The Kannada “nakaara-pollu”
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2013-Nov-09

Recap of the Telugu nakaara-pollu
In L2/11-409 I had previously documented the Telugu “nakaara-pollu”, which is an alternate form of vowelless NA:

... the circled form on the third line being the normal vowelless NA and that on the first line being the special “nakaara-pollu”.

Intent of present document
Now the current document presents attestation* for the analogous feature in the Kannada script. Given the evolutionary closeness between Kannada and Telugu, this is not really surprising. It is requested to document this alternate vowelless form of Kannada NA in TUS.

Discussion
While the regular form of vowelless NA in Kannada is:

\[ ನ + ವೆ = ನೆ \]

... in somewhat older style writings an alternate form is also observed:

\[ ನೆ \]

... identical to the Telugu form (see the sample above). Note that this is (again as in Telugu) similar to the reph व, except that it has four “prongs” instead of three.

* These attestations were kindly sent me by one Srinidhi Jamadagni of Tumkur, Karnataka.
The glyph – in both Kannada and Telugu – clearly evolved from the nominal form of NA, as can be seen in the following sample showing a relatively much older style:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zeichen</th>
<th>Wert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>న</td>
<td>-n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>నా</td>
<td>nā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ని</td>
<td>ni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One observes that the bottom portion of the glyph is clearly from NA న. The upper part is from the virama – compare the nominal virama form న. It is evident that over time the sign got slightly modified and lateroverted to give ఎ.

Various academic sources attest that ఎ is a form of vowelless NA:


3. A general use of the lengthened form of the vowel of the accusative, even when followed by a consonant: 

4. The use of n for the later bindu: see also examples under (3).

Other attestations of usage from various sources are also appended to this document.
The following model is identical to that requested in L2/11-409 and approved at the 2012 Feb UTC meeting for Telugu.

The two forms of vowelless Kannada NA  ನ and ನ are semantically identical. While it is indeed possible that in writing/printing both may occasionally seen in the same passage as seen in the Telugu sample, there is no need to distinguish them in plain encoded text.

Hence a font may display the isolate sequence NA + VIRAMA (where isolate means “not part of a consonant cluster”) as either the special nakaara-pollu ನ or as the regular form ನ as per the desired typographic style. In rich-text, smart font features may be used to specify a particular form in desired positions if needed for any reason.

Thus, it is sufficient to allow fonts to substitute NA + VIRAMA by the appropriate glyph as per the desired style. If a consonant follows but one desires to display a vowelless NA (whether as ನ or ನ), one can always insert a ZWNJ after the VIRAMA.

The model is summarized as follows:

**Old Style:**
- Isolate: NA + VIRAMA
- With ZWNJ: NA + VIRAMA + ZWNJ + DA

**New Style:**
- Isolate: NA + VIRAMA
- With ZWNJ: NA + VIRAMA + ZWNJ + DA

**All Styles:**
- NA + VIRAMA + DA

Since no new encoding is involved, it is sufficient that the above encoding model for the old-style form of vowelless-NA be documented in the Kannada chapter of Unicode, just as requested in L2/11-409 for Telugu. OCR applications would need to know how this glyph should be recorded in encoding.

Here it should be noted that the term “nakaara-pollu” is a Telugu term. However, since no special name is known for the usage in Kannada, the same Telugu term may be re-used just as words like “virama”, “reph”, “ra-vattu” and “ya-phala” from one Indic language are used in general to denote orthographic forms common to Indic.
5. The use of the long vowel instead of the later short vowel in ಗುರು and ಸಾರು.

6. The general use of the lengthened form of the vowel of the conjugational suffixes:

10. HISTORY OF KANI

 Antarigotsa, antarakshita, pratapada, chakravarti, yaduna

Attestations of usage
As instances I give two verses from *Srikrishnacharitam*:

I am obliged to Mr. P. R. Subrahmanya Sastry, B.A., for these extracts.

2. **Śravaṇa Belgola 27 (c. 700).**

3. **Chikmagalūr 92 (c. 750).**

4. **Kapūr 45 (c. 750).**

(The three-pronged reph is marked in red to contrast with the four-pronged nakaara-pollu marked in blue.)

s. **rōga**, s. Sickness, indisposition, disease in general.

H. **rōgan**, s. Varnish.

H. **rōja**, s. A fast.
From a folio of a manuscript Śrī Tattva Nidhi
preserved at the Oriental Research Institute, Mysore:

(As before, the three-pronged reph is marked in red
to contrast with the four-pronged nakaara-pollu marked in blue.)

From a railway station in Bangalore, Karnataka: