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To the Unicode Consortium

The proposal below, which has lain dormant for over a year, was first discussed with your Senior Administrative Director, Ms Magda Danish, in July last year, in the following terms:

To Ms Danish, July 8, 2009:

I don't know whether this suggestion would be considered too frivolous for inclusion as a Unicode glyph, but one often sees a spiral used in a string of characters representing an expletive, thus:



Maybe Unicode already has a spiral, but I haven't succeeded in tracking one down.

From Ms Danish, July 9, 2009:

As to the "spiral" glyph:

We come close for a couple of characters that have been approved for Unicode 6.0: 1F300 CYCLONE, which is a weather symbol that sometimes is shown with a spiral glyph, but usually with something a bit different. 169B9 BAMUM LETTER PHASE-E NGKAAMI, which is a spiral shape, but which is a Bamum *letter*, and not really a spiral symbol, per se.

The editorial committee seem to think that this is a perfectly valid character to consider encoding, with a decent pedigree and a usage context. If you would like to propose it, we recommend that you refer to <http://www.unicode.org/pending/proposals.html> for tips on how to proceed. We

also suggest that any proposal consider not just a spiral symbol, but also evidence for the triskelion as a distinct symbol (triple spiral).

To Ms Danish, July 9, 2009:

The trouble with a spiral proposal coming from me is that I have kept no documentation in support, but I have witnessed the use of the character many times in the text of comic strips, as I'm sure we all have, as part of a string to convey an expletive. However, I don't know what other uses it might have as a distinct symbol. After studying your Proposals document I shall see what I should do to submit this one, but have nothing to offer on the subject of the triskelion.

END OF CORRESPONDENCE

Here now is my proposal for new Unicode glyphs

Proposed character names: Spiral or Archimedean spiral, Triskelion.

There is the potential for two versions of at least the spiral, clockwise inwards and clockwise outwards.

In the case of the spiral, Linotype, which use it in the Palatino Linotype font, should be able to provide the computerized True Type font you would need.

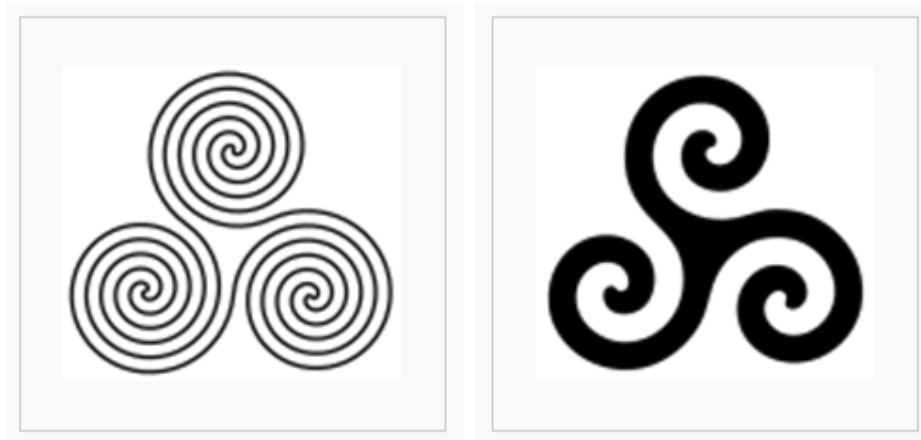
I have no examples of its use other than the Palatino Linotype font, wherein attempts to access glyphs not included in that font, e.g. 1775

hex, are in many cases met by ☺.

I note that four varieties of ellipse are already included in Unicode at U+2B2C to 2B2F. Since the spiral is another mathematical shape comparable in basic character with the ellipse I suggest that it is arguably of equal merit to be represented by a Unicode glyph.

As you can see from the above correspondence with Ms Danish, this proposal appears already to have attracted favourable comment from your Editorial Committee, and I consequently wish to submit it.

With regard to the triskelion, to which Ms Danish also drew my attention, I have no views on that, not having even heard of the term until Ms Danish mentioned it, but she appears to favour its consideration. (See the following examples taken from Wikipedia.)



(Mr) A. W. Rowe