

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

Doc Type: Working Group Document**Title: Revised proposal to encode the Avestan and Pahlavi script in the UCS****Source: Michael Everson****Status: Individual Contribution****Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC****Date: 2002-12-04****A. Administrative****1. Title**

Revised proposal to encode the Avestan and Pahlavi script in the UCS.

2. Requester's name

Michael Everson

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Individual contribution.

4. Submission date

2002-12-04

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

N1684

6. Choose one of the following:**6a. This is a complete proposal**

No.

6b. More information will be provided later

Yes.

B. Technical -- General**1. Choose one of the following:****1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)**

Yes.

Proposed name of script

Avestan and Pahlavi.

1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

No.

1b. Name of the existing block**2. Number of characters in proposal**

87

3. Proposed category (see section II, Character Categories)

Category B.1.

4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see clause 14, ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)

Level 3.

4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Uses combining characters.

4c. If YES, reference**5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?**

Yes.

5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the character naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000?

Yes.

5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Michael Everson.

6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, Fontographer.

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

No.

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

No.

8. 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.

9. 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 Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

C. Technical -- Justification

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

Yes. N1684.

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?

Jost Gippert, Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst, and the TITUS project in Frankfurt.

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

<http://titus.fkidg1.uni-frankfurt.de/unicode/iranian/3tagung.htm>

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

Zoroastrians, Iranianists and other scholars.

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

Used liturgically and by scholars.

4b. Reference

P. Oktor Skjærvø in Daniels & Bright 1996.

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

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

Scholarly publications.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document (a WG 2 standing document) must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

Yes. Proposed allocation is U+10B00-U+10B2F

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

Accordance with the Roadmap. Avestan is used in modern Zoroastrian religion.

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

Yes.

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?

No.

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

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

Yes.

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

No.

11c. If YES, reference

12a. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

12b. If YES, reference

13a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

13b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

14a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

14b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?

The Avestan script was derived as a rationalization and improvement on the original Pahlavi script, which itself was derived from a variety of Aramaic. The Avestans used modified letterforms to distinguish between signs which in Pahlavi had fallen together. Indeed, while Pahlavi words are commonly used within Avestan texts, it was often the case that the scribes had no idea what the values of the words were, because so many of the letters' shapes were identical. The notion of *archigrapheme* has been found to be useful in proposing several of the Pahlavi extension characters: it is often quite clear that the scribes themselves were writing "a bowl and an ear" even though no such letter exists in Pahlavi – the encoding of these enables scholars to represent the same kinds of ambiguities which the scribes themselves were writing. This is not the same as encoding palaeographical variants.

In this encoding, Avestan is taken as the primary form. Letters unique to Pahlavi, or letters with a glyph shape unrelated to the normalized Avestan letters, are encoded separately. In addition to this Pahlavi-specific the combining marks and archigraphemes are added.

Both scripts are written from right to left. Pahlavi is a connected script with some Arabic-like shaping behaviour; Avestan letters are written separately, or touch accidentally in normal cursive hands.

TABLE XXX - Row XX: AVESTAN AND PAHLAVI

	xx0	xx1	xx2	xx3	xx4	xx5
0	𐬀	𐬁	𐬂	𐬃	𐬄	𐬅
1	𐬆	𐬇	𐬈	𐬉	𐬊	𐬋
2	𐬌	𐬍	𐬎	𐬏	𐬐	𐬑
3	𐬒	𐬓	𐬔	𐬕	𐬖	𐬗
4	𐬘	𐬙	𐬚	𐬛	𐬜	𐬝
5	𐬞	𐬟	𐬠		𐬡	𐬢
6	𐬣	𐬤	𐬥		𐬦	𐬧
7	𐬨	𐬩	𐬪		𐬫	𐬬
8	𐬭	𐬮	𐬯			𐬰
9	𐬱	𐬲	𐬳			𐬴
A	𐬵	𐬶	𐬷		𐬸	𐬹
B	𐬺	𐬻	𐬼		𐬽	𐬾
C	𐬿	𐭀	𐭁	·	◌̇	𐭂
D	𐭃	𐭄	𐭅	:	◌̈̇	𐭆
E	𐭇	𐭈	𐭉	∴	◌̉̇	𐭊
F	𐭋	𐭌	𐭍	◌̊̇	—	𐭎

G = 00
P = 00

TABLE XXX - Row XX: AVESTAN AND PAHLAVI

hex	Name
00	AVESTAN LETTER A
01	AVESTAN LETTER AA
02	AVESTAN LETTER AO
03	AVESTAN LETTER AAO
04	AVESTAN LETTER AN
05	AVESTAN LETTER AEN
06	AVESTAN LETTER AE
07	AVESTAN LETTER AEE
08	AVESTAN LETTER E
09	AVESTAN LETTER EE
0A	AVESTAN LETTER O
0B	AVESTAN LETTER OO
0C	AVESTAN LETTER I
0D	AVESTAN LETTER II
0E	AVESTAN LETTER U
0F	AVESTAN LETTER UU
10	AVESTAN LETTER KA
11	AVESTAN LETTER XA
12	AVESTAN LETTER XYA
13	AVESTAN LETTER XVA
14	AVESTAN LETTER GA
15	AVESTAN LETTER GYA
16	AVESTAN LETTER GHA
17	AVESTAN LETTER CA
18	AVESTAN LETTER JA
19	AVESTAN LETTER TA
1A	AVESTAN LETTER THA
1B	AVESTAN LETTER DA
1C	AVESTAN LETTER DHA
1D	AVESTAN LETTER TTA
1E	AVESTAN LETTER PA
1F	AVESTAN LETTER FA
20	AVESTAN LETTER BA
21	AVESTAN LETTER WA
22	AVESTAN LETTER NGA
23	AVESTAN LETTER NGYA
24	AVESTAN LETTER NGVA
25	AVESTAN LETTER NA
26	AVESTAN LETTER NYA
27	AVESTAN LETTER NNA
28	AVESTAN LETTER MA
29	AVESTAN LETTER MYA
2A	AVESTAN LETTER YYA
2B	AVESTAN LETTER YA
2C	AVESTAN LETTER VA
2D	AVESTAN LETTER RA
2E	AVESTAN LETTER SA
2F	AVESTAN LETTER ZA
30	AVESTAN LETTER SHA
31	AVESTAN LETTER ZHA
32	AVESTAN LETTER SHYA
33	AVESTAN LETTER SHHA
34	AVESTAN LETTER HA
35	(This position shall not be used)
36	(This position shall not be used)
37	(This position shall not be used)
38	(This position shall not be used)
39	(This position shall not be used)
3A	(This position shall not be used)
3B	(This position shall not be used)
3C	AVESTAN PUNCTUATION END OF WORD
3D	AVESTAN PUNCTUATION END OF SENTENCE
3E	AVESTAN PUNCTUATION END OF VERSE
3F	AVESTAN PUNCTUATION FLEURON
40	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER ONE
41	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER TWO
42	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER THREE
43	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER FOUR
44	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER TEN
45	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER TWENTY
46	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER FORTY
47	AVESTAN PAHLAVI NUMBER ONE THOUSAND
48	(This position shall not be used)
49	(This position shall not be used)
4A	AVESTAN COMBINING PAHLAVI G
4B	AVESTAN COMBINING PAHLAVI D
4C	AVESTAN COMBINING PAHLAVI Y
4D	AVESTAN COMBINING PAHLAVI S
4E	AVESTAN COMBINING PAHLAVI SH
4F	AVESTAN PAHLAVI KASHIDA
50	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI HA
51	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI GA
52	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI DA
53	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI HE
54	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI WA
55	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI AYIN
56	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI RA
57	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI FINAL STROKE
58	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI LLA

hex	Name
59	AVESTAN LETTER PAHLAVI QA
5A	AVESTAN ARCHIGRAPHEME PAHLAVI PA
5B	AVESTAN ARCHIGRAPHEME PAHLAVI MA
5C	AVESTAN ARCHIGRAPHEME PAHLAVI YA
5D	AVESTAN ARCHIGRAPHEME PAHLAVI EAR
5E	AVESTAN ARCHIGRAPHEME PAHLAVI ELBOW
5F	AVESTAN ARCHIGRAPHEME PAHLAVI BELLY