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

Doc Type: Working Group Document
Title: Proposal to add an Armenian Eternity Sign to the UCS
Author: Karl Pentzlin
Status: Individual Contribution
Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC
Date: 2010-09-24

1. Introduction

The addition of the Eternity Sign to the UCS was requested twice until now by the Armenian National Standard body.

The request contained in N3824-SARM could not be accepted as the Armenian NB then did not accompany its request by a formal proposal.
Thus, the request was rejected as documented in N3827.

N3921 shows a new request, now presenting more evidence of use. One sample shows use in printed text (see fig. 1). However, a formal proposal is at least not referenced in N3921.

This proposal intends to fill this gap, thus the Armenian request can be considered without having to reject it on formal reasons only.

The text specimen in N3921 shows the use of the Eternity Sign as a fleuron. As symbols with similar use are encoded, the Eternity Sign is considered to be a valid character on this base.

2. Additional information beyond N3921

The Eternity Sign is contained at least in the following Armenian 7-bit and 8-bit encoding standards, according to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ArmSCII as of 2010-09-24:
  AST 34.005:1997 (ArmSCII-7) (see fig. 3)
  AST 34.002:1997 (ArmSCII-8) (see fig. 3)
  AST 34.001:1997 (ArmSCII-8A)

Therefore, it is needed for round trip compatibility to these existing standards predating the widespread use of Unicode.

Also, it is contained in several (not Unicode-compatible) freeware fonts found on the Internet (Fig. 2 shows a specimen).

3. Proposed Character

Block: Dingbats

 U+2700   ARMENIAN ETERNITY SIGN

Properties:
2700;ARMENIAN ETERNITY SIGN;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;

4. Examples and Figures

Fig. 1: The only specimen of the Armenian Eternity Sign used in plain text provided in N3921.

Besides the meaning that "Everything Armenian starts from the eternity sign", this sign has a punctuation function also: it is applied to divide a text into parts (chapters), as well as to design a text or a poem or to make references like an asterisk sign (∗).

Example

My Heart's In The Highlands ✳

❀

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer -
A-chasing the wild deer, and following the roe;
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

❀

Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North
The birth place of Valour, the country of Worth;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

❀

Farewell to the mountains high cover'd with snow;
Farewell to the Straths and green valleys below;
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods;
Farwell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods.

❀

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing the deer
Chasing the wild deer, and following the roe;
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

∗ Famous Armenian writer William Saroyan's poem by Robert Burns

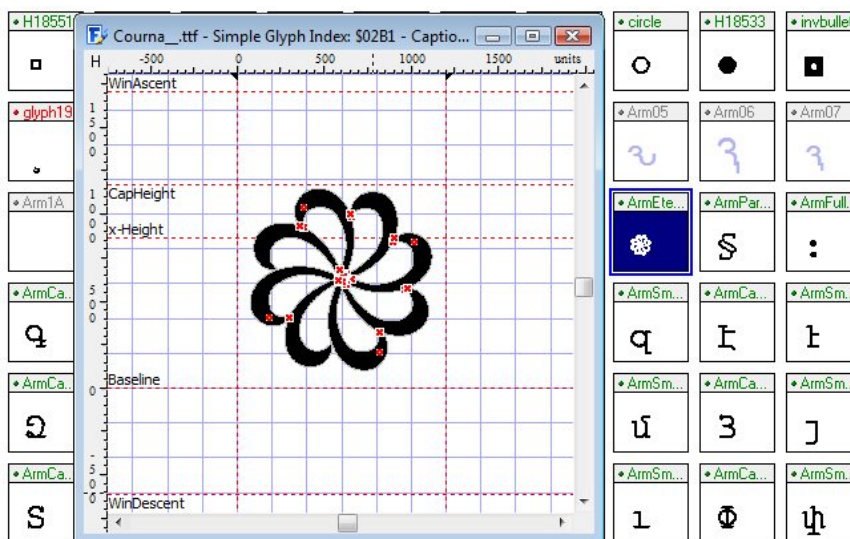**Fig. 2:** Sample from the font "Courier New Am" found 2010-09-24 on:
http://users.freenet.am/~vm/ArmSCII-16-Test.html

Fig. 3: from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ArmSCII as of 2010-09-24:

ArmSCII-7

AST 34.005:1997 (ArmSCII-7)
7-bit coded character set for Armenian.

	x0	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	x7	x8	x9	xA	xB	xC	xD	xE	xF
0x								unused								
1x																
2x	SP	๋	և/§	:	)	(	»	«	—	·	՝	,	-		…	՛
3x	՛	°	Ա	ա	Բ	բ	Գ	գ	Դ	դ	Ե	ե	Զ	զ	Է	է
4x	Ը	ը	Թ	թ	Ժ	ժ	Ի	ի	Լ	լ	Խ	խ	Ծ	ծ	Կ	կ
5x	Հ	հ	Ձ	ձ	Ղ	ղ	Ճ	ճ	Մ	մ	Յ	յ	Ն	ն	Շ	շ
6x	Ո	ո	Չ	չ	Պ	պ	Ջ	ջ	Ռ	ռ	Ս	ս	Վ	վ	Տ	տ
7x	Ր	ր	Ց	ց	Ւ	ւ	Փ	փ	Ք	ք	Օ	օ	Ֆ	ֆ		

ArmSCII-8

AST 34.002:1997 (ArmSCII-8)
8-bit coded character set for Armenian.

	x0	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	x7	x8	x9	xA	xB	xC	xD	xE	xF
0x								unused								
1x																
2x	SP	!	"	#	$	%	&	'	(	)	*	+	,	-	.	/
3x	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	:	;	<	=	>	?
4x	@	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
5x	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	[	\	]	^	_
6x	`	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
7x	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	{			}	~	
8x								unused								
9x																
Ax	NBSP	๋	և/§	:	)	(	»	«	—	·	՝	,	-		…	՛
Bx	՛	°	Ա	ա	Բ	բ	Գ	գ	Դ	դ	Ե	ե	Զ	զ	Է	է
Cx	Ը	ը	Թ	թ	Ժ	ժ	Ի	ի	Լ	լ	Խ	խ	Ծ	ծ	Կ	կ
Dx	Հ	հ	Ձ	ձ	Ղ	ղ	Ճ	ճ	Մ	մ	Յ	յ	Ն	ն	Շ	շ
Ex	Ո	ո	Չ	չ	Պ	պ	Ջ	ջ	Ռ	ռ	Ս	ս	Վ	վ	Տ	տ
Fx	Ր	ր	Ց	ց	Ւ	ւ	Փ	փ	Ք	ք	Օ	օ	Ֆ	ֆ		

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1]
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html **for guidelines and details before filling this form.**
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html.
See also http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest *Roadmaps*.**

A. Administrative

1. **Title:** *Proposal to add an Armenian Eternity Sign to the UCS*
2. Requester's name: *Karl Pentzlin*
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Individual Contribution*
4. Submission date: *2010-09-24*
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):
6. Choose one of the following:
   This is a complete proposal: *Yes*
   (or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
   a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): *No*
      Proposed name of script:
   b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *Yes*
      Name of the existing block: *Dingbats*
2. Number of characters in proposal: *1*
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
   A-Contemporary **X**   B.1-Specialized (small collection)   B.2-Specialized (large collection)
   C-Major extinct   D-Attested extinct   E-Minor extinct
   F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic   G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? *Yes*
   a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines"
      in Annex L of P&P document? *Yes*
   b. 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?
      TBD
   b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):

6. References:
   a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? *Yes*
   b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
      of proposed characters attached? *Yes*
7. Special encoding issues:
   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)? *No*

8. Additional Information:
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. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UCD.html and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

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[1] Form number: N3702-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? — *Not formally*
   If YES explain — *See text*

2. 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*
   If YES, with whom? — *Reference to documents provided by the Armenian NB*
   If YES, available relevant documents:

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

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) — *See text*
   Reference:

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? — *Yes*
   If YES, where? Reference: — *See text*

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? — *Yes*
   If YES, is a rationale provided? — *Yes*
   If YES, reference: — *To keep them in line with similar characters*

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

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? — *No*
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
   If YES, reference:

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? — *No*
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
   If YES, reference:

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character? — *No*
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?
    If YES, reference:

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? — *No*
    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?
    If YES, reference:
    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?
    If YES, reference:

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? — *No*
    If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)? — *No*
    If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?
    If YES, reference: