ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N5171

L2/22-003 2022-01-19

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set International Organization for Standardization Organisation Internationale de Normalisation Международная организация по стандартизации

Doc Type:	Working Group Document	
Title:	On radicals for lexicography in Blissymbols	
Source:	Michael Everson	
Status:	Expert Contribution	
Action:	For information to JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC	
Date:	2022-01-19	

0. Introduction. This document describes the system of radicals used lexicographically in Blissymbols as a means for ordering and locating characters. Since Bliss makes use of a large character set whose characters have no phonology, a pronunciation-based indexing system is impossible. Every Bliss-characters belongs to a Bliss-letter, and within each letter radicals are used in order to rank that letter's characters. About two-thirds of Bliss-radicals are identical with characters used meaningfully in other contexts. The remaining third are used only as radicals. Radicals (both meaningful and meaningless) comprise about 16% of the whole repertoire of characters proposed for encoding.

1. Sources. The first principled analysis and ranking of Bliss-characters was prepared by Barbara Hehner in *Blissymbols for Use* (BFU, 1980). The radical scheme in that book was modified in the great *Blissymbols Reference Guide* (BRG, 1982), in part because the structure of the glyph-fragment fonts devised at that early period seems to have been able to produce a deterministic sort. This in turn has been modified throughout the period of development of the character-based repertoire to be proposed for encoding in the UCS. Some modifications were made because new characters had been added to the repertoire. Others were made when characters were moved from one area to another as the sorting rules were adapted due to the influx of new characters.

2. The Bliss-alphabet. A subset of the ca. 1385 spacing Bliss-characters are used as the 30 Bliss-letters comprising the Bliss-alphabet. All of the spacing characters are assigned to one of these 30 classes.

 $\label{eq:constraint} \end{tabular} \end{t$

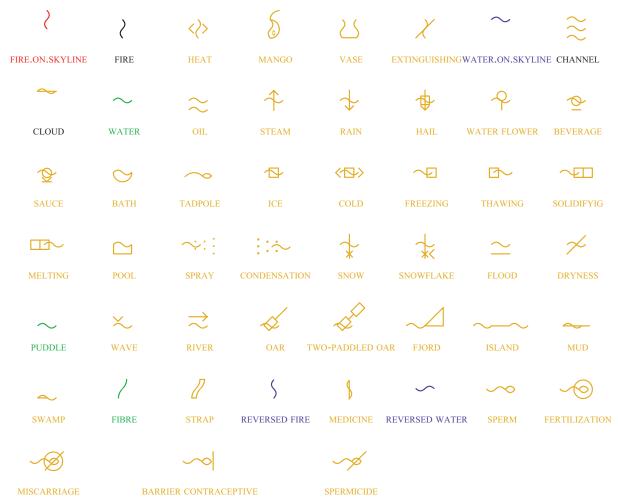
3. Radicals. Within each Bliss-letter the Bliss-characters belonging to that letter are also sorted, according to a hierarchy of features. One of the features of Bliss lexicography is that subsections within the Bliss-letter are defined by characters used as radicals. Some Bliss-letters have many consituents, and some have many fewer. EARS, for instance is a Bliss-letter with only 6 constituents.



Here, the meaningful character EAR serves as radical. The ranking of the remaining characters, follows one of the other rules about elements which touch, themselves ordered according to the relative order of the alphabet: $\langle \heartsuit \# \bigtriangleup ? \uparrow \otimes \bigcirc \circ \frown c \rangle \square \square \square \square \square \bigtriangleup \cdot \bigtriangleup \downarrow + \bigtriangleup \land \square \square / \checkmark ?$

Put another way: $2 < 2^\circ < 2$

Compare this with WAVY LINES, a Bliss-letter which comprises 51 characters, and which uses 8 radicals to organize them.

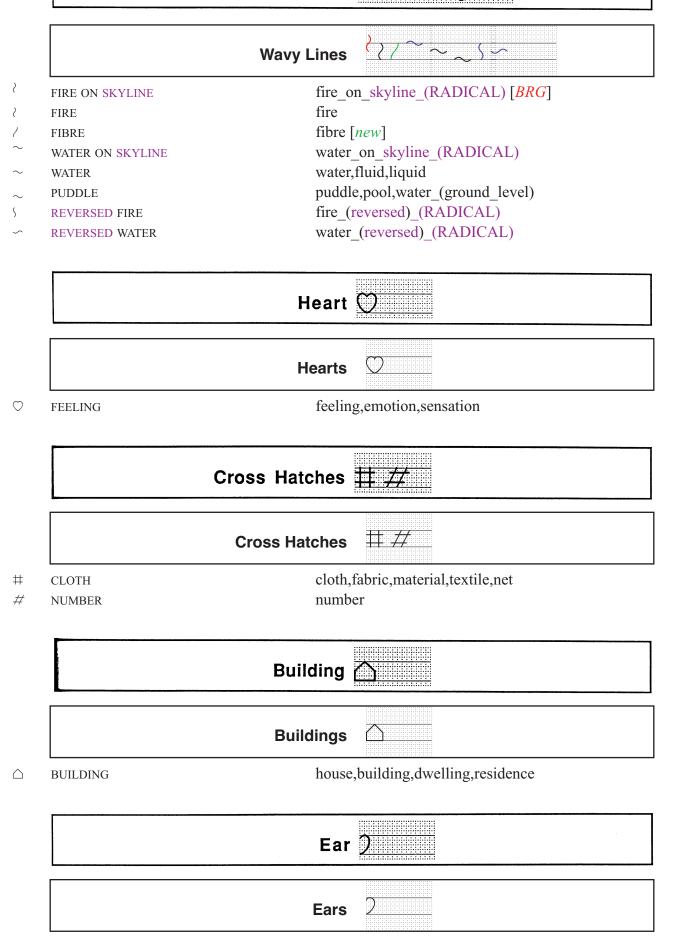


Above coloured in green are Bliss-characters with ordinary meanings which are also used as radicals. Coloured in blue are Bliss-characters without ordinary meanings which are *only* used as radicals. And coloured in red is a Bliss-character without an ordinary meaning that was formerly used as a radical, in both BFU and the BRG. In those sources, the character $\overleftarrow{}_{m}$ SQUIRREL was sorted under the radical $\overset{?}{}$ FIRE ON SKYLINE, but now all animals have been moved to their own Bliss-letter, $\overline{}_{m}$ ANIMALS, so the radical $\overset{?}{}$ FIRE ON SKYLINE no longer has clients. Nevertheless, because it and similar radicals were a part of the uinfluential BRG, they are proposed to be encoded as characters which have been used, to facilitate discussion and interchange of that discussion in plain text.

In the list below the 12 radicals used in the BRG but not today are marked with "[*BRG*]". New radicals established because of the creation of new Bliss-characters since 1998 or moving old ones from one place in the sorting order to another are marked "[*new*]". The entire set of radicals within each Bliss-letter of the Bliss-alphabet, first as presented in the BRG (the first box), and then typeset by me with additions and omissions noted (the second box), following the order given in the BRG. The left column uses UCS-style names; the right column shows the glosses given in the BCI Authorized Vocabulary.

The name of a meaningless radical is the same as the name of the meaningful character that it looks like, with modifications to describe differences in size, position, or orientation. The following name elements are not used in the names of meaningful Bliss-characters: SKYLINE, MIDLINE, EARTHLINE, DOUBLE-WIDE, EXTENDED, INVERTED, REVERSED, ROTATED, OR TURNED.

Wavy Lines



Arrows $\rightarrow \uparrow / / \rightarrow \downarrow / / / / \leftarrow \land O Q \land \land \land \land \land$

\rightarrow	EXTENDED FORWARDS	forward_(extended)_(RADICAL)
\uparrow	UPWARDS	up,upward
7	UPWARDS AND FORWARDS	upward_and_forward
\rightarrow	FORWARDS	forward
\searrow	DOWNWARDS AND FORWARDS	downward_and_forward
\downarrow	DOWNWARDS	down,downward
\checkmark	DOWNWARDS AND BACKWARDS	downward_and_backward
\geq	BENT ARROW	arrow_(bent)
\leftarrow	BACKWARDS ON SKYLINE	backward_on_skyline_(RADICAL)
\leftarrow	BACKWARDS	backward,back
$\overline{\}$	UPWARDS AND BACKWARDS	upward_and_backward
0	YEAR	year
Q	ORBIT	orbit
\sim	ROTATION	rotation, circulation, orbit, lap, circle, round
\sim	SCOOP	scoop
\sim	JUMP	jump
Ş	TURN	turn,turning
Ý	НОР	hop_(forwards)

Wheels 🛞 🙍

Wheels

 \otimes WHEEL OF DHARMA

Dharma_wheel wheel

 $\otimes \otimes$



Large Circles

O ZENITH

O SUN

zenith sun

Small Circles

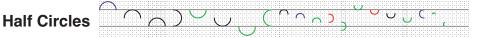
) 0₀₀°°

Small Circles

- MOUTH ATOP SKYLINE
- MOUTH BENEATH SKYLINE
- MOUTH
- MOUTH ATOP EARTHLINE
- MOUTH BENEATH EARTHLINE
- COMBINE MARKER
- ° DEGREE
- KERNEL

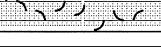
mouth_atop_skyline_(RADICAL) mouth_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL) mouth mouth_atop_earthline_(RADICAL) mouth_beneath_earthline_(RADICAL) [*new*] combine_marker [*punctuation, not a radical*] degree [*new as radical though it existed already*] kernel,particle





MIND ATOP SKYLINE mind atop skyline (RADICAL) mind, intellect, reason MIND bow,arc ARC \cap curve, curved line) CURVE \cup container, basket (high) [new] BASKETBALL HOOP container, bowl, holder, pouch, basket CONTAINER U container,golf (low) [new] GOLF CUP curve (reversed) (RADICAL) [new] C **REVERSED CURVE** \sim CONCEPT concept concept atop midline (RADICAL) \sim CONCEPT ATOP MIDLINE concept beneath midline (RADICAL) [new] CONCEPT BENEATH MIDLINE \sim curve (small) on midline (RADICAL) [BRG] С SMALL CURVE ON MIDLINE curve (small) on earthline (RADICAL) [new] SMALL CURVE ON EARTHLINE 2 υ antler atop skyline (RADICAL) [new] ANTLER ATOP SKYLINE antler beneath skyline (RADICAL) [BRG] ANTLER BENEATH SKYLINE antler ANTLER HYPHEN hyphen [*new*] curve (small, reversed) beneath skyline (RADICAL) С SMALL REVERSED CURVE **BENEATH SKYLINE** SMALL CONCEPT BETWEEN SKYLINE concept (small) between skyline and midline (RADICAL) [new] AND MIDLINE curve (quarter-sized, reversed) atop earthline (RADICAL) QUARTER-SIZED REVERSED CURVE [new] ATOP EARTHLINE

Quarter Circles



Quarter Circles



WING ATOP SKYLINE

- > WING
- WING ATOP EARTHLINE
- J TURNED GRASS BENEATH SKYLINE
- J TURNED GRASS ON MIDLINE
- J TURNED GRASS BENEATH EARTHLINE
- C PARABOLIC ANTENNA
- c GRASS

wing_atop_skyline_(RADICAL)
wing
wing_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)
grass_(turned)_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL)
grass_(turned)_on_midline_(RADICAL)
grass_(turned)_beneath_earthline_(RADICAL)
receiver,dish,antenna_(parabolic)
grass

Parentheses \frown) () (

		entheses
	ROTATED PAST	past_(rotated)_(RADICAL)
)	PAST	past
(FUTURE	future
^	SMALL ROTATED PAST ATOP SKYLINE	<pre>past_(small,rotated)_atop_skyline_(RADICAL) [new]</pre>
)	AGO	again,then_(past)
(LATER BENEATH SKYLINE	later_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL) [new]
(LATER ON MIDLINE	later_on_midline_(RADICAL) [new]
(LATER	then,so,later
¢	SMALL LATER ATOP SKYLINE	later_(small)_atop_skyline_(RADICAL) [BRG]
¢	SMALL LATER ATOP MIDLINE	later_(small)_atop_midline_(RADICAL)
٥	PIT	pit,stone

Note that INDICATOR PAST \square and INDICATOR FUTURE \square (above) and INDICATOR THING \square (below) are combining characters. These are not sorted at the first level like base characters, and so are not sorted within any Bliss-letters; they are found at the end of the Bliss-alphabet.

		Squares	•
		Squares	Squares
	ENCLOSURE	enclosure	enclosu
	THING BENEATH SKYLINE	thing_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL)	thing_t
	THING	thing, object	thing,o
	THING ATOP EARTHLINE	thing_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)	thing_a
\diamond	DIAMOND ON SKYLINE	diamond_on_skyline_(RADICAL)	diamor
\diamond	DIAMOND	<pre>square_(oblique),diamond_(square) [new]</pre>	square

Rectangles

Rectangles

EXTENDED RECTANGLE

- RECTANGLE
- CARD
- PAPER

rectangle (extended) (RADICAL) rectangle_(geometric_shape) card [*new*] paper,card,page

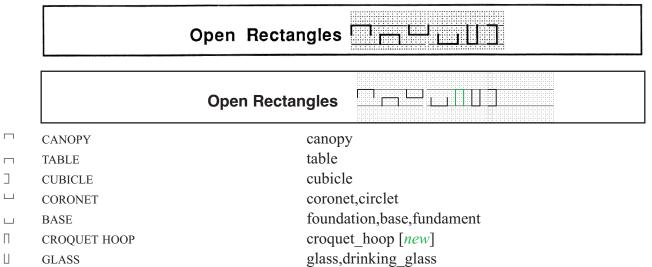
Open Squares

Open Squares

- \square DOOR
- ROOM
- \Box **OPENING**
- Γ PUBLIC ROOM
- Ш SHORT GLASS

door room

- opening
- public_room
- glass_(short),glass_(small) [new]



 \square GLASS

Right Triangles 🔼 🕽 🕅 🖊

Right Triangles

- △ MAKING
- ▷ CAUSE
- THEREFORE
- ▼ TURNED MAKING BENEATH SKYLINE
- ∠ MOUNTAIN
- ⊿ JIB

۰.

- ⊿ STONE
- ▶ REVERSED MOUNTAIN

making,production,fashioning cause therefore,so,so_that making_(turned)_beneath skyline_(RADICAL) [*new*] mountain jib [*new*] stone,rock mountain_(reversed)_(RADICAL) [*new*]

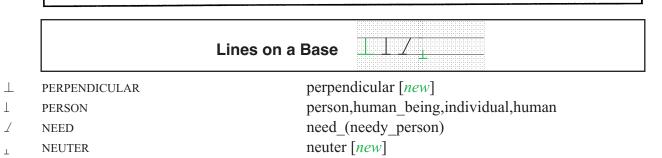
	Dots
	Dots
DOT ON SKYLINE	dot_on_skyline_(RADICAL)
DOT BETWEEN SKYLINE AND MIDLINE	dot_beneath_skyline_and_midline_(RADICAL)
DOT	dot
DOT BETWEEN MIDLINE AND EARTHLINE	dot_beneath_midline_and_earthline_(RADICAL)

Note that the dot above the skyline was used as a radical for INDICATOR DESCRIPTION BEFORE THE FACT \square , which is a combining character. These are not sorted at the first level like base characters, and so are not sorted within any Bliss-letters; they are found at the end of the Bliss-alphabet. Note too that the dot atop the earthline is identical to BLISSYMBOL FULL STOP, and is not used as a radical to find any characters, so it has not been proposed for encoding independent of the BLISSYMBOL FULL STOP.

Right Angles

Right Angles	
LARGE TURNED ARM ATOP EARTHLINE	arm_(large,turned)_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)
LARGE ARM ATOP EARTHLINE	arm_(large)_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)
ARM	arm
INVERTED ARM ATOP EARTHLINE	arm_(inverted)_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)
NORTHEAST POINTER	<pre>pointer_(northeast) [new]</pre>
SMALL TURNED ARM ATOP EARTHLINE	arm_(small,turned)_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)
SMALL NORTHEAST POINTER	<pre>pointer_(northeast,small) [new]</pre>
LEFT	left_turn,left_(position)
PERSON STANDING	standing_(standing_person)
RIGHT	right_turn,right_(position
PERSON LYING PRONE	prone,person_lying_on_stomach,person_lying_prone
PERSON LYING SUPINE	reclining,lying_(person_lying_down)
PROTECTION	protection, shelter
PROTECTION ATOP EARTHLINE	protection_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)
GREATER THAN	greater_than_(relation)
TURNED PROTECTION	protection_(turned)_(RADICAL)
LESS THAN	less_than_(relation)
SMALL PROTECTION BENEATH SKYLINE	protection_(small)_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL)
ABOUT BENEATH SKYLINE	about_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL) [new]
ABOUT	about,concerning,in_relation_to,of,on
BY MEANS OF ON SKYLINE	by_means_of_on_skyline_(RADICAL) [new]
BY MEANS OF	by,by_means_of,of
UPWARDS POINTER	<pre>pointer_(upwards) [new]</pre>
SMALL UPWARDS POINTER	<pre>pointer_(small,upwards) [new]</pre>

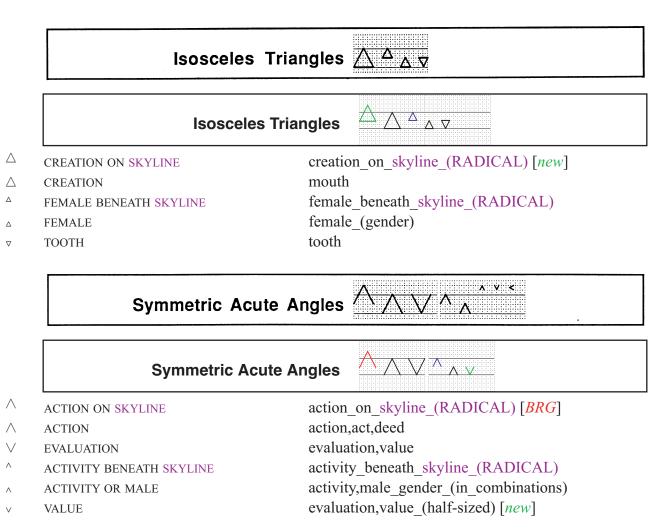
Lines on a Base



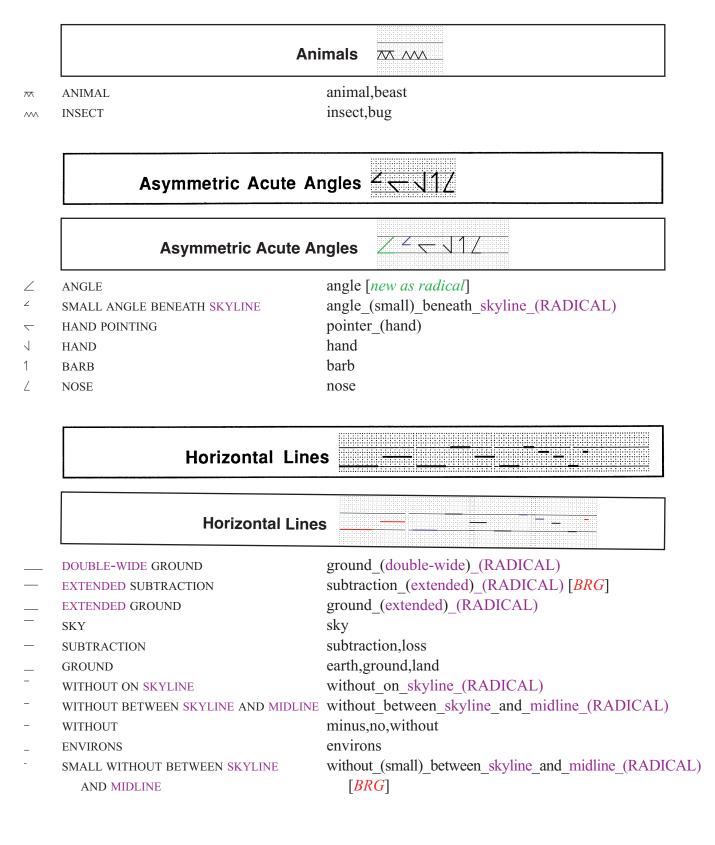
Crosses $+++++++\times\times\times\times\times\times\times\times$

		Crosses $\pm \pm \pm$
+	ADDITION	addition,gain
+	WITH	with
+	AND	and,also,plus,too
+	LOW AND	and_(low)
+	BELONGS TO	belongs_to,of_(possessive)
+	CROSS	cross, Christianity_(in_combinations)
\times	MULTIPLICATION	multiplication
×	MUCH BENEATH SKYLINE	much_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL)
×	MUCH	group_of,much_of,many_of,quantity_of
×	PLURAL BENEATH SKYLINE	plural_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL)
×	PLURAL ON MIDLINE	plural_on_midline_(RADICAL)
×	PLURAL ON EARTHLINE	plural_on_earthline_(RADICAL)
\checkmark	KNIFE	knife,sword

Note that INDICATOR PLURAL $\stackrel{*}{\Box}$ is a combining character. These are not sorted at the first level like base characters, and so are not sorted within any Bliss-letters; they are found at the end of the Bliss-alphabet.



Note that INDICATOR ACTION \square , INDICATOR DESCRIPTION \square , and INDICATOR PASSIVE \square are combining characters. These are not sorted at the first level like base characters, and so are not sorted within any Bliss-letters; they are found at the end of the Bliss-alphabet.



Vertical Lines

d)_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL) [BRG]
d)_atop_earthline_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>]
skyline(RADICAL)
ine_(RADICAL)
atop_skyline_(RADICAL)
atop_midline_(RADICAL)
e_on_earthline_(RADICAL)
e_(reversed)_(RADICAL)
e_(small,reversed)_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>]
e_(rotated,reversed)_(RADICAL)
e_(rotated)_(RADICAL)
(extended)(RADICAL) [BRG]
_on_skyline_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>]
ncellation, destruction
_(three-quarter-sized)_on_earthline_(RAD
_(small)_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL)

the

pen

a,an,any

destruction_(small)_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)

pen_(small)_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL)

pen_(small)_atop_earthline_(RADICAL)

THE

PEN

A OR ANY

SMALL DESTRUCTION ATOP EARTHLINE

SMALL PEN BENEATH SKYLINE

SMALL PEN ATOP EARTHLINE

12

International Alphanumeric Characters 21.21 20123455789 % ¢\$£¥

Punctuation, indicators, etc.

0 × / A 36 < 7 V ,,,,**?**∣abc₅‰₅¢

,	APOSTROPHE ON MIDLINE	apostrophe_on_midline_(RADICAL)
?	INTERROGATIVE WHAT	interrogative_what
ļ	INTENSITY	intensity
:	FULL STOP	period,point,full_stop,decimal_point
:	COLON	colon
?	QUESTION MARK	question_mark
ļ	EXCLAMATION MARK	exclamation_mark
abc	LATIN ALPHABET	alphabet,letters_(lowercase)
5	DIGIT FIVE	five_(digit),5 [new]
%	PERCENT SIGN	percent,percentage,%
5	INDEX DIGIT FIVE	five_(index_number)
¢	CENT SIGN	cent
	INDICATOR THING	indicator_(thing)
×	INDICATOR PLURAL	indicator_(plural)
	INDICATOR DEFINITE	indicator_(definite)
	INDICATOR ACTION	indicator_(action)
×	INDICATOR PRESENT ACTION	indicator_(present_action)
?	INDICATOR PRESENT CONDITIONAL	indicator_(conditional)
×	INDICATOR PASSIVE	indicator_(passive)
v	INDICATOR DESCRIPTION	indicator_(description)

What were the BRG-only radicals used for?

} ⋩	FIRE ON SKYLINE SQUIRREL	fire_on_skyline_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>] now sorted with $rmain ANIMALS$
r R	SMALL CURVE ON MIDLINE CETACEAN	curve_(small)_on_midline_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>] radical in error; it is actually ON EARTHLINE: $\gamma_{3} \approx$ The BRG version could be considered a typo.
ں چ	ANTLER BENEATH SKYLINE porcine animal	antler_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>] now sorted with π ANIMALS
, đ	SMALL LATER ATOP SKYLINE HAIR MANE	later_(small)_atop_skyline_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>] now sorted with \bigcirc LARGE CIRCLES (faces) now sorted with (PARENTHESES (bodies)
\wedge	ACTION ON SKYLINE GOD	action_on_skyline_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>] radical in error, it is actually \triangle CREATION ON SKYLINE
— Ф	EXTENDED SUBTRACTION PLANET	subtraction_(extended)_(RADICAL) [<i>BRG</i>] now sorted with \bigcirc LARGE CIRCLES (globes)

without (small) between skyline and midline (RADICAL) -SMALL WITHOUT BETWEEN SKYLINE AND MIDLINE [BRG] now sorted with \land RIGHT ANGLES 坹 MAPLE LEAF it_(extended)_beneath_skyline_(RADICAL) [BRG] EXTENDED IT BENEATH SKYLINE now sorted with \square Rectangles as it is based on \square PAPER J ACCOUNTS SMALL REVERSED SLANTED LINE slanted line (small, reversed) (RADICAL) [BRG] \ now sorted with \cap HALF CIRCLES (handles) \ominus HANDBAG destruction (extended) (RADICAL) [BRG] EXTENDED DESTRUCTION / now sorted with \triangle RIGHT TRIANGLES (the teeth) SAW A / destruction on skyline (RADICAL) [BRG] DESTRUCTION ON SKYLINE now sorted with
[®] WHEELS -**E** TANK / destruction (small) beneath skyline (RADICAL) [BRG]

radical in error; never used

SMALL DESTRUCTION BENEATH SKYLINE
 no actual entry

14