

PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM**A. Administrative****1. Title**

Proposal for encoding Greek Metrical Symbols in the UCS

2. Requester's name

Thesaurus Linguae Graecae Project (University of California, Irvine)

3. Requester type

Expert contribution

4. Submission date:

2002-11-07

5. Requester's reference**6. Completion**

This is a complete proposal.

B. Technical - General**1. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block. Name of the existing block:**

Miscellaneous Symbols

2. Number of characters in proposal:

9 characters (2692-269A)

3. Proposed category

Category A

4. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3):

Level 1

5a. Character names provided?

Yes.

5b. Character names in accordance with guidelines

Yes.

5c. Character shapes reviewable?

Yes

6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font for publishing the standard?

David Perry and TLG Project

6b. Font currently available?

Yes.

6c. Font format

True Type

7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes.

7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

8. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing?

No.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?

No.

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community?

Yes. The TLG has been in contact with a great number of experts. Several versions of this proposal have been posted online and received extensive comments by members of the profession.

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters

Scholarly community in the general area of literature.

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

Common in publications and studies related to ancient and modern poetry, meter, and music.

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

Yes. Characters are present in various scholarly discussions of ancient and modern literary texts. General references provided in attached bibliography.

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in *Principles and Procedures* document, must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

No.

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

Yes. However, existing characters produce unworkable results.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No.

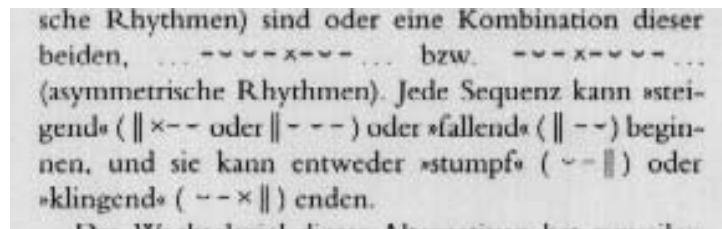
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

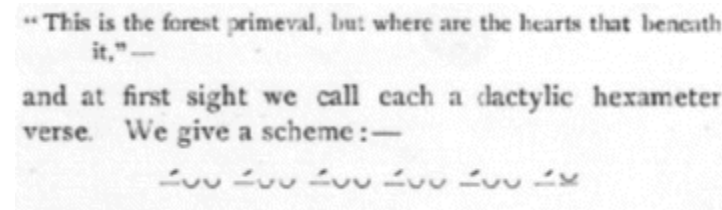
Proposal

The ancient Greek metrical system was developed between the 8th and 4th centuries B.C. and has been preserved on ancient papyri and codices. A standard set of non-combining metrical symbols is found both in ancient texts as well as modern editions and studies of Greek and Roman poetry. The use of these symbols, however, extends beyond ancient literature and is, in fact, present in editions of contemporary poetry and discussions of modern works of literature. Therefore these characters are extensively used in modern typography and as such they should properly be encoded in the Unicode Standard.

Two examples are presented below, one from a study on ancient Greek metrics, and one from a discussion of modern English poetry.¹



sche Rhythmen) sind oder eine Kombination dieser beiden, ... --v-x--v-- ... bzw. --v-x--v-- ... (asymmetrische Rhythmen). Jede Sequenz kann »steigend« (||x-- oder ||--v) oder »fallend« (||--v) beginnen, und sie kann entweder »stumpf« (v--||) oder »klingend« (v--x||) enden.



“This is the forest primeval, but where are the hearts that beneath it,”—
and at first sight we call each a dactylic hexameter verse. We give a scheme:—
—v—v—v—v—v—v—x

All possible non-stacking characters used in the Greek metrical notation are given in the table *Overview of Greek Metrical Notation* below. There are a few other, rarely used, symbols which are stacked versions of the characters also provided. The majority of characters required for the representation of Greek meter are already present in Unicode Standard 3.2. Nine (9) additional characters are proposed for inclusion.

¹ Greek example taken from Der Neue Pauly Volume 8 (2000) 118; English example taken from Gummere, F.R., *A Handbook of Poetics* (Boston, 1892) 138.

Overview of Greek Metrical Notation

	Name	Unicode	Comment
×	Anceps	00D7	
˘	Breve		Similar to 02D8, but 02D8 is positioned too high in the line.
—	Longum	2012 or 2013	
⏏	Metrical Long Over Short		Similar to 02D8 + 0305
⏎	Metrical Short Over Long		Similar to 02D8 + 0332
⏏⏏	Metrical Long Over Two Shorts		Similar to 02D8 + 0305 + 02D8 + 0305
⏎⏎	Metrical Two Shorts Over Long		Similar to 02D8 + 0332 + 02D8 + 0332
○○	Aeolian Basis	25EF + 25EF	
⏏⏏	Metrical Two Shorts Joined		Similar to 02D8 + 02D8
˘—	Breve Combining with Longum	02D8 + 0336	A second glyph variant may be encoded with 2312 + 0323
˘	Catalexis indicator	0020 + 032D	
∴	Tricolon		Proposed separately as a punctuation character
	Word End Indicator	007C	
	Period End Indicator	2016	
	Stanza End Indicator	007C + 007C + 007C	
⊗	Poem End Indicator	2297	
ᵀ	Hiatus	<superscript> 0048	The character } may also be used to represent a hiatus ² the Unicode of which is 2307.
∫	Dovetail	0283 or possibly 222B	
~	Responion	007E	
¨	Anaclasis	00A8	
⦿	Ictus	0301	
ᾀ	Bridge	0361	
┌	Metrical Triseme		
└	Metrical Tetraseme		
┘	Metrical Pentaseme		

² See Raven (1965) 13

Bibliography

Gummere, F.R., *A Handbook of Poetics* (Boston, 1892)

Maas, P., *Greek Metre*. Tr. Lloyd-Jones, H. (Oxford, 1962)

Parker, L.P.E., “Metre, Greek” in *OCD*³ (1996) 970

Pauly, A.F. von *et al.* (eds.), *Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumwissenschaft*. (Stuttgart, 1856-1972)

Raven, D.S., *Latin Metre: An Introduction* (London, 1965)

West, M.L. “Metrik. IV Griechisch” in *DNP* 8 (2000) 115-122

West, M.L. *Greek Metre* (Oxford, 1982)

Table of New Characters Proposed

Full documentation for the proposed characters available at:

<http://www.tlg.uci.edu/Uni.prop.html>

		Name	Unicode	Comment
1	◡	Metrical Breve Symbol	2692	
2	◤	Metrical Long Over Short Symbol	2693	
3	◥	Metrical Short Over Long Symbol	2694	
4	◦	Metrical Long Over Two Shorts Symbol	2695	
5	◧	Metrical Two Shorts Over Long Symbol	2696	
6	◨	Metrical Two Shorts Joined Symbol	2697	
7	⌋	Metrical Triseme Symbol	2698	
8	⌌	Metrical Tetraseme Symbol	2699	
9	⌍	Metrical Pentaseme Symbol	269A	

Character Properties

“Symbol, other” (So).

Notes

Approximations of characters 2-6 may be created using characters in the Unicode Standard; however there are several problems with these representations. For example,

- they are visually inaccurate;
- on occasion a character which is semantically one character may have to be encoded in such a way as to make into two characters (e.g., Long over two Shorts);
- it is necessary to occasionally stack metrical characters. So, for instance, it may be necessary to have Two Shorts over Long stacked over an Anceps. This becomes extremely difficult to effect were the Two Shorts over Long to be encoded as two separate characters.
- Further, in the specific case of the Double Short, to encode it with two Shorts would be visually confusing as the same meter will often contain both Shorts and Double Shorts (e.g. aeolo-chori-ambic and the dactylo-epitric).

Characters 7-9 cannot currently be encoded in Unicode.

METRICAL CHARACTERS: CODE CHART

269

2	◡
3	∩
4	∪
5	⊂
6	⊃
7	⊆
8	⊇
9	⊈
A	⊉

METRICAL CHARACTERS: NAME CHART

hex	Name
2692	METRICAL BREVE
2693	METRICAL LONG OVER SHORT
2694	METRICAL SHORT OVER LONG
2695	METRICAL LONG OVER TWO SHORTS
2696	METRICAL TWO SHORTS OVER LONG
2697	METRICAL TWO SHORTS JOINED
2698	METRICAL TRISEME
2699	METRICAL TETRASEME
269A	METRICAL PENTASEME

