To: UTC
From: Roozbeh Pournader
Subject: Orthographic Syllable Structure in Core Spec
Date: 12 Jan 2023

The Core Spec tries to define the order of characters (aka orthographic structure) in various complex scripts in different ways. Sometimes it tries to define it in prose, in a table, or using formal grammar. Over time, several issues have been found in these descriptions, which have proven difficult to fix.

On the other hand, many such scripts are underspecified by Unicode, leading implementers to either consult the not-necessarily-correct original proposals, or even sometimes-contradicting external standards (see Myanmar).

It is clear that implementers and user communities are interested in such specifications, and the Unicode Standard is their go-to place for such information, when such information is available from Unicode.

The Script Ad Hoc has discussed this a few times, and seeks advice from the Unicode Technical Committee about how to approach this problem consistently in the future, in a way that doesn't exhaust the limited resources of Unicode volunteers.