Title:	Final Proposal to Encode Coptic Epact Numbers in ISO/IEC 10646
Source:	Script Encoding Initiative (SEI)
Author:	Anshuman Pandey (pandey@umich.edu)
Status:	Liaison Contribution
Action:	For consideration by UTC and WG2
Replaces:	N3843R L2/10-206R
Date:	2011-02-07

1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode in the Universal Character Set (UCS) a set of characters used for writing numbers in Coptic. It builds upon and replaces the following documents:

- L2/09-163R "Proposal to Encode Coptic Numerals in ISO/IEC 10646" (September 2009)
- N3786 L2/10-114 "Towards an Encoding for Coptic Numbers in the UCS" (April 2010)
- N3843R L2/10-206R "Final Proposal to Encode Coptic Numbers in ISO/IEC 10646" (June 2010)

The major differences from N3843R include a change of name of the script block from "Coptic Numbers" to "Coptic Epact Numbers", as well as changes to the character properties.

2 Background

The proposed characters are elements of a numeric notation system used in some Coptic manuscripts, which differ from the standard representation of numbers in Coptic using letters of the alphabet. A comparison of the two notation systems is given in Table 1. These numbers are referred to as 'epact', being the Greek word $\dot{\epsilon}\pi\alpha\kappa\tau\delta\varsigma$ 'imported'. The Coptic epact numbers are regarded as 'cursive' forms of ordinary Coptic letters. In a table in *Grammaire Copte* (1956), Alexis Mallon illustrates the permutation of Coptic letters into distinct numbers, which he calls 'chiffres coptes cursifs' ('cursive Coptic numbers').

The numbers were developed in the 10th century by the Coptic-Arabic community for administrative purposes.¹ Coptic numbers were "extensively used in Bohairic, less in Fayyumic, and rarely in Sahidic", in which numbers were generally expressed using words.² They were used primarily in Coptic-Arabic manuscripts, such as the astronomical text shown in Figure 2. The numbers also appear in accounting documents, fragments of which are held in the collection of the AHRC Rylands Cairo Genizah Project at the University of Manchester (see Figure 3).

The Coptic numbers appear in specimens included by Michael Everson in a document from 2003 titled "Revised proposal to add the Coptic alphabet to the BMP of the UCS" (N2636); ie. in Figure 14, of which an excerpt is given here in Figure 7. Everson did not propose the encoding of the Coptic numbers, but stated that "further study may indicate that some of the additional characters and symbols shown here should also be added to the Standard". Indeed, additional research has shown that the 'Signes de numération' illustrated in the figure are described in several sources, such as by Antoine P. Pihan in *Exposé des signes de numération*

¹ Messiha 1994: 26.

(1860). The present proposal aims to contribute to Everson's work on encoding Coptic in the UCS by further developing support for the script.

Considering that the Coptic Numbers are variations on the standard cursive forms of Coptic letters, it may be possible to unify them with existing Coptic letters. However, these numbers were generally used in specialized contexts, such as Coptic-Arabic manuscripts, in which the regular manner of writing numbers using letters of the alphabet was not practiced. Moreover, the depiction of these characters as unique elements of the Coptic script, as shown in Figure 5 and Figure 7, further indicates that these characters were considered sufficiently distinct from the original alphabetic sources to warrant representation using independent glyphs in sets of metal fonts. These factors strongly recommend the independent encoding for Coptic Numbers. An encoding for the Coptic Numbers will enhance the Coptic repertoire in the UCS by offering a means for representing characters used in the broader corpus of Coptic records.

3 Proposal Details

The characters are proposed for encoding in a new script block to be named 'Coptic Epact Numbers'. The 29 characters are allocated to the SMP at the range U+102E0..U+102FF. The proposed code chart and names list are shown in Figure 1.

3.1 Name of Script Block

Earlier proposals used the name 'Coptic Numbers'. This name is too generic. It implies that the proposed characters are regular Coptic numbers. In N3886, Michael Everson and Stephen Emmel use the term 'epact' when referring to the proposed characters; 'epact' being the Greek word $\dot{\epsilon}\pi\alpha\kappa\tau\delta\varsigma$ 'imported'. It was determined that the name of the proposed script block be modified to incorporate this adjective. The resulting name 'Coptic Epact Numerals' more accurately describes the characters, and facilitates identification and appropriate usage of the characters.

3.2 Character Names

The names of the characters follow UCS naming conventions. Character names for the digits 1–9 possess the descriptor 'DIGIT' and all other numbers are called 'NUMBER'.

4 The Notation System

4.1 Structure

Coptic Epact Numbers represent units of a positional decimal system. It is an additive system; the value of a numeric sequence is the sum of each number that constitutes it. There is no character for zero; it is inherently represented in the distinct numbers of each decimal order. There are numbers for the primary, tens, and hundreds orders; the thousands are represented by means of a sublinear diacritic.

4.2 Directionality

Numbers are written left-to-right.

4.3 Orthography

Basic Notation The thousands are represented by writing a primary number and \bigcirc THOUSANDS MARK: **£** FIVE + \bigcirc THOUSANDS MARK = **£** 5,000. The ten thousands are written using a tens number and the THOUSANDS MARK: **\mathcal{V}** FIFTY + \bigcirc THOUSANDS MARK = **\mathcal{Y}** 50,000. The hundred thousands are written with a number for the hundreds and the THOUSANDS MARK: **\mathcal{P}** FIVE HUNDRED + \bigcirc THOUSANDS MARK = **\mathcal{P}** 500,000.

Large Numbers In theory, decimal orders larger than hundred thousand may be represented by writing the THOUSANDS MARK twice, eg. $\ge 1,000$; $\ge 1,000,000$. This practice mirrors the convention in Coptic of indicating higher decimal orders by duplicating diacritics, eg. overline $\overline{\odot}$ U+0305 COMBINING OVERLINE is doubled as $\overline{\overline{\odot}}$ U+033F COMBINING DOUBLE OVERLINE to indicate the thousands, eg. $\overline{a} = 1$; $\overline{a} = 1,000$.

Composite Numbers Composite numbers are produced by writing a primary number and a number from a larger decimal order. The larger number is written first, then the primary number: $\mathbf{L} \mathbf{\varepsilon} = 25$ (TWENTY + FIVE); $\mathbf{c} \mathbf{\varepsilon} = 205$ (TWO HUNDRED + FIVE); $\mathbf{c} \mathbf{\varepsilon} = 250$ (TWO HUNDRED + FIFTY).

4.4 Variant Forms

Variant forms of Coptic Epact Numbers are attested, eg. the shapes of FIFTY, EIGHTY, SIX HUNDRED, etc. in Figure 4. These variant forms may be unified with the corresponding characters proposed here.

5 Character Properties

102E0	COPTIC	EPACT	THOUSANDS MARK;Mn;0;EN;;;;1000;N;;;;;
102E1	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>DIGIT ONE;No;0;EN;;;;1;N;;;;;</pre>
102E2	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>DIGIT TWO;No;0;EN;;;;2;N;;;;;</pre>
102E3	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>DIGIT THREE;No;0;EN;;;;3;N;;;;;</pre>
102E4	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>DIGIT FOUR;No;0;EN;;;;4;N;;;;;</pre>
102E5	COPTIC	EPACT	DIGIT FIVE;No;0;EN;;;;5;N;;;;;
102E6	COPTIC	EPACT	DIGIT SIX;No;0;EN;;;;6;N;;;;;;
102E7	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>DIGIT SEVEN;No;0;EN;;;;7;N;;;;;</pre>
102E8	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>DIGIT EIGHT;No;0;EN;;;;8;N;;;;;</pre>
102E9	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>DIGIT NINE;No;0;EN;;;;9;N;;;;;</pre>
102EA	COPTIC	EPACT	NUMBER TEN;No;0;EN;;;;10;N;;;;;
102EB	COPTIC	EPACT	NUMBER TWENTY;No;0;EN;;;;20;N;;;;;
102EC	COPTIC	EPACT	NUMBER THIRTY;No;0;EN;;;;30;N;;;;;
102ED	COPTIC	EPACT	NUMBER FORTY;No;0;EN;;;;40;N;;;;;
102EE	COPTIC	EPACT	NUMBER FIFTY;No;0;EN;;;;50;N;;;;;
102EF	COPTIC	EPACT	NUMBER SIXTY;No;0;EN;;;;60;N;;;;;
102F0	COPTIC	EPACT	NUMBER SEVENTY;No;0;EN;;;;70;N;;;;;
102F1	COPTIC	EPACT	<pre>NUMBER EIGHTY;No;0;EN;;;;80;N;;;;;</pre>

```
102F2 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER NINETY;No;0;EN;;;;90;N;;;;
102F3 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER ONE HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;;100;N;;;;
102F4 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER TWO HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;200;N;;;;
102F5 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER THREE HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;300;N;;;;
102F6 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;400;N;;;;
102F7 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;500;N;;;;
102F8 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER SIX HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;600;N;;;;
102F9 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;700;N;;;;
102F4 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;700;N;;;;
102F5 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER EIGHT HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;800;N;;;;
102FB COPTIC EPACT NUMBER NINE HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;900;N;;;;
102FB COPTIC EPACT NUMBER NINE HUNDRED;No;0;EN;;;900;N;;;;
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7 Acknowledgments

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I would also like to express thanks to Michael Everson and Stephen Emmel for providing valuable feedback on earlier documents.

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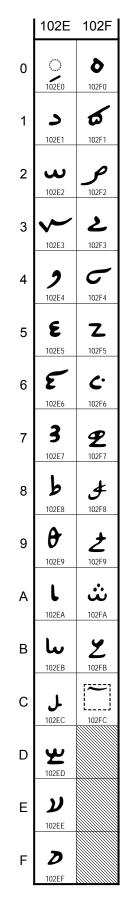
Coptic Epact Numbers

Final Proposal to Encode Coptic Epact Ni 102E0: ISO/IEC 10646

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Coptic Epact Numbers

102FF



Date: 09-Dec-2010

Sign		
102E0	\sim	COPTIC EPACT THOUSANDS MARK
Digit	ts	
102E1	د	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT ONE
102E2	ω	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT TWO
102E3	\checkmark	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT THREE
102E4	2	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT FOUR
102E5	٤	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT FIVE
102E6	٢	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT SIX
102E7	3	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT SEVEN
102E8	ط	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT EIGHT
102E9	θ	COPTIC EPACT DIGIT NINE
Num	be	ers
102EA	ι	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER TEN
102EB	L.	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER TWENTY
102EC	L	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER THIRTY
102ED	Ψ.	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER FORTY
102EE	Ū	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER FIFTY
102EF	D	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER SIXTY
102F0	٥	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER SEVENTY
102F1	đ	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER EIGHTY
102F2	ىر	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER NINETY
102F3	2	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER ONE HUNDRED
102F4	σ	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER TWO HUNDRED
102F5	z	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER THREE HUNDRED
102F6	C.	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED
102F7	Ľ	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER FIVE HUNDRED
102F8	£	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER SIX HUNDRED
102F9	Ļ	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER SEVEN HUNDRED
102FA	نث	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER EIGHT HUNDRED
102FB	۲	COPTIC EPACT NUMBER NINE HUNDRED
Num	nbe	er Mark

102FC 🔄 COPTIC EPACT NUMBER MARK

Figure 1: Proposed code chart and nameslist for Coptic Epact Numbers

1

9

	1	2	5		5	0	/	0	
_	د	ω	\checkmark	2	٤	٦	3	ط	θ
1	$\overline{\lambda}$	B	Γ	$\overline{\Delta}$	Ē	$\overline{\mathbf{r}}$	Z	\overline{H}	$\overline{\Theta}$
10	ι	لىا	بل	ዾ	V	D	٥	ธ	ىر
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Table 1: Numbers written using Coptic epact numbers (top) and the alphabetic system (bottom).

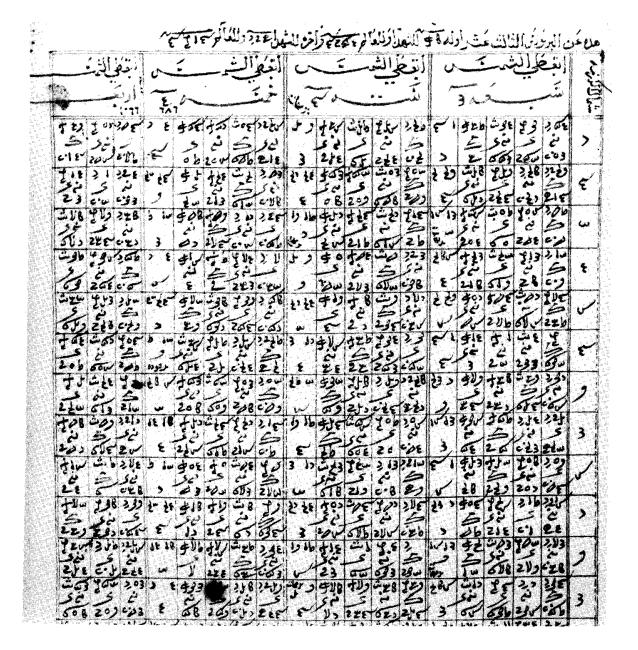


Fig. C.6 Coptic numerals in a copy from *ca.* 1800 of a set of astronomical tables by the early-13thcentury Coptic scholar Ibn 'Assal. This notation has separate, unrelated symbols for the units, tens and hundreds, *etc.*, and for simple fractions. (From MS Cairo DM 910,1, fol. 81v, courtesy of the Egyptian National Library.)

Figure 2: Excerpt of an astronomical table showing the use of Coptic Epact Numbers with the Arabic script (from King 2001: Appendix C, p. 299).



Figure 3: Coptic epact numbers in a manuscript fragment from the Rylands Genizah collection (AHRC Rylands Cairo Genizah Project fragment B 6548-1).

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Figure 4: Comparison of Coptic letters and 'cursive letters' (from Megally 1991: 1821). The 'cursive letters' represent Coptic epact numbers. Note the use of COMBINING OVERLINE as a number mark in both notation systems. Also note the use of \bigcirc THOUSANDS MARK in the regular alphabetic system.

				UNITÉS.					
د	ω	~	2	٤	٣	3	d	θ	
1	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	DIZAINES.								
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10	90	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	
CENTAINES.									
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100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	
	MILLE.								
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1,000	9,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	7.000	8,000	9,000	
			DIZAI	NES DE M	HLLE.				
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10,000	20,000	30,000	40,000	50,000	60,000	70,000	80,000	90,000	

Figure 5: Table showing the forms of Coptic Epact Numbers (from Pihan 1860: 213).

EXEMPLES DE NOMBRES COMPOSÉS.

Figure 6: Table showing composite numbers written with Coptic Epact Numbers (from Pihan 1860: 214). Note the use of the wavy COPTIC NUMBER MARK in place of COMBINING OVERLINE.

COPTE MEMPHITIQUE. LETTRES ALPHABÉTIQUES. MAJUSCULES. MINUSCULES. **Α ΒΓΓ Α Ε Γ Η** впъегадны θΙΚλυΝζΟΠ икуми бо и p C ρ μ υ Υ χ φ κ κτΓ **Ρ C T T Φ X Ψ Ш Ш** чрсяхбъ \$38×67 SIGNES DE NUMÉRATION. ج ی ج ن z ت z م که ه م لا س ل سا ۱ ۹ ط ٤ ت z و ۷ س د و ط و ج ب ب ب د ع ش LETTRES ACCENTUÉES, LIGATURE ET SIGNES DIVERS. —, 4 To in ó nísi i s

Figure 7: Coptic Epact Numbers for the primary, tens, hundreds, and thousands shown in a specimen of Coptic type under the heading 'Signes de numération'. Two length variants of the COPTIC NUMBER MARK are shown under the heading 'Lettres accentuées...' (from Geiss 1906; reproduced in Everson 2003: Figure 14).

ä = 1	$\vec{\mathbf{K}}$ = 20	$\bar{T} = -300$
B == 2	$\overline{\lambda} = 30$	r = 400
r == 3	$\overline{\mathbf{u}} = 40$	φ = 500
$\hat{\mathbf{\lambda}} = 4$	$\overline{N} = 50$	$\overline{\mathbf{x}} = 600$
$\overline{\epsilon} = 5$	<u>z</u> = 60	Ψ = 700
$\overline{\mathbf{s}} = 6$	ō — 70	w - 800
z = 7	$\overline{n} = 80$	🕈 — yoo
й — 8	q = 90	ā = 1.000
ē = 9	p = 100	$\overline{B} = 2.000$
$\bar{1} = 10$	$\vec{c} = 200$	$\overline{1}$ = 10.000

Figure 8: The representation of numbers in Coptic using letters of the alphabet and horizontal overlines (reproduced from Everson 2003: Figure 12).

Chiffres coptes cursifs.
1
$$\ddot{a}$$
 > > 7 7
2 \ddot{b} \vec{w} \vec{w}
3 $\ddot{\tau}$ \vec{v} \vec{v} \vec{v}
4 \ddot{a} ? 9 9
5 \ddot{c} \dot{z} \dot{z} \dot{z}
6 \ddot{c} \ddot{c} \dot{z}
7 \ddot{z} ? 3 3 3
8 \ddot{n} \ddot{b} \ddot{b} \ddot{b} \vec{p}
9 $\ddot{\theta}$ $\vec{\theta}$ $\vec{\theta}$ $\vec{\theta}$
10 $\vec{1}$ 1 J L L
20 \vec{k} L_{1} L_{2}
30 \vec{a} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} $\vec{\theta}$
10 \vec{i} 1 J L L
10 \vec{v} \vec{v} \vec{t}
20 \vec{k} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j}
30 \vec{a} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j} \vec{j}
40 \vec{u} \vec{u} \vec{u} \vec{u} \vec{u}
1000 \vec{a} \vec{n} \vec{j}
1000 \vec{a} \vec{n} \vec{j}
1000 \vec{a} \vec{n} \vec{j}
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1000 \vec{a} \vec{n} \vec{j} \vec{j}

Figure 9: Table showing the Coptic epact numbers (from Mallon 1956: 234).

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2 PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSION FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646 ¹ Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.	
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/ guidelines and details before filling this form.	WG2/docs/principles.ntml_for
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/dc See also http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/dcs/roadmaps.html for latest R	ocs/summaryform.html.
A. Administrative	
I. Title: Final Proposal to Encode Coptic Epact Numbers in I 2. Requester's name: Script Encoding Initiative / Anshuman Pandey <pander< td=""> 3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Liaison 4. Submission date: 201 5. Requester's reference (if applicable): 6. Choose one of the following: This is a complete proposal: (or) More information will be provided later:</pander<>	y@umich.edu> contribution 1-02-07
B. Technical – General	
 1. Choose one of the following: a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):	
 3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document): 	29
 A-Contemporary C-Major extinct B.1-Specialized (small collection) C-Major extinct D-Attested extinct F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic Is a repertoire including character names provided? a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? 	
 Fonts related: a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 to standard? 	for publishing the
Anshuman Pandey	
 References: a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provide 	d? Yes
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, o of proposed characters attached?	r other sources)
 Special encoding issues: Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose in 	
8. Additional Information:	
Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Dir Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other U related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information as the Unicode Technical needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode	I character(s) or script. nation, Display behaviour ectional behaviour, Default Inicode normalization tion on other scripts. Also Reports for information

¹ Form number: N3702-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? No If YES explain If YES explain 2. 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 If YES, with whom? Stephen Emmel, Terry Wilfong, Traianos Gagos. Yes If YES, available relevant documents: If YES, available relevant documents: Yes 3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Yes Reference: See text of proposal. Yes 4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Common Reference: Yes If YES, where? Reference: See text of proposal. Yes If YES, where? Reference: See text of proposal. Yes If YES, is a rationale provided? No No If YES, is a rationale provided? No No If YES, is a rationale provided? No No	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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If YES, reference:	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	es
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing	
character or character sequence? No	
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either	
existing characters or other proposed characters? No	
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function)	
to an existing character? No	
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? No	
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference:	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	
If YES, reference:	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as	
control function or similar semantics? No	
If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	
<u> </u>	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? No	
If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?	
If YES, reference:	