Request to deprecate 0C55 TELUGU LENGTH MARK

Shriramana Sharma, jamadagni-at-gmail-com, India

2010-Sep-12

This is a request to deprecate 0C55 TELUGU LENGTH MARK. This character is not used anywhere in Telugu or Indic or elsewhere.

Glyphically this character is a component of the glyphs of 0C40 TELUGU LENGTH MARK II, 0C47 TELUGU LENGTH MARK EE and 0C4B TELUGU LENGTH MARK OO. The corresponding Kannada character 0CD5 KANNADA LENGTH MARK is part of the canonical decomposition of 0CC0 KANNADA VOWEL SIGN II, 0CC7 KANNADA VOWEL SIGN EE and 0CCB KANNADA VOWEL SIGN OO. However, the Telugu length mark does not form a part of the canonical decomposition of the equivalent Telugu characters mentioned above.

Therefore, if a Telugu sequence were to be composed: TELUGU CONSONANT + TELUGU VOWEL SIGN I/E/O + TELUGU LENGTH MARK, though conceivably such a sequence would render equivalently to TELUGU CONSONANT + TELUGU VOWEL SIGN II/EE/OO, the canonical equivalence of SHORT VOWEL SIGN + LENGTH MARK to LONG VOWEL SIGN which would follow from such a equivalent rendering does not exist, leading to potential security problems in which the sequence of SHORT VOWEL SIGN + LENGTH MARK is used to spoof the LONG VOWEL SIGN.

As this character is also not independently used anywhere, and is a potential cause of security problems as mentioned above, this character had better be deprecated.

In the 2010-Sep-06 meeting in the Indian Ministry of IT, New Delhi regarding the Grantha Unicode encoding, the topic of the Kannada and Telugu length marks came up while considering the Grantha length mark sign. At that meeting it was decided (in passing) that this deprecation of the Telugu length mark is necessary and should be done.

-o-