Reply to 'On the Kawi Space Filler and the Names of Punctuation Characters'

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Below is our reply to the comments sent by Eduardo Marín Silva on Tue Jan 19 19:39:21 CST 2021, as part of public review comments (which will be posted before UTC meeting #167). The comments concern several encoding aspects in our <u>Proposal to encode Kawi</u> L2/20-284R.

1. Remove PUNCTUATION SPACE FILLER due to identical glyph to DIGIT FOUR consistent with proposed DIGIT TWO/RO usage

While we have not found a sample in which the glyph of DIGIT TWO and RO are explicitly differentiated, there are samples in which the glyph of DIGIT FOUR and SPACE FILLER is differentiated. It is to our understanding that DIGIT FOUR and SPACE FILLER *may* use the same glyph, but this is not always the case, as shown in some of the images included in our proposal. Below are some examples to clarify:

Source	Digit five ¹	Digit four	Space filler	Comment
Kakurungan Inscription	ی ک	ڴؚػؚؗؗ	33	The same glyph is used for both characters
<u>Gandhakuti</u> Inscription		3.	. Š	Space filler is more compact (digit four has additional hump)
Tuhanyaru Inscription	937	733	2	Space filler is more compact and mirrored
<u>Nipah, Kropak</u> <u>Ciburuy I</u>	5 9-	93	3	Space filler does not have upper appendages

Due to this glyph difference, we proposed these two characters as separate entities in our proposal, in contrast to the conflation of DIGIT TWO/RO.

To avoid confusion, perhaps the representative glyph of SPACE FILLER could be altered, but we unfortunately do not know which variant is more "common" and its rather hard to tell considering the many styles of Kawi. The current shape was chosen in consideration of its

¹ An additional column with examples of DIGIT FIVE is also provided to demonstrate that FOUR and FIVE are more graphically similar across styles than when comparing FOUR and SPACE FILLER.

modern Balinese cognate which has been included in Unicode; the Balinese PAMENENG U+1B60 which looks like thus: 3.

2. Change name KAWI PUNCTUATION ALTERNATE SECTION MARK to SECTION MARK WITH REPHA

While it is indeed common to differentiate alternate section mark by adding repha-like flourish to regular section mark, this is not the only way to do so. Below are some examples to clarify:

Source	Section marker	Alt section marker	Comment
Mpu Mada Inscription	I	Sill Sill	Additional above-base flourishes that resembles repha
<u>Serat Catur Bumi</u> <u>Gebang MS</u>	37	30	Additional above base flourishes that resembles a series of vowel -i sign
<u>Nipah, Kropak 24</u>	3]	3	Additional dots surrounding the right and bottom part of the base

When tallied up, there are many variants of this alternate section mark: with repha, with triple -i vowel signs, with surrounding dots, etc. But from what we have found, a single text only needs two variants: a plain one and an alternate one that is usually more intricate. Exactly how they are differentiated depends on the style and the scribe in question, so we prefer the more general name "alternate" to accommodate these scribal differences.

The name KAWI PUNCTUATION SECTION MARK WITH REPHA would also trigger the question why this character is not represented as a sequence repha+section mark instead. The Unicode Standard might allow for that representation, but the Universal Shaping Engine would not as punctuation characters cannot become part of clusters.

We have no objection with alternative names that are more general, such as PUNCTUATION SECTION MARK WITH FLOURISH, should a change of name is still desired.

3. Change name KAWI PUNCTUATION FILLED CIRCLE to CIRCLE WITH DOT

Similar to alternate section mark, we found some instances of this punctuation are rather difficult to be described specifically as "circle with dot", and we would prefer a more general name to accommodate these scribal differences. Below are some examples to clarify:

Source	Filled Circle	Comment
<u>Kakurungan</u> Inscription		Circle filled with a single dot
mschption	n O J	
	- C	

Sobhāmrta Inscription	St	Circle filled with two opposing curved lines
Unidentified Gebang MS in Old Sundanese, L 1097, National Library of Indonesia		Circle with two opposing curved lines and inked fields
<u>Serat Catur Bumi</u> <u>Gebang MS</u>	THE R	Circle is stylized into a square filled with two crossing lines (the manuscript differentiated between circle and filled square, which in our view can be regarded a stylization of circle vs filled circle)

4. Change name KAWI PUNCTUATION CLOSING SPIRAL to KAWI PUNCTUATION SPIRAL WITH WAVY TAIL

We have no objection to this input.

5. Annotate SPIRAL as Siddham

As noted in section 5.6 of our proposal, siddham cognate in Kawi could be mapped into several characters. Previously, Iain Sinclair identified SECTION MARKER and ALTERNATE SECTION MARKER as the siddham descendant, but it is equally possible that these marks are instead descended from decorative double danda after further discussion. Thus, we think it is still unclear which Kawi punctuations could be annotated as "siddham" at this juncture and annotating one particular punctuation appears to contradict the explanation in section 5.6.

