOLAM HASER FOR VAV (0.56% of all holams). Fonts which support this solution will draw HEBREW POINT HOLAM on the top left of the letters, with the exception of VAV, where the dot will be drawn above or above and slightly to the right; fonts will also draw HEBREW POINT HOLAM HASER FOR VAV on the top left of the VAV. Users who do not graphically distinguish holam male from VAV with holam haser do not have to do anything (need do nothing, except possibly choose fonts that accord to their tastes, when working with texts that use the new encoding). Users who do wish to make this distinction must only change 0.56% of the data. The use of HEBREW POINT HOLAM HASER FOR VAV with any other letter would be considered a spelling error. 421 of the VAVs with holam in the eBHS would need to be changed following this disunification.
2. **Retain HEBREW POINT HOLAM** for all instances of *holam haser* (53.37% of all *holams*), and **add HEBREW POINT HOLAM MALE DOT** (46.63% of all *holams*). Fonts which support this solution will draw HEBREW POINT HOLAM on the top left of all of the letters, with the exception of VAV, where the dot will be drawn above or above and slightly to the right; fonts will also draw HEBREW POINT HOLAM MALE DOT above or above and slightly to the right of the VAV. Users who do not graphically distinguish *holam male* from VAV with *holam haser* do not have to do anything (need do nothing, except possibly choose fonts that accord to their tastes, when working with texts that use the new encoding). Users who do wish to make this distinction must change 46.63% of the data. The use of HEBREW POINT HOLAM MALE DOT with any letter other than VAV would be considered a spelling error. 34,699 of the VAVS with *holam* in the eBHS would need to be changed following this disunification.

3. **Retain HEBREW POINT HOLAM** for all instances of *holam male* (46.63% of all *holams*), and **add HEBREW POINT HOLAM HASER** (53.37% of all *holams*). Fonts which support this solution will draw HEBREW POINT HOLAM above or above and slightly to the right of VAV, on the top left of the letters, with the exception of VAV, where the dot will be drawn above or above and slightly to the right; fonts will also draw HEBREW POINT HOLAM HASER on the top left of all of the letters. Users who do not graphically distinguish *holam male* from VAV with *holam haser* do not have to do anything (need do nothing, except possibly choose fonts that accord to their tastes, when working with texts that use the new encoding). Users who do wish to make this distinction must change 53.37% of the data in order to get 0.56% of it to be distinguished from *holam male*. 39,716 of the letters with *holam* in the eBHS would need to be changed following this disunification.

From a technical standpoint, all three solutions will permit *holam male* to be distinguished from VAV with *holam haser*. When we proposed HEBREW POINT HOLAM HASER FOR VAV, it was on the basis that people interested in this issue had insisted that the stability of existing data was a primary consideration. Our solution respects existing data; the other two solutions are far more expensive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>% of holams to change</th>
<th>Holams in eBHS affected</th>
<th>% of points in eBHS affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HHFV</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>0.054%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMD</td>
<td>46.63%</td>
<td>34,699</td>
<td>4.473%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH</td>
<td>53.37%</td>
<td>39,716</td>
<td>5.119%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hataf-Patah: 25,740
Total Hataf-Qamats: 645
Total Hataf-Segol: 4,483
Total Hiriq: 109,656
Total Holam: 74,415
Total Qamats: 152,669
Total Qubuts: 4,383
Total Patah: 117,870
Total Segol: 75,372
Total Shewa: 151,316 (does not include hatafs)
Total Tsere: 59,270

**Total points in eBHS** 775,819
Total Consonants: 1,206,338

**Total cons. & pts. in eBHS** 1,982,157