

Title: Proposal to rename the diagonal symbols U+27CB and U+27CD in the pipeline

Source: Peter Constable, Laurențiu Iancu, Murray Sargent (Microsoft Corporation)

Status: Individual contribution

Date: 2010-01-13

This proposal is to rename two characters that are currently in the [Character Pipeline](#) as follows:

Code point	Current name	New name
U+27CB	RISING DIAGONAL	MATHEMATICAL RISING DIAGONAL
U+27CD	FALLING DIAGONAL	MATHEMATICAL FALLING DIAGONAL

At the [UTC 121 / L2 218](#) Joint Meeting of November 2009, the UTC accepted by Consensus [121-C25](#) the two characters proposed in document [L2/09-397](#) for encoding in a future version of the Standard. The characters are U+27CB RISING DIAGONAL and U+27CD FALLING DIAGONAL. While revising the proposal to address Action Item [121-A39](#), we concluded that the proposed symbols would be more appropriately named MATHEMATICAL RISING DIAGONAL and MATHEMATICAL FALLING DIAGONAL, respectively.

The Unicode repertoire contains several solidi, both generic and mathematical, as well as box-drawing pieces. Examples from each set include U+002F SOLIDUS, U+2215 DIVISION SLASH, and U+2571 BOX DRAWINGS LIGHT DIAGONAL UPPER RIGHT TO LOWER LEFT, respectively. The proposed characters are intended for mathematical contexts, to represent in plain text the symbols whose LaTeX entities are `\diagup` and `\diagdown`. The glyphs of the proposed symbols have the requirement of being drawn at fixed 45°/135° angles, which distinguishes them from the box-drawing diagonals whose glyphs may tilt steeper, at the font's discretion.

To help distinguish the proposed characters from existing solidi and clarify their intended usage for implementers, it is proposed that the two characters be renamed to explicitly bear MATHEMATICAL in their names. The new names also follow the pattern of mathematical brackets U+27E6 MATHEMATICAL LEFT WHITE SQUARE BRACKET through U+27EF MATHEMATICAL RIGHT FLATTENED PARENTHESIS in the same block as the proposed characters, [Miscellaneous Mathematical Symbols-A](#).