

Note on U+1DF8 combining dot above left

Kirk Miller, kirkmiller, gmail.com

2024 February 20

The character U+1DF8 COMBINING DOT ABOVE LEFT may be used on the Latin vowel letters *i* and *ı* (producing <`i> and <`ı>) in the Americanist phonetic notation of Boas et al. (1916). The script extensions property of U+1DF8 is however presently limited to Cyrillic and Syriac. That and the character annotation should therefore be updated to allow Latin use.

Because the combining class of U+1DF8 is 228, it will not suppress the tittle of the *i*. Dotless U+0131 must therefore be used as the carrying letter.

Superscript Latin iota is attested: <`i>. Superscript *i* is expected but is not currently possible due to the lack of tittle suppression; there is no modifier dotless *ı* presently in Unicode.

References

Boas, Goddard, Sapir & Kroeber (1916) *Phonetic Transcription of Indian Languages: Report of Committee of American Anthropological Association*. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections 66.6.

Figures

“ mixed ” category. Thus, *ı* represents the vowel acoustically mid-way between *u* and *ü*, an example of which is *ı* of Swedish *hus*. To avoid confusion with ordinary *i*, the superior dot of the *i* of this series should be printed a little to the left (*`i*).

Figure 1. Boas (1916: 10). A single dot indicates a central vowel in this adaptation of Sweet’s Romic alphabet. It is shifted left to disambiguate from simple *i*.

1. high-back-narrow `i (e.g. Southern Paiute <u>paʔi</u> “fish”)	7. high-mixed-narrow ı (e.g. Welsh <u>un</u>)	13. high-front-narrow i (e.g. French <u>fini</u>)
19. high-back-wide i (e.g. Southern Paiute <u>pıva</u> “in which place”)	25. high-mixed-wide ı (e.g. English <u>bit</u>)	31. high-front-wide ı (e.g. English <u>bit</u>)

Figure 2. Boas (1916: back foldout). Contrast between double-titled, (left) titled and untitled *i* and *iota*.