## L2/09-273



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## 1. Background

This proposal is to encode two mathematical symbols used in scientific publications in the fields of artificial intelligence, computational neuroscience, fuzzy systems, machine learning, mathematical morphology, neural networks, pattern recognition, and related disciplines. The names and glyphs of the two symbols are shown in Figure 1.


Figure 1: Enlarged glyphs of the proposed symbols.

The characters were introduced by Professor Gerhard X Ritter in the 1980s in technical reports of the USAF, DARPA, and the DoD, followed by publications of the Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE). The characters are first attested in [1] published in 1987. Since then, the characters have seen continuous use in specialized literature. Today they have widespread use internationally and appear in publications in Brazil, China, Greece, Japan, Mexico, Spain, the US and other countries.

The symbols denote nonlinear operations involving addition followed by minimum or maximum and are colloquially referred to as 'box-min' and 'box-max.' In mathematical morphology and morphological neural networks, they represent the erosion and dilation operators. The square enclosures were designed to indicate the distinction from convolution operators that involve multiplication followed by addition. The figures in Section 5 illustrate the symbols in a variety of contexts.

Besides standalone, the symbols also appear in combining character sequences to write other operators. For instance, with a combining tilde above, they denote fuzzy min/max product operators or XOR $\mathrm{min} / \mathrm{max}$ convolution operators. These are respectively illustrated in Figures 4 and 6 and would be represented in Unicode as combining character sequences consisting of the proposed SQUARED LOGICAL AND/OR followed by U+0303 COMBINING TILDE.

## 2. Encoding

There are three conceivable approaches to generate the squared symbols: reuse existing characters that have similar-looking glyphs, use U+20DE COMBINING ENCLOSING SQUARE, or encode new characters. Of the three approaches, encoding new characters seems the most appropriate.

## a. Reuse existing characters merely based on glyph similarity

The characters U+2353 APL FUNCTIONAL SYMBOL QUAD UP CARET and U+234C APL FUNCTIONAL SYMBOL QUAD DOWN CARET have similar glyphs with the proposed symbols. Figure 2 illustrates the APL symbols in a few fonts available in Microsoft Office and Microsoft Windows 7.


Figure 2: Glyphs of the APL functional symbols Quad Up/Down Caret (U+2353, U+234C) in a few fonts.
Although the APL symbols' glyphs are similar to those of the proposed characters, the enclosing rectangles and position of the carets are not satisfactory when compared to the morphological symbols in publications, illustrated in Section 5.

More importantly, the APL symbols are inadequate to reuse for two reasons:

- The APL characters are used for representing functional symbols of the APL programming language in Unicode;
- The UCD properties of the APL symbols are different from those of mathematical symbols, in particular the general category and bidi class.

The distinction between APL functional symbols and mathematical symbols with similar glyphs can be observed by contrasting existing Unicode characters, such as the following:

- $\square$ U+2341 APL FUNCTIONAL SYMBOL QUAD SLASH vs. $\square$ U+29C4 SQUARED RISING DIAGONAL SLASH;
- $\triangle$ U+2342 APL FUNCTIONAL SYMBOL QUAD BACKSLASH vs. $\triangle$ U+29C5 SQUARED FALLING DIAGONAL SLASH;
- $\quad$ U+233B APL FUNCTIONAL SYMBOL QUAD JOT vs. ■ U+29C7 SQUARED SMALL CIRCLE.

The glyphs shown above are from Cambria Math. In terms of character properties, the APL symbols have General_Category $=$ Other_Symbol and Bidi_Class = Left_To_Right, whereas the mathematical symbols have property values Math_Symbol and Other_Neutral, respectively.

## b. Use U+20DE COMBINING ENCLOSING SQUARE

An alternative approach to represent the morphological symbols would be to use U+2227 LOGICAL AND and, respectively, U+2228 LOGICAL OR in combining character sequences with U+20DE COMBINING ENCLOSING SQUARE: <U+2227, U+20DE> and <U+2228, U+20DE>. However, the proposed characters are standalone entities that do not decompose into equivalent sequences. Other squared symbols in the blocks Mathematical Operators (U+229E SQUARED PLUS, ..., U+22A1 SQUARED DOT OPERATOR) and Miscellaneous Mathematical Symbols-B (U+29C4 SQUARED RISING DIAGONAL SLASH, ..., U+29C8 SQUARED SQUARE) do not decompose either. The proposed symbols also appear as base characters in combining sequences to form additional operators, as shown in Figures 4 and 6 in Section 5.

## c. Encode new characters

Compared to the previous alternatives, encoding new characters seems the most appropriate solution for representing the proposed symbols in Unicode. The proposed allocation is at code points U+27CE and U+27CF in the space available in the Miscellaneous Mathematical Symbols-A block. In this approach, the codes U+27CE and U+27CF are used standalone to represent the plain box-min and box-
max symbols. To represent the operators with tilde above, the combining character sequences are <U+27CE, U+0303> and <U+27CF, U+0303>.

The characters have UCD properties analogous to other squared mathematical symbols already encoded, as described in the following section.

## 3. Character Names, Properties and Glyphs

The proposed names for the two symbols are SQUARED LOGICAL AND and SQUARED LOGICAL OR, respectively. The names describe the elements that the symbols comprise to give the characters general purpose as mathematical symbols rather than tie them to specific semantics. The names were chosen by similarity with other existing characters (e.g., U+229E SQUARED PLUS, U+229F SQUARED MINUS, U+22AO SQUARED TIMES, U+22A1 SQUARED DOT OPERATOR, U+29C6 SQUARED ASTERISK, etc.) and in accordance with Unicode naming conventions.

The UCD properties of the proposed symbols are analogous to those of related characters, as given in the following table.

| UnicodeData.txt entry (gc, ccc, bc, dt, Bidi_M, etc.) | Script | Line_Break | Math |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 27CE;SQUARED LOGICAL AND;Sm;0;ON; ; ; ; ; N; ; ; ; ; | Common (Zyyy) | Alphabetic (AL) | Yes |
| 27CF;SQUARED LOGICAL OR;Sm;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;; | Common (Zyyy) | Alphabetic (AL) | Yes |

Table 1: UCD properties of the proposed characters (Math $=\mathrm{Y}$ derives implicitly from $\mathrm{gc}=\mathrm{Sm}$ ).
The glyphs of the two symbols consist of a logical AND and, respectively, OR enclosed within a square. The glyphs that have been used in print have the ends of the AND and OR coinciding with the vertices of the square and the tip touching the middle of the opposite edge of the square, as shown in Figure 1. These shapes may be the result of the tools that have been used to create the symbols, since encoded characters were not available. Nevertheless, these shapes have been used systematically and nowadays can be considered representative for the two symbols. As infix operators, the symbols are normally typeset with additional side spacing.

If the proposed characters are accepted for encoding, it is recommended that their glyphs be harmonized in the code charts with the other squared mathematical symbols.

## 4. Code Charts

UniBook code charts are appended at the end of this document. UniBook source project files and a font will be made available to the editors.

## 5. Supporting Evidence

Hence, $W_{X Y}$ is the least upper bound of all perfect recall memories involving the $\nabla$ operation and $M_{X Y}$ is the greatest lower bound of all perfect memories involving the $\boxtimes$ operation. Furthermore, if there exist perfect recall memories, then the canonical memories are also perfect recall memories.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{z}^{\gamma}=M_{Z Z} \boxtimes \mathbf{z}^{\gamma} \leq M_{Z Z} \Delta \mathbf{x}^{\gamma} \leq \mathbf{x}^{\gamma} \tag{40}
\end{equation*}
$$

In view of Theorem 5.1 and Eq. (40) we have

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathbf{x}^{\gamma} & =W_{X X} \nabla \mathbf{z}^{\gamma}=W_{X X} \nabla\left(M_{Z Z} \boxtimes \mathbf{z}^{\gamma}\right) \\
& \leq W_{X X} \boxtimes\left(M_{Z Z} \boxtimes \mathbf{x}^{\gamma}\right) \leq W_{X X} \nabla \mathbf{x}^{\gamma}=\mathbf{x}^{\gamma} \tag{41}
\end{align*}
$$

Figure 3: Samples from [2] p. 98 and p. 106, illustrating the two symbols inline plain text and in mathematical expressions.

Let $\mathbf{y} \in\{0,1\}^{n}$. We define $W \tilde{\nabla} \mathbf{y}$, the fuzzy max product of $W$ and $\mathbf{y}$, and $M \tilde{\boxtimes} \mathbf{y}$, the fuzzy min product of $M$ and $\mathbf{y}$, as follows.

$$
\begin{equation*}
(W \tilde{\boxed{\nabla}} \mathbf{y})_{i}=\mathcal{S P}\left(\mathbf{y},-\mathbf{w}_{i}^{t}\right), \tag{56}
\end{equation*}
$$

inal patterns [39]. AMMs are given in terms of the matrix-vector products " $\square$ " and " $\boxtimes$ ". We described the operations $\nabla$ and $\boxtimes$ in terms of set operations for the binary case. We employed fuzzy set theory to define the operations " $\tilde{\square}$ " and " $\tilde{\square}$ ".

Figure 4: Samples from [3] p. 89 and p. 91, illustrating the two symbols inline plain text and as base characters supporting diacritical marks such as U+0303 COMBINING TILDE.
therefore the following bounds on the output patterns hold $\forall \xi ; W_{X Y} \boxtimes \mathrm{x}^{\xi} \leq$ $\mathrm{y}^{\xi} \leq M_{X Y} \boxtimes \mathrm{x}^{\xi}$, that can be rewritten $W_{X Y} \boxtimes X \leq Y \leq M_{X Y} \boxtimes X$. A matrix $A$ is a $\boxtimes$-perfect ( $\boxtimes$-perfect) memory for $(X, Y)$ if $A \boxtimes X=Y(A \boxtimes X=$ $Y)$. It can be proven that if $A$ and $B$ are $\boxtimes$-perfect and $\boxtimes$-perfect memories, resp., for $(X, Y)$, then $W_{X Y}$ and $M_{X Y}$ are also $\boxtimes$-perfect and $\boxtimes$-perfect, resp.:
where $\times$ is any of the $\boxtimes$ or $\boxtimes$ operators. Here $\boxtimes$ and $\boxtimes$ denote the max and min matrix product, respectively defined as follows:

$$
\begin{align*}
& C=A \boxtimes B=\left[c_{i j}\right] \Leftrightarrow c_{i j}=\bigvee_{k=1 . . n}\left\{a_{i k}+b_{k j}\right\},  \tag{4}\\
& C=A \boxtimes B=\left[c_{i j}\right] \Leftrightarrow c_{i j}=\bigwedge_{k=1 . . n}\left\{a_{i k}+b_{k j}\right\} . \tag{5}
\end{align*}
$$

by $W \square M_{X}^{Z}$ and we denote the memory given by Eq. (34) by $\quad M \boxtimes W_{X}^{S}$. Note, however, that in general $\left(W \boxtimes M_{X}^{Z}\right) \boxtimes \mathbf{x} \neq W \boxtimes\left(M_{X}^{Z} \boxtimes \mathbf{x}\right)$ and $\left(M \square W_{X}^{S}\right) \boxtimes \mathbf{x} \neq M \boxtimes \times$ ( $W_{X}^{S} \boxtimes \mathbf{x}$ ). Before we analyze $M \boxtimes W_{X}^{S}$ for different choices of
following statements are true. The matrix $S$ is a dual kernel for $(X, Y)$ and $M_{S Y} \square\left(W_{X}^{S} \boxtimes X\right)=Y$. For all $\mathbf{x} \in\{0,1\}^{n}$, the pattern $M_{S Y} \boxtimes\left(W_{X}^{S} \boxtimes \mathbf{x}\right)$ is a $\wedge$-clause in $\mathbf{x}^{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}^{k}$ or equal to $M_{S Y}$ ర0 or $M_{S Y}$ Ø1. Furthermore, the following
products [6,7]. A vector $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}_{ \pm \infty}^{n}$ is called a max fixed point of $A$ if $A \nabla \boldsymbol{x}=\boldsymbol{x}$ and a min fixed point of $A$ if $A \square \boldsymbol{x}=\boldsymbol{x}$. An $n \times n$ matrix $A$ is

P1. $W_{x x} \nabla \boldsymbol{x}^{\xi}=\boldsymbol{x}^{\xi}=M_{x x} \boxtimes \boldsymbol{x}^{\xi}, \forall \xi \in K$.
P2. $W_{x x} \nabla x=x$ if and only if $M_{x x} \boxtimes \boldsymbol{x}=\boldsymbol{x}$.
$D$, as the expression $D \boxtimes D \boxtimes \ldots \boxtimes D$, where the " $\triangle$ "-symbol occurs $r-1$ times. Note that the operation " $\square$ " is associative
$B \boxtimes \mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{c}$ and is called the principal solution [8]. Using the isotonicity of the $\boxtimes$-product, we conclude that $B \boxtimes \mathbf{x}^{\sharp}$ is the

Figure 5: Additional samples from various sources illustrating the two symbols.
From the top down: [4] p. 529; [5] p. 881; [6] p. 630; [7] p. 2103; [8] p. 561 and p. 562.
and

$$
\mathrm{b}=\mathrm{a} \Delta \mathrm{t}
$$

where

$$
\mathbf{b}(\mathrm{y})=\bigwedge_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathrm{X} \cap S_{\infty}\left(\mathrm{t}_{\mathbf{y}}\right)}\left[\mathrm{a}(\mathbf{x})+^{\prime} \mathrm{t}_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x})\right]
$$

In order to distinguish between these two types of lattice transforms, we call the operator $\square$ the morphological max convolution operator and $\Delta$ the morphological min convolution operator. It follows from our earlier discussion that if $\mathbf{X} \cap S_{-\infty}\left(\mathbf{t}_{\mathbf{y}}\right)=\varnothing$, then the value
right xor max convolution product

$$
\mathbf{a} \tilde{\mathrm{V}} \mathbf{t}=\left\{(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{y})): \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{y})=\bigvee_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}}\left[\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}) \tilde{+} \mathrm{t}_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x})\right], \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{Y}\right\}
$$

right xor min convolution product

$$
\mathbf{a} \tilde{\Delta} \mathbf{t}=\left\{(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{y})): \mathbf{b}(\mathbf{y})=\bigwedge_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}}\left[\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{x}) \tilde{+}^{\prime} \mathbf{t}_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{x})\right], \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{Y}\right\}
$$

7.2 Basic Morphological Operations:

Boolean Dilations and Erosions
The image algebra formulation of the dilation of the image a by the structuring element $\mathbf{B}$ is given by

$$
\mathbf{b}:=\mathbf{a} \nabla \mathbf{t} .
$$

The image algebra equivalent of the erosion of a by the structuring element $\mathbb{B}$ is given by

$$
\mathbf{b}:=\mathbf{a} \mathbb{\Delta} \mathbf{t}^{*}
$$

[29]. Apart from the previously defined matrix-products called additive maximum ("『") and additive minimum (" $\boxed{ }(\mathbb{}$ ), min-

Figure 6: Samples from [9] (p. 27, p. 28, p. 191) and [10] (p. 805) illustrating various operators expressed with the proposed symbols, alone and in combining character sequences. The second sample uses U+0303 COMBINING TILDE.

## 6. References

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## Operators

```
27CE }| \mathrm{ SQUARED LOGICAL AND
    = box-min
    - morphological min product operator
    - morphological erosion operator
    - additive minimum operator
27CF \boxtimes SQUARED LOGICAL OR
    = box-max
    - morphological max product operator
    - morphological dilation operator
    - additive maximum operator
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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}{ }^{1}$ Form number: N3152-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 200311, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05)

