Proposal to encode the INVERTED CANDRABINDU for Sharada

Anshuman Pandey
pandey@umich.edu

December 14, 2017

1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the following character in the ‘Sharada’ block in the SMP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Character name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◌</td>
<td>111CF</td>
<td>SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Description

The candrabindu has the conventional form ◌ in Sharada. The shape is unique among signs for candrabindu in northern Brahmi scripts as it is an inversion of the predominant shape ◌, as used in Devanagari, Bengali, etc., ie. ◌ U+0901 DEVANAGARI SIGN CANDRABINDU.

An inverted ◌ form of the ◌ U+111B0 SHARADA SIGN CANDRABINDU occurs concurrently with the conventional form in several texts on Kashmiri Shaivism (see figures) and other manuscripts. The two forms of candrabindu are used for writing the sacred syllable om in invocatory phrases at the beginning of texts, eg. ◌ and ◌. The inversed form is used for writing syllables in mantra texts, eg. ◌ thain contrasted with ◌ raṁ in the Śiva Patrika (fig. 7). The two forms are used in a manuscript of the Yoga Vāsiṣṭha for the characters ◌ and ◌, combined with a base that likely represents the auspicious terms siddham or svasti, which resembles the ◌ U+111D9 SHARADA DIGIT NINE (fig. 8).

These two forms of candrabindu are not glyphic variants, but alternate pairs whose concurrent usage is intentional. It is necessary to represent both forms of candrabindu in order to encode such texts accurately and completely. The addition of ◌ SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU to the Sharada repertoire will meet this need.
3 Character Data

**Unicode character data:** UnicodeData.txt

111CF;SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU;Mn;0;NSM;;;;N;;;;;

**Linebreak data:** LineBreak.txt

111CF;CM # SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU

**Indic syllabic categories:** IndicSyllabicCategory.txt

# Indic_Syllabic_Category=Bindu

111CF ; Bindu # Mn SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU

**Indic positional categories:** IndicPositionalCategory.txt

# Indic_Positional_Category=Top

111CF ; Top # Mn SHARADA SIGN INVERTED CANDRABINDU

4 References

Figure 1: The syllable om̆̇ written as 𑆏𑇎 (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as 𑇄 (red) using the regular form in Upanayana Tantra, f8.
Proposal to encode the **INVERTED CANDRABINDU** for Sharada  

Anshuman Pandey

Figure 2: The syllable ॐ written as ओ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ओ (red) using the regular form in *Kaivalyopanishad Dīpikā*, f1.
Figure 3: The syllable oṁ written as ओ上午 (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ओ (red) using the regular form in Bhairava Sahasranāma, f2.
Figure 4: The syllable om written as ओ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ओ (red) using the regular form in Śiva Drṣṭi of Somānanda with the commentary of Utpaladeva, f1.
Proposal to encode the INVERTED CANDRABindU for Sharada

Figure 5: The syllable om̄ written as Ṣ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as Ṣ (red) using the regular form in Mukunda Mālā, f1, f8.
Figure 6: The syllable oṃ written as ṭ (blue) using the inverted candrabindu and as ṭ (red) using the regular form in Aghora Bhaṭṭarak Tantra, 17.
Figure 7: Inverted candrabindu in the syllable Ṣ thamī (blue) and the regular form in the syllable raṅī (red) in Śiva Patrika, f6.
Figure 8: Usage of both forms of candrabindu in the *Yoga Vāsiṣṭha* for writing the signs 𑀽 and 𑀿, which likely represent the auspicious terms *siddham* or *svasti* (from Lokesh Chandra 1982: 366–367). The base for the *candrabindu*-s resembles the ⍊ U+111D9 SHARADA DIGIT NINE, but could be a similar sign for a Sharada form of *siddham* or *svasti*, which are not yet encoded.