

Request to encode 1CF7 VEDIC TONE ASTERISK ABOVE

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This is a request to encode a character in the Vedic Extensions block. This character is of the form of an asterisk placed above its base Indic syllable. It is seen in books of the Sama Veda in both Devanagari and Grantha scripts printed in Tamil Nadu.

1CF7

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VEDIC TONE ASTERISK ABOVE

This character came to my attention while examining Sama Vedic texts in Grantha for my Grantha proposal L2/09-372. I have mentioned its use in pp 3, 4, 6, 14 and 42 of that document. While comparing the Grantha Vedic texts to the Devanagari equivalents for cross-checking and verifying the use of the Grantha-specific Vedic characters, I had also identified the presence of this character in Devanagari texts with similar semantics as described for Grantha in p 14 of my proposal.

§1. Justification for separate encoding

I had considered that it might be appropriate to use 20F0 COMBINING ASTERISK ABOVE for this purpose and mentioned so in p 6 of my Grantha proposal mentioned above. On further reflection, however, I realize it would be more appropriate and justified to encode this as a separate character in the Vedic Extensions block. I have already voiced my misgivings regarding using 20F0 COMBINING ASTERISK ABOVE in my Grantha Vedic characters proposal L2/10-235 p 2 and noted at that time that I would discuss this separately, viz now.

The justification for separate encoding would be as outlined for encoding 1CF4 VEDIC TONE CANDRA ABOVE as distinct from 0306 COMBINING BREVE in L2/09-344 pp 3-4, based upon the precedent of characters already encoded in the Vedic Extensions block despite glyphically identical characters being present amidst the European diacritics.

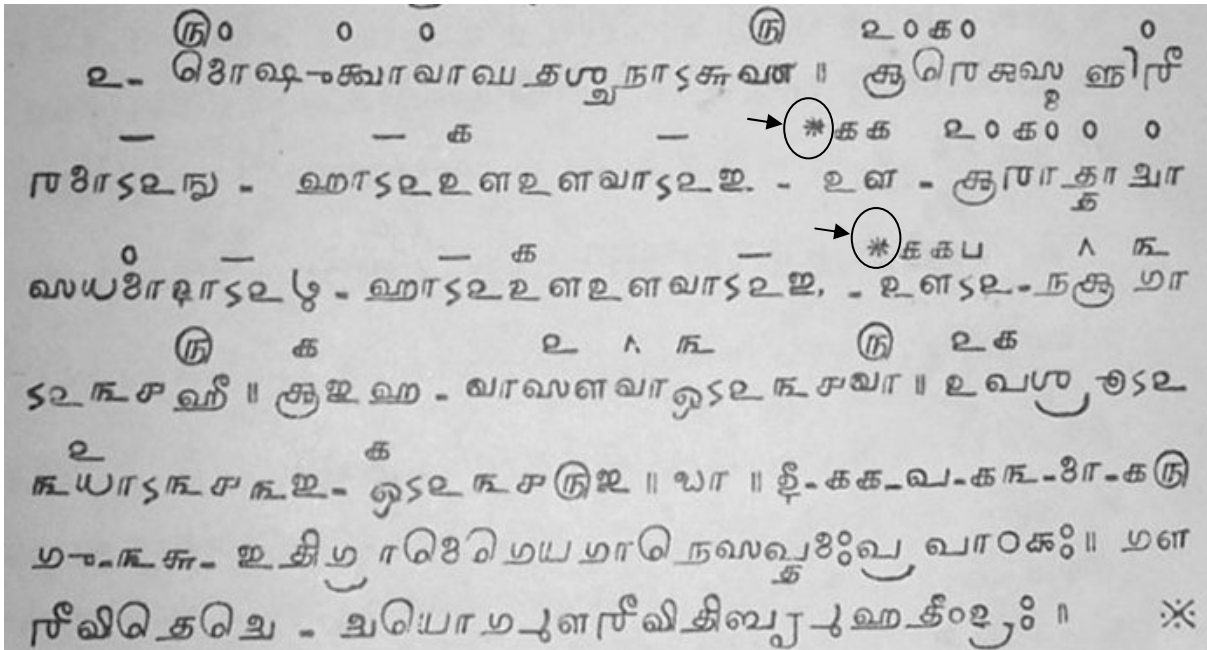
§2. Attestation

The following samples from refs 1, 2 and 3 attest the use of this character in Sama Veda texts printed in the Grantha and Devanagari scripts. It is highly possible that this character

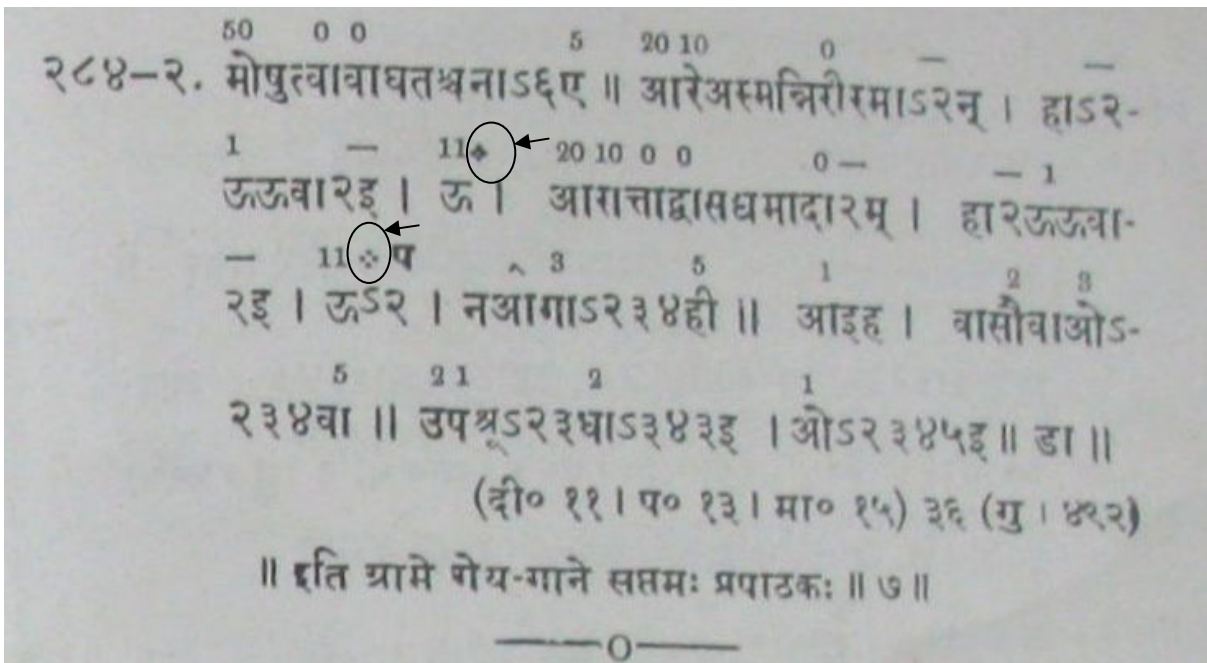
will also be used in Sama Veda texts in other scripts such as Bengali. This is why this character should be encoded in the script-neutral Vedic extensions block.

The samples provided also demonstrate slight glyphic variations in this character, as is to be normally expected of such a generic character as an “asterisk”.

Ref 1 Gana p 122

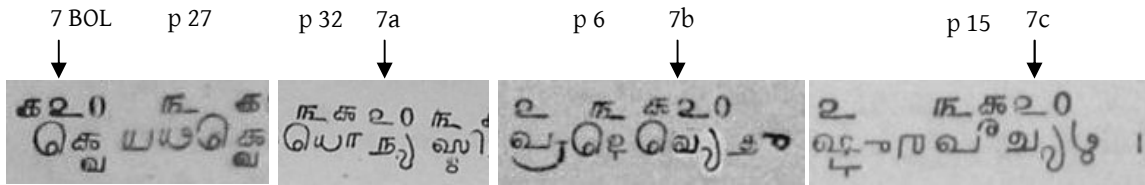


Ref 2 p 145

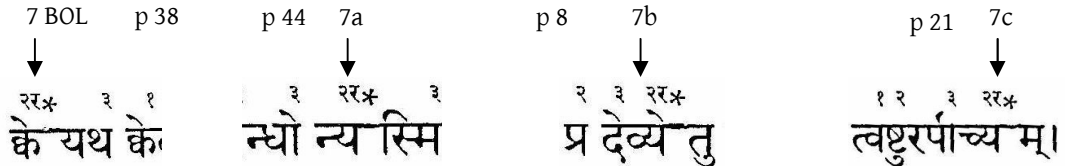


(The use here of international digits in above-base position as Sama Veda svara markers is quite unusual and must be due to insufficient printer’s repertoire. It is my belief that the markers encoded in the Devanagari Extended block would be appropriate here.)

Ref 1 Arcika samples showing the use of KA instead of the asterisk where “rule 7” applies



Ref 3 Arcika samples showing the use of the asterisk instead of KA where “rule 7” applies



Samples from ref 1 (left) and ref 3 (right) showing the absence of “rule 7”



§3. Semantics

This character is observed to be used in Sama Vedic texts as an *additional* svvara marker – never independently – to qualify the svvara indicating by the primary marker as a “special” svvara. For example, the use of an asterisk with the digit “2” (i.e. its script-specific equivalent in Grantha, Devanagari etc) indicating a svarita in the Arcika part of the Sama Veda would signify that the svarita is an “independent” svarita (as described in N3366 which proposed the Devanagari Sama Veda svvara markers). Its use with the digits “11” indicating a krushta svvara in the Gana part of the Sama Veda draws attention to the krushta, which is rare enough to be considered a “special” svvara in itself despite being part of the regular set of seven svvara-s as mentioned in L2/09-372 p 13.

I should note that though in 09-372 p 13 I wrote: “The 11 is optionally *preceded* by an asterisk (*)” I now find that this is applicable to only Grantha, since in Grantha texts I have so far come across the asterisk only preceding the primary marker as seen in ref 1 published in Tamil Nadu. However, ref 2 and ref 3 using Devanagari were also published in Tamil Nadu and both shows the asterisk following.

Thus the position of the asterisk is variable – it either may precede or follow its primary marker with no change in semantics. This may even be generalized to say that in Sama Veda svara markup, it is only the *combination* of various svara markers that results in a particular meaning and not the *permutation*, i.e. based on the order of items.

Further, even though this is only a secondary marker, it should be encoded since its semantics cannot be otherwise achieved with existing characters. It would also be more appropriate to encode this separately than encode separate characters for “2-asterisk” “11-asterisk” etc as there may be more cases of its use which are not yet documented.

The precise svara marker grammar deciding the use of this character was given in L2/09-372 §4.4.1 pp 13-14 and the relevant “rule 7” is reproduced here:

7. Independent svarita-s (a special kind of svarita) are marked by KA+2+0 when they do not follow an udatta, but are: a. followed by an anudatta, b. followed by a pracaya or c. occur at the end of a sentence. (The condition of not following an udatta may be satisfied by their occurring at the beginning of a sentence or after an anudatta.)

... modern printings use an asterisk () instead of KA in rule 7. Thus the asterisk indicates independent svarita-s which are not kampa-s.*

The mention of “modern printings” actually refers to Devanagari as the use of the asterisk this way in Grantha is not attested hitherto, though future publications are obviously free to follow the style of modern Devanagari printings.

§4. References

1. Sāma Veda Saṃhitā, AVMSSGDPS Samithi, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India, 1985.
2. Sāma Veda Saṃhitā, edited by Brahmaśrī Śaṅkaranārāyaṇa Śrautin, published by Kañcī Kāmakoti Piṭhādhipati Jagadguru Śrī Candraśekharendra Sarasvatī Ṣaṣṭyabdapūrti Trust, Kumbakonam, 1976.
3. Sāma Vēdīya Pūrvārcika, edited by Ācārya Rā Muralīkṛṣṇa Śrautin, published by Veda Śāstra Śikṣā Anusandhāna Kendram, Chennai, 2008.

§5. Official Proposal Summary Form

A. Administrative

1. Title

Request to encode 1CF7 VEDIC TONE ASTERISK ABOVE

2. Requester's name

Shriramana Sharma

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Individual contribution

4. Submission date

2010-Sep-18

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following: This is a complete proposal (or) More information will be provided later

This is a complete proposal.

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters), Proposed name of script

No.

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block, Name of the existing block

Yes. Vedic Extensions.

2. Number of characters in proposal

1 (one)

3. Proposed category

Category A1 contemporary.

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

4a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?

Yes.

4b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

5. Fonts related:

a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?

Not needed. Any asterisk glyph can be used in above-base position.

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail etc.)

Not needed.

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

No.

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

Yes.

8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script.

See detailed proposal.

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

No.

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

Yes.

2b. If YES, with whom?

Shri Shrikrishna Shrauti, Chennai.

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

None specifically. The matter was discussed personally via phone.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

This character is used by Sama Vedic scholars in both the Devanagari and Grantha scripts.

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

Common in texts of the Sama Veda, especially in recent printings (of the last 20 years).

4b. Reference

See detailed proposal.

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

Tamil Nadu and elsewhere in India.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

This character belongs in the Vedic Extensions block in the BMP.

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Only one character is proposed.

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

This character may be said to be similar to 20F0 COMBINING ASTERISK ABOVE.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

Yes.

10c. If YES, reference

Vedic svara markers glyphically identical to European diacritics are consistently encoded separately.

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?

Yes.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

Vedic svara markers are by nature (non-spacing) combining marks.

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?

If YES, reference:

No.

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