

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

**Doc Type: Working Group Document****Title: Second revised proposal to encode symbols for genealogy and gender studies in the UCS****Source: Michael Everson****Status: Individual Contribution****Replaces: N2580, N2587****Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC****Date: 2003-10-17**

A number of related symbols have been identified which are used in discussions of genealogy, botany, and modern gender studies. Some of the characters used in these fields are already encoded, and the others fill out a set of symbols, all of which should be encoded in the UCS. Further discussion has suggested revised names for some of these characters.

263F		MERCURY = hermaphrodite, double sexed (botany, biology) = virgin (entomology)
2640		FEMALE SIGN = Venus
2642		MALE SIGN = Mars = iron (alchemy)

The first six proposed (DOUBLED FEMALE SIGN U+269D, DOUBLED MALE SIGN U+269E, INTERLOCKED FEMALE AND MALE SIGN U+269F, MALE AND FEMALE SIGN U+26A0, MALE WITH STROKE SIGN U+26A1, and MALE WITH STROKE AND MALE AND FEMALE SIGN U+269D U+26A2) have during the last decades become rather widespread throughout the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, and are used both in print and on web sites as widely – or more widely – as the recycling symbols which were presented in N2240 on 2000-08-27. The seventh and eighth characters proposed (VERTICAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN U+26A3 and HORIZONTAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN U+26A4) are related to the character proposed for U+26A1 but have unique semantics in alchemy and early chemistry; note the alchemical value also given for U+2642. The ninth character proposed (MEDIUM WHITE CIRCLE U+26A5) is used in a number of contexts. In botany and other sciences, it forms a set with the already-encoded MERCURY U+263F, FEMALE SIGN U+2640, and MALE SIGN U+2642: hermaphrodite, male, female, and sexless. (Entomologists use MERCURY U+263F for “virgin” and therefore use the proposed MALE AND FEMALE SIGN U+26A0 for “hermaphrodite”.) This character and the two following supply a set of missing circles for which gaps are left in UTR #25 which discusses the size-based model applied for mathematics. One usage for the tenth character proposed (MEDIUM BLACK CIRCLE U+26A6) was described in N2415 in relation to various playback symbols, including the EJECT SYMBOL which was subsequently encoded. The eleventh character proposed (MEDIUM SMALL WHITE CIRCLE U+26A7) can be used in genealogy; it symbolizes an engagement ring and indicates a state of betrothal. The twelfth through seventeenth characters proposed (MARRIAGE SYMBOL U+26A8, DIVORCE SYMBOL U+26A9, UNMARRIED PARTNERSHIP SYMBOL U+26AA, BATTLE SIGN U+26AB, COFFIN U+26AC, and FUNERAL URN U+26AD) are also used in genealogy (the first three of these are related to the MEDIUM SMALL WHITE CIRCLE used as a ring); the fifteenth is used generically for “battle” in historical literature such as encyclopaediae, dictionaries, and maps.

269D		DOUBLED FEMALE SIGN = lesbianism
269E		DOUBLED MALE SIGN (glyph variant  ) = male homosexuality
269F		INTERLOCKED FEMALE AND MALE SIGN (glyph variant  ) = bisexuality
26A0		MALE AND FEMALE SIGN = transgendered sexuality = hermaphrodite (in entomology)
26A1		MALE WITH STROKE SIGN = transgendered sexuality
26A2		MALE WITH STROKE AND MALE AND FEMALE SIGN = transgendered sexuality
26A3		VERTICAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN = ferrous iron sulphate (alchemy and older chemistry)
26A4		HORIZONTAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN = magnesium (alchemy and older chemistry)
26A5		MEDIUM WHITE CIRCLE base for male or female sign = asexuality, sexless, genderless = engaged, betrothed
26A6		MEDIUM BLACK CIRCLE = record
26A7		MEDIUM SMALL WHITE CIRCLE = engaged, betrothed (genealogy) can represent ah wedding ring
26A8		MARRIAGE SYMBOL → U+221E infinity
26A9		DIVORCE SYMBOL = engaged, betrothed (genealogy) → U+29DE infinity negated with vertical bar
26AA		UNMARRIED PARTNERSHIP SYMBOL → U+29DF double-ended multimap
26AB		BATTLE SIGN (glyph variant  ) = battleground = died in battle (genealogy)
26AC		COFFIN = buried (genealogy) → U+29DE infinity negated with vertical bar
26AD		FUNERAL URN = cremated (genealogy)

## Genealogische Zeichen

Familiengeschichtliche Zeichen können in entsprechenden Texten zur Raumerparnis verwendet werden.

\* = geboren (*geb.*), (\*) = außerehelich geboren, †\* = tot geboren, \*† = am Tag der Geburt gestorben, ~ = getauft (*get.*), ○ = verlobt (*verl.*), ∞ = verheiratet (*verh.*), ∞ = geschieden (*gesch.*), ∞ = außereheliche Verbindung, † = gestorben (*gest.*), X = gefallen (*gef.*), □ = begraben (*begr.*), ◊ = eingäschert



Tecken för *frånskild* i genealogin. Tecknet  $\phi$  är synonymt. Jämför med ∞ för gift och ○○ ovan.

Frånskild kan även tecknas ◊ i heraldiken. Se detta tecken i grupp 28.

Above, text from the 21st edition of *Die deutsche Rechtschreibung* (Mannheim: Duden, 1996, ISBN 3-411-04011-4), showing genealogical symbols. Above right, the DIVORCE SYMBOL, with references to MARRIAGE SYMBOL and UNMARRIED PARTNERSHIP SYMBOL, from Carl G. Liungman's *Tanketecken* (Trondheim: Polaris, 1993, ISBN 91-88-32601)

Right, gender symbols from Carl G. Liungman's *Tanketecken* (ISBN 91-88-32601). Below, a discussion of gender symbols from a site in Wales (<http://www.lamp.ac.uk/su/nuswaleslgb/english/symbols.htm>). Below right, discussion of the botanical use of the already-encoded MERCURY symbol, taken from a website somewhere; Liungman offers a similar description.



Ett tecken från äldre botanik med innebörden *hermafrodit, dubbelkönad växt*. Av ♂ för *hankön* och ♀ för *honkön*. Vanligen lät man ♄, tecknet för guden Hermes eller Mercurius, stå för *hermafrodit* i botaniken. För härledning av denna synonym se ♄ i grupp 41:a.



Modernt ideogram för *manlig homosexuell kärlek*. Jfr. tecknet ∇ för homosexuella.

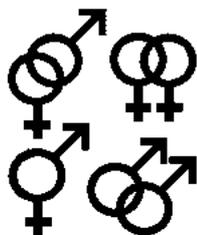
Jämför med ♀♀ i grupp 41:b och ∞ i grupp 25.



Modernt ideogram för *lesbisk kärlek*.

Jämför med ∞ för gemenskap, äktenskap, och ♂♂ för *manlig homosexuell kärlek*.

## GENDER SYMBOLS



**Gender Symbols** are common astrological signs handed down from ancient Roman times. The pointed Mars symbol represents the male and the Venus symbol with the cross represents the female. **Gay men** quickly adopted the double Mars symbol as an icon, but the history of the double Venus symbol is slightly more complicated... In the 1970s, some **lesbians** started using two interlocking female symbols to symbolise female homosexuality. However, this soon ran into trouble because some women in the feminist movement were using the same symbol to represent the sisterhood of women. Two symbols now stand for lesbianism and three symbols stand for the sisterhood of women. The **bisexual** symbol incorporates an interlocking male symbol with that of a woman's symbol, while the **transgendered** symbol merges the male and female symbols onto the same circle.

Hermes was, contrary to the other Greek gods, both male and female, a *hermaphrodite*. For this reason the sign ♄ has been used both in biology and botany to mean *double-sexed*.

Right, the VERTICAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN, used in alchemy and older chemistry to denote "ferrous hydrosulphate", from Carl G. Liungman's *Tanke-tecken* (ISBN 91-88-32601). Also shown are the HORIZONTAL MALE WITH STROKE SIGN, used to indicate "magnesium", and the MALE WITH STROKE SIGN, used to indicate "steel" from the 1700s; this symbol is also used now to indicate "transgendered sexuality" by some members of the LGBT community.



Det gamla tecknet för planeten Mars, ♂, som också är ett tecken för järn, blev med ett tvärstreck tecken för en förening mellan järn och svavel, *ferrohydrosulfat*, i alkemi och äldre kemi.

Ställd horisontellt, ♂, blev samma struktur till ett tecken för *magnesium*.

Jämför med tecknet ♁ för svavel.

Ställd diagonalt, som ♂, blir strukturen ett tecken för *stål, chalybs*, från 1700-talets kemi. Se ♁ i grupp 41:b för fler ståltecken.

## A. Administrative

### 1. Title

Proposal to encode symbols for genealogy and gender studies in the UCS.

### 2. Requester's name

Michael Everson

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

Individual contribution.

### 4. Submission date

2003-10-17

### 5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

### 6. Choose one of the following:

#### 6a. This is a complete proposal

Yes.

#### 6b. More information will be provided later

No.

## B. Technical -- General

### 1. Choose one of the following:

#### 1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

No.

#### Proposed name of script

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

Yes.

#### 1b. Name of the existing block

Miscellaneous Symbols.

### 2. Number of characters in proposal

17

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

Category A.

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

Level 1.

### 4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

Yes.

### 4c. If YES, reference

Spacing characters.

### 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?

Yes.

### 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.

The characters should have the same properties as the MALE SIGN and FEMALE SIGN.

## C. Technical -- Justification

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

Yes. This is a revision of N2580 and N2587

**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.)?**

No. Well, other experts proposed some of the characters on the Unicode list.

**2b. If YES, with whom?**

**2c. 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?**

Biologists, botanists, students of gender, and members of the LGBT community.

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

Common symbols used as described above.

**4b. Reference**

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

Yes.

**5b. If YES, where?**

Scientific papers, web sites, educational material.

**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.

**6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?**

Yes.

**6c. If YES, reference**

Keep with similar symbols.

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

**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)?**

No.

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

**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?**