

Comment on L2/10-230, Proposal to encode a modifier letter used in French abbreviations in the UCS

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The rationale used in L2/10-230 leads to the conclusion that almost any use of superscripted glyphs should be represented in plain text using superscript characters. I find that conclusion troubling, as it pretty much implies that many characters should be encoded twice. Here is a similar picture that would justify the encoding of a MODIFIER EURO SIGN:



In my opinion, the signs presented in L2/10-230 and above are not in the domain in plain text, and in particular markup is the appropriate way to capture the superscripts. For those uses, there is no reason to encode new characters.

Furthermore, the images in L2/10-230 show other aspects which are not in the realm of plain text. The top left image, for example, clearly shows that the right-pointing arrows are aligned. The top right image show an organization in columns, with a left-pointing arrow and a squared information source in the left column, a text in the middle column, and a pedestrian sign in the right column ("Office du Tourisme et des Congrès de Paris" is a single clause). In other words, encoding superscript characters is not enough anyway.