Proposal to encode
0D00 MALAYALAM SIGN COMBINING ANUSVARA ABOVE

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§1. Thanks

Thanks are due to Srinidhi, Class XI Student of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tumkur, Karnataka, for bringing this written form to my attention and providing the attestations, thereby leading to this proposal. I also thank Dr Anna Aurelia Esposito of the University of Würzburg for her kind feedback to queries about the manuscripts, their provenance etc.

§2. Background

In L2/13-061 N4432, I had proposed the GRANTHA SIGN COMBINING ANUSVARA ABOVE based on Prakrit language texts written in the Grantha script. In this orthography, the regular anusvara sign of Grantha placed to the right is used as a gemination marker and the linguistic anusvara is marked by the anusvara sign placed above the consonant:
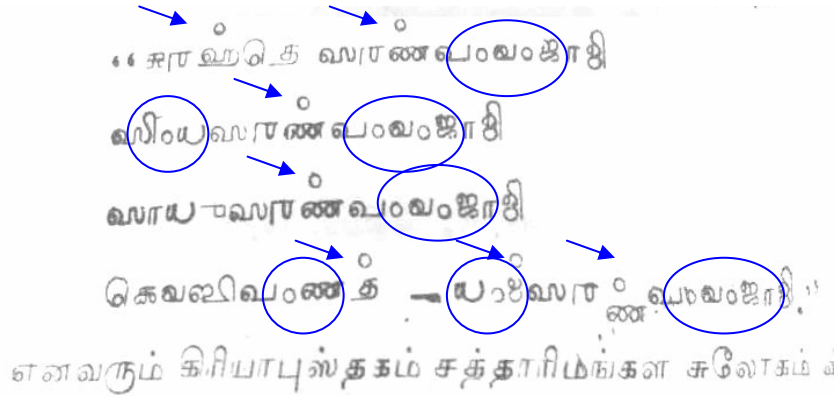
(regular anusvara marked by circles, anusvara above marked by arrows)

*araha<u>M</u>te saraṇa<u>M</u> pa-**v**-va-**j**-jāmi | si-**d**-dha saraṇa<u>M</u> pa-**v**-va-**j**-jāmi |*

*sādhu saraṇa<u>M</u> pa-**v**-va-**j**-jāmi | kevaḷipa-**ṇ**-ṇata<u>M</u> dha-**m**-ma<u>M</u> saraṇa<u>M</u> pa-**v**-va-**j**-jāmi |*

... where gemination is marked by a bold letter and the linguistic anusvara by capital Ṃ*.

§3. Attestation for Malayalam

In this background, and given the close genetic relationship between Grantha and Malayalam, it is not surprising that Malayalam should also show the dual anusvara-s.

The following samples are from a Malayalam script manuscript (No. 17622 D, Oriental Manuscripts Library, University of Kerala, Tiruvanantapuram, folio 47 r. – 66 v., about 400 years old). This manuscript is of a Sanskrit drama Cārudattam. Herein, the speech of some characters is written in Prakrit as per Sanskrit dramaturgical tradition.

These samples clearly differentiate the anusvara right for gemination and anusvara above for nasality. (I have transliterated the former by * and the latter by a capital Ṃ.)
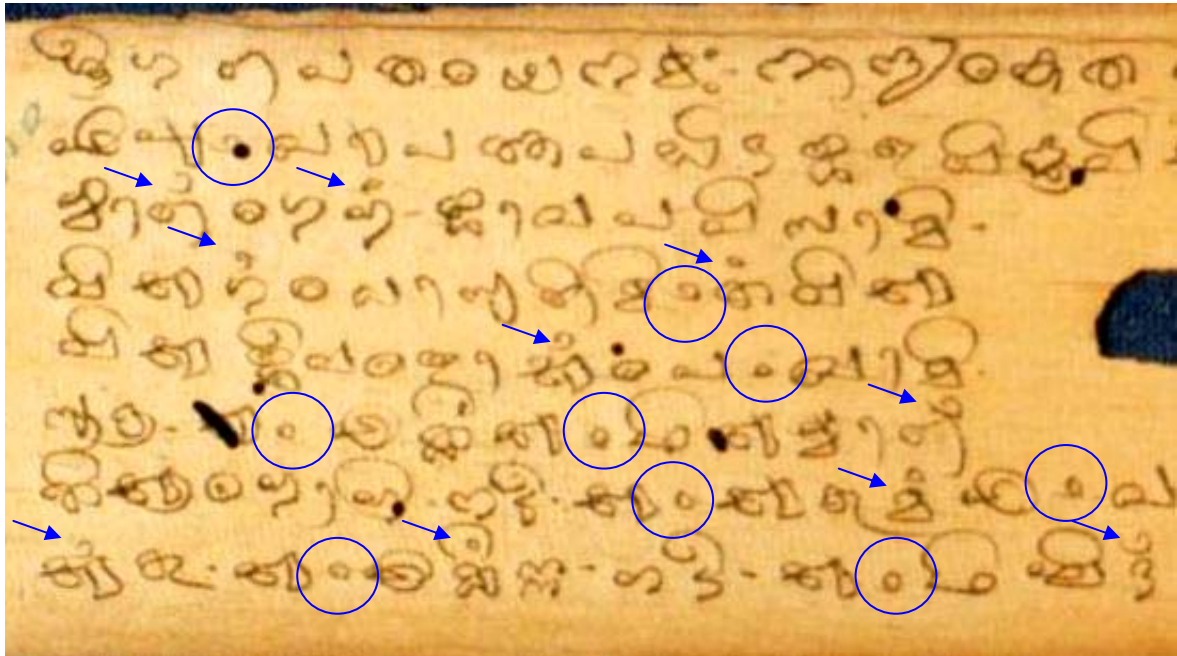
śrī gaṇapataye namaḥ - nāndyante ta	ശ്രീ ഗണപതയെ നമഃ നാന്ദ്യന്തെ ത
*e pu*khara patta paḍida jaḷa vindū vi*	എ പുംഖര പത്ത പഢിദ ജള വിന്ദൂ വി
māṇaṂ gehaṂ - jāva pavisāmi -	മാണ് ഗെഹ് ജാവ പവിസാമി
*via gaṂdho sunimi*taṂ via*	വിഅ ഗ്ദൊ സുനിമിംത് വിഅ
*via jīvaḷoaṂ pe*khāmi*	വിഅ ജീവളൊഅ് പെംഖാമി
*sūtra - a*ye kiṂ a*thi ahmāṇaṂ*	സൂത്ര അംഎ കീ അംഥിഅഹ്മാണ്
*ti ā hohi - naṭī - a*ya tuvaṂ e*va*	തി ആഹൊഹി നടീ അംഅ ഉവം എംവ
*aṂtu a*ye kiṂ ≈ - naṭī – a*thi ghidaṂ*	അ്ഇ അംഎ കീ ~ നടീ അംഥി ഘിദ്
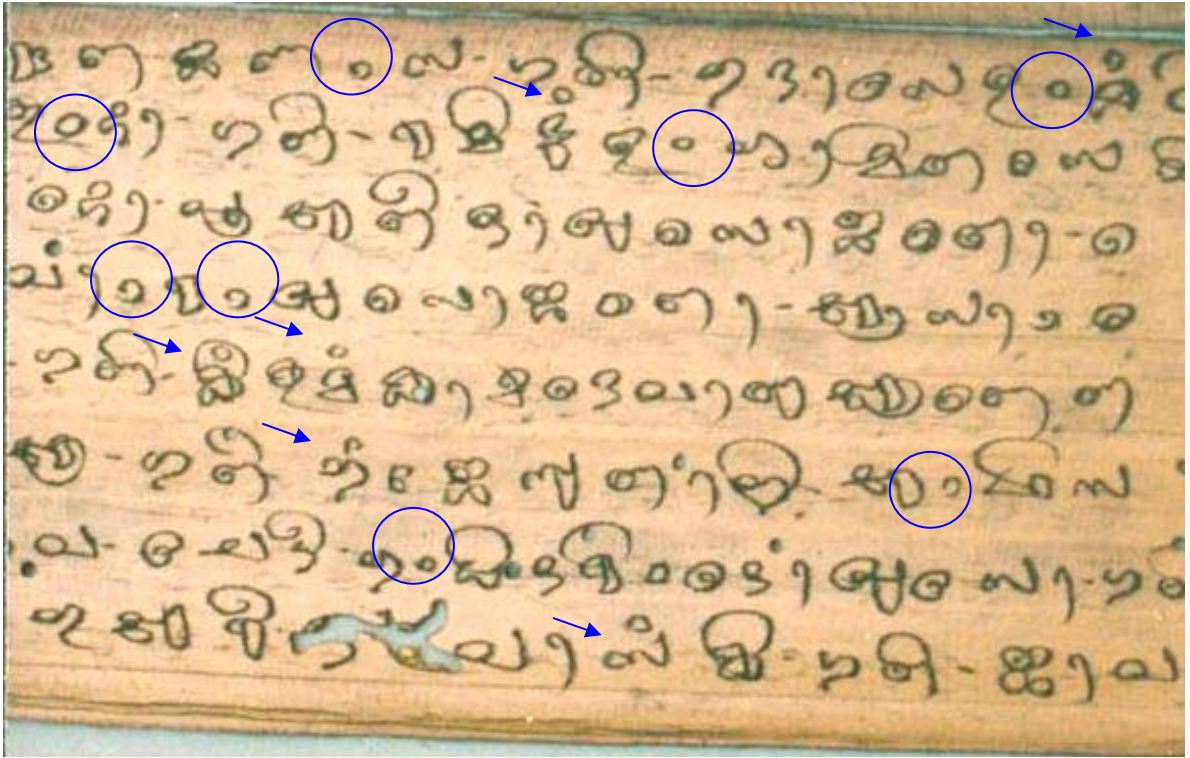
ruṇa jaṇa*sa - gaṇi - hadāse u*kaṂ	രുണ ജണംസ ഗണി ഹദാസെ ഉംക്
i*chā - gaṇi - ramiduṂ i*chāmi na se	ഇംഛാ ഗണി രമിദ്ദ് ഇംഛാമി ന സെ
bho - pūaṇīō khu so jaṇo	ഭോ പൂഅണീഓ ഖു സൊ ജണൊ
vāī khu so jaṇo - āsā*	വാംരം ഖു സൊ ജണൊ ആസാം
gaṇi - kiṂ tumaṂ kāmadevāṇuāṇe ṇa	ഗണി കീ ഇമ് കാമദൊവാണഅആണെ ണ
ā - gaṇikā - haṂje suṇāhi dāva a*thi sa	ആ ഗണി ഹ്ജെ സുണാഹി അംഥീ സ
va - ceṭī - ha*dhi dari*do khu so - ga	വ ചെടീ ഹംധി ദരിംദൊ ഖു സൊ ഗ
dhuarī?? vāsaṂtī - gaṇi - jāva	ധുഅരീ വാസ്തി ഗണി ജാവ

The manuscript is full of such usages and the images may be obtained via contextual links in the text available (as of 2013-Dec-30) at the following links (one per chapter):

http://www.bhasa.indologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/CD_1.html

http://www.bhasa.indologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/CD_2.html

http://www.bhasa.indologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/CD_3.html

http://www.bhasa.indologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/CD_4.html

Scholars comment on this usage of the anusvara in Malayalam as follows:

Anna Aurelia Esposito in pp 91, 92 of her article *The South Indian Drama Manuscripts* in *Aspects of Manuscript Culture in South India* edited by Saraju Rath and published by E. J. Brill, Leiden, 2012:

SOME PECULIARITIES IN THE PRAKRIT OF THE MANUSCRIPTS[43]

Anusvāra: Concerning the Prakrit passages, there are two spelling systems: In the first system, medial and final *anusvāra* are treated in the Prakrit passages exactly as in Sanskrit (for the rules, see above). As in Sanskrit, the *m* with *virāma* can also indicate the end of a sentence. In the second system the assimilation of the medial or final *anusvāra* is very rare; usually it is written as a small circle above the preceding consonant or vowel.[44]

[44] So *kiṃ dāṇi* is written in the first type of manuscript കിന്‍ദാണി, in the second type കി ദാണി.

Geminate consonants: The two systems differ in the treatment of geminate consonants as well. In the first system, geminate consonants are written as in Sanskrit with ligatures[45] (*tta* = ത്ത, *ddha* = ദ്ധ). In the second system, however, the doubling of consonants is indicated by a small circle preceding the consonant to be doubled (tta = ○ ത, ddha = ○ ധ); ligatures such as in the Sanskrit spelling are rare. െ for *e* in combination with consonants—in the Malayāḷam script this sign precedes the affiliated character—is written in this system between the circle indicating the doubling of the consonant and the consonant: the syllable *cche* appears in Sanskrit as well as in the first type of manuscript as ച്ഛെ, but is written in the second system as ○െഛ. Peculiar to this system is the writing of *yya* as, for example, in *ayya* (*ārya*), written *a*—circle—*a* (അ○യ). In the first system it is always written as double-*ya* as in the Sanskrit (അയ്യ).

From the introduction section for Malayalam on p xvi of *South Indian Scripts in Sanskrit Manuscripts and Prints*, ISBN 3-447-04504-3, Reinhold Grünendahl, Wiesbaden, Germany, 2001:

Finally, some notes on writing Prakrit in Malayalam script:
'*anusvāra*' preceding a consonant may indicate gemination:

ഠ⊙ '*ṃ'ta* = ⊙ഠ⊙ *tta*, ഠ⊙ '*ṃ'ṭha* = ള *ṭṭha*

anusvāra on top of a consonant or vowel indicates nasalization:

ണ്ഭ = ണംഭ *ṇaṃbha*

'*anusvāra*' may stand for *yya*: ഇഠഠഇഠ *a'ṃ'a* = ഇഠയ്യഇഠ *ayya*

§4. Character Properties

Based on the above attestation, it is proposed to encode the anusvara above for Malayalam just as it was encoded for Grantha. The proposed glyph and character properties are:


```
0D00;MALAYALAM SIGN COMBINING ANUSVARA ABOVE;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
```

NamesList.txt needs to be updated as follows to clarify the usage context of 0D00 vs 0D02:

```
0D00 MALAYALAM SIGN COMBINING ANUSVARA ABOVE
*     Used in Prakrit language texts for the linguistic anusvara
x     0D02 malayalam sign anusvara

0D02 MALAYALAM SIGN ANUSVARA
*     Used in Prakrit language texts to indicate gemination of the
following consonant
x     0D00 malayalam sign combining anusvara above
```

Context-sensitive collation for Prakrit language orthography for both Malayalam and Grantha should order this non-spacing anusvara above in the place of the linguistic anusvara and the regular spacing anusvara as per the following consonant.

Linebreak and other properties are as for other Indic non-spacing marks.

§5. Official Proposal Summary Form

(Based on N3902-F)

A. Administrative

1. Title
Proposal to encode 0D00 Malayalam Sign Combining Anusvara Above
2. Requester's name
Shriramana Sharma
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)
Individual contribution
4. Submission date
2013-Dec-30
5. Requester's reference (if applicable)
6. Choose one of the following: This is a complete proposal (or) More information will be provided later
This is a complete proposal.

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters), Proposed name of script
No.
1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block, Name of the existing block
Yes. Malayalam.
2. Number of characters in proposal
1 (one)
3. Proposed category
Category B1, specialized small (for this character, though Malayalam itself is "A, contemporary")
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?
Yes.
4a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?
Yes.
4b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?
Yes.
5. Fonts related:
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?
Shriramana Sharma (... if needed. This glyph is identical to that of 0D02 Malayalam Sign Anusvara except for the position above the base. So it may easily be composed from that glyph.)
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail etc.)
Shriramana Sharma (if needed).
6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?
Yes.
6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?
Yes.
7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?
Collation is discussed.
8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script.
See detailed proposal.

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.
No.
2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?
Yes.
2b. If YES, with whom?

Native Malayalis: Radhakrishna Warrier, Cibu Johny. Manuscript scholars: Anna Aurelia Esposito.

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

None specifically. The matter was discussed via email.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

Manuscript scholars desiring to store contents of Malayalam manuscripts as e-text.

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

Rare. Specifically for Prakrit language texts in Malayalam script.

4b. Reference

See detailed proposal.

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

In scholarly texts discussing manuscripts containing Prakrit language text in Malayalam script. See detailed proposal for attestations from Esposito and Gruenendahl.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

Yes.

6c. If YES, reference

It belongs in the Malayalam block which is in the BMP.

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Only one character is proposed. It should be placed near existing Malayalam nasality characters.

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

Not in the Malayalam script. It is however identical to the same character accepted for Grantha.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

Yes.

10c. If YES, reference

The script property would be different.

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?

The character by nature is an Indic non-spacing combining mark.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?

13c. If YES, reference:

–o–o–o–