**Author and submitter:** Simon Griffee - simon@hypertexthero.com
**Subject:** International symbol for an observer
**Suggested codepoint:** U+23FF OBSERVER EYE SYMBOL
**URL for more info:** http://hypertexthero.com/logbook/2015/01/international-symbol-observer/
**Date of initial submission:** 28 January 2015
**Date of this updated submission:** 26 February 2015

### Rationale

While there are many symbols for astronomical bodies and atmospheric phenomena in the Unicode Standard, there is none for an observer of these. A symbol for an observer can be useful in illustrating scientific discussions.



An international symbol for an observer was mentioned and drawn (see above) by Professor Charles Bailyn in Yale University course *ASTR-160: Frontiers and Controversies in Astrophysics Lecture 2 - Planetary Orbits*[1]. I went looking for it on codepoints. net, a site dedicated to all the characters defined in the Unicode Standard, and in Unicode's own Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs chart at http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1F300.pdf
My search has been unsuccessful as it seems there is currently no unicode symbol for an observer.

### Existing Eye Symbol

While a symbol for an eye, also known as sight, does exist (U+1F441 EYE — I do not have a font in my system that displays it), I believe it is still worthwhile to have a specific symbol for an observer because the existing eye depicted in a frontal view is more representative of the organ's anatomy rather than the *act of observation*, which is better represented by a profile view of an eye indicating a direction.

### Examples of Existing Glyphs an Observer Symbol Would Complement

Sun ☼    First Quarter Moon ☽    Comet ☄    White Four Pointed Star ✧

### Proposed Observer Symbol & File Downloads



Observer ☞

Above is a symbol for an observer I made and dedicated to the Public Domain with the following license:
https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/
Files in AI, EPS, PDF, PNG, PSD, SVG and TrueType formats in a ZIP archive are available for download at:
http://hypertexthero.com/static/img/observer-symbol/observer-symbol-latest.zip

### Observer Symbol in Use

*Type a lowercase 'o' for version looking to right, and an uppercase 'O' for version looking to the left.*
An observer and a star, an observer and a cat:



### Suggested Character Properties

|           Property | Suggested Value |
|-------------------:|-----------------|
|         Code Point | U+23FF |
|               Name | OBSERVER EYE SYMBOL |
|   General Category | So |
| Canonical Combining Class | L |
|      Bidi Mirrored | Y |

Please consider my submission so the community at large can have a representation of an observer to use in publications worldwide. I am happy to make changes necessary for final approval should this proposal be accepted.

Simon Griffee

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1. The lecture is available for viewing at http://oyc.yale.edu/astronomy/astr-160/lecture-2 with PDF class notes at http://oyc.yale.edu/sites/default/files/astr160_lec2.pdf and transcript at http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/36/astr-160.

## ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
## PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
## 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://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html **for guidelines and details before filling this form.**
**Please ensure you are using the latest Form from** http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html **.**
**See also** http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest *Roadmaps*.**

### A. Administrative

1. **Title:** International Symbol for an Observer
2. Requester's name: Simon Griffee
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Individual contribution
4. Submission date: 29 January 2015
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
   This is a complete proposal: Yes
   (or) More information will be provided later:

### B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):
   Proposed name of script:
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: Yes
   Name of the existing block: Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs
2. Number of characters in proposal: 1
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
   A-Contemporary    B.1-Specialized (small collection)   x   B.2-Specialized (large collection)
   C-Major extinct    D-Attested extinct    E-Minor extinct
   F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic    G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes
   a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines"
   in Annex L of P&P document? Yes
   b. 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?
   Simon Griffee, Graphic Designer - hypertexthero.com - simon@hypertexthero.com
   b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
   Simon Griffee, Graphic Designer - hypertexthero.com - simon@hypertexthero.com
6. References:
   a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? No
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
   of proposed characters attached? Yes. Lecture notes from a university professor utilizing the symbol.
7. Special encoding issues:
   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)? No

8. Additional Information:

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. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database ( http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/ ) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

## C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?   **No**
   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.)?   **No**
   If YES, with whom?
   If YES, available relevant documents:
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example:
   size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?   **No**
   Reference:
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)   **Common**
   Reference:   **Will be used both as a dingbat in general texts, emails, HTML websites, etc, as well as a symbol in astronomy texts.**
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?   **No**
   If YES, where?  Reference:
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely
   in the BMP?   **Yes**
       If YES, is a rationale provided?   **Yes**
       If YES, reference:   **http://hypertexthero.com/logbook/2015/01/international-symbol-observer/**
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?   **No**
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing
   character or character sequence?   **Yes**
       If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?   **Yes**
       If YES, reference:   **http://hypertexthero.com/logbook/2015/01/international-symbol-observer/**
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, or could be confused with, 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)

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?   **No**
    If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?
       If YES, reference: