Title
A Proposal to encode Greek Metrical Symbols in UCS

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Author
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Publication Date
2003-03-10
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 BC 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 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>×</td>
<td>Anceps 00D7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚒</td>
<td>Breve</td>
<td>Similar to 02D8, but 02D8 is positioned too high in the line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>Longum</td>
<td>2012 or 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚄</td>
<td>Metrical Long Over Short</td>
<td>Similar to 02D8 + 0305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚎</td>
<td>Metrical Short Over Long</td>
<td>Similar to 02D8 + 0332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚆</td>
<td>Metrical Long Over Two Shorts</td>
<td>Similar to 02D8 + 0305 + 02D8 + 0305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚇</td>
<td>Metrical Two Shorts Over Long</td>
<td>Similar to 02D8 + 0332 + 02D8 + 0332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚈</td>
<td>Aeolian Basis</td>
<td>25EF + 25EF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚉</td>
<td>Metrical Two Shorts Joined</td>
<td>Similar to 02D8 + 02D8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚊</td>
<td>Breve Combining with Longum</td>
<td>02D8 + 0336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚋</td>
<td>Catalexis indicator</td>
<td>0020 + 032D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚌</td>
<td>Tricolon</td>
<td>Proposed separately as a punctuation character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Word End Indicator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⊙</td>
<td>Poem End Indicator</td>
<td>2297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⌇</td>
<td>Hiatus &lt;superscript&gt;0048</td>
<td>The character ⌇ may also be used to represent a hiatus² the Unicode of which is 2307.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⌋</td>
<td>Dovetail 0283 or possibly 222B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~</td>
<td>Responson 007E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>`</td>
<td>Anaclosis 00A8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ˊ</td>
<td>Ictus 0301</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚑</td>
<td>Bridge 0361</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚒</td>
<td>Metrical Triseme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚓</td>
<td>Metrical Tetraseme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚔</td>
<td>Metrical Pentaseme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

² See Raven (1965) 13
Bibliography
Gummere, F.R., *A Handbook of Poetics* (Boston, 1892)
Parker, L.P.E., “Metre, Greek” in *OCD* (1996) 970
West, M.L. *Greek Metre* (Oxford, 1982)
## Table of New Characters Proposed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>⚒ Metrical Breve Symbol</td>
<td>2692</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>⚓ Metrical Long Over Short Symbol</td>
<td>2693</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>⚔ Metrical Short Over Long Symbol</td>
<td>2694</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>⚕ Metrical Long Over Two Shorts Symbol</td>
<td>2695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>⚖ Metrical Two Shorts Over Long Symbol</td>
<td>2696</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>⚗ Metrical Two Shorts Joined Symbol</td>
<td>2697</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>⚘ Metrical Triseme Symbol</td>
<td>2698</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>⚙ Metrical Tetraseme Symbol</td>
<td>2699</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>⚚ Metrical Pentaseme Symbol</td>
<td>269A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Character Properties

These characters should be encoded as “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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hex</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2692</td>
<td>METRICAL BREVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2693</td>
<td>METRICAL LONG OVER SHORT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2694</td>
<td>METRICAL SHORT OVER LONG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2695</td>
<td>METRICAL LONG OVER TWO SHORTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2696</td>
<td>METRICAL TWO SHORTS OVER LONG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2697</td>
<td>METRICAL TWO SHORTS JOINED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2698</td>
<td>METRICAL TRISEME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2699</td>
<td>METRICAL TETRASEME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>269A</td>
<td>METRICAL PENTASEME</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Metrical Breve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>⧸</td>
<td>2692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**
This character represents a short syllable.

**Example 1**
*Euripides Trag., Bacchae*


2. Metrical Long over Short

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>⧹</td>
<td>2693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**
A usually short Anceps.³

**Example 1**
*Choliambica Adespota (ALG), Anonymus in turpilucrum.*


**Example 2**
*Scholia in Theocritum, Scholia in Theocritum. 7, 5-9k*


³ Maas (1962) 28
3. Metrical Short over Long

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☀</td>
<td>2694</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**
A usually long Anceps.⁴

**Example 1**
*Sophocles Trag., Oedipus Coloneus.*

![Example Image](image1)


4. Metrical Long over Two Shorts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☀️</td>
<td>2695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**
A part of the foot which may consist of either a long or two shorts, where the long is more frequent than the two shorts.⁵

**Example 1**
*Antimachus Eleg. et Epic., Fragmenta (Wyss). Fragment 43*

![Example Image](image2)

Wyss, B., *Antimachi Colophonii reliquiae* (Weidmann, Berlin, 1936) 23

**Example 2**
*Aeschylus Trag. Atheniensis, Fragmenta (Mette). Tetralogy 34 play A fragment 355*

![Example Image](image3)


⁴ Maas (1962) 28
⁵ Maas (1962) 25
5. Metrical Two Shorts over Long

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☛ ☛</td>
<td>2696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**
A part of the foot which may consist of either a long or two shorts, where the two shorts are more frequent than the long.⁶

**Example 1**
Aeschylus Trag. Atheniensis, *Fragmenta* (Mette). Tetralogy 34 play A fragment 355


**Example 2**


6. Metrical Two Shorts Joined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☛</td>
<td>2697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**
This character is used in certain meters (aeolo-chori-ambic and dactylo-epitric) to represent a long which may not be resolved into a double short. This is especially prevalent in Attic drama, notably comic spoken verse.⁷

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⁶ Maas (1962) 25
⁷ See Parker, L.P.E., “metre, Greek” in *OCD*³ (1996) 970
Example 1 (Note how this symbol is used here in conjunction with separate shorts)
Pindarus Lyr., *Fragmenta. Paian fragment 52b*


### 7. Greek Metrical Triseme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🌏</td>
<td>2698</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**

A long nonspacing horizontal bar with a small upright at the right which marks three beats.

There are two glyphs in antiquity: examples of ☐️ may be found in Winnington-Ingram,⁸ examples of ☐️ may be found in Jan.⁹

The form ☐️ is the more common.

See also Greek Musical Triseme in the musical section above.

**Example 1 (Non-combining form)**

*Anonyma de musica scripta Bellermanniana, Anonyma de musica scripta Bellermanniana. Section 83*


---

⁸ Winnington-Ingram (1975) 1

⁹ Jan (1962:Supp) 38
### 8. Greek Metrical Tetraseme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🏇️</td>
<td>2699</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**

A long nonspacing horizontal bar with a small upright at the left and right which marks four beats. This symbol occurs in Najock (1975).

See also Greek Musical Tetraseme in the musical section above.

**Example 1**

*Anonyma de musica scripta Bellermanniana, Anonyma de musica scripta Bellermanniana. Section 83*

![Example Image](image)


### 9. Greek Metrical Pentaseme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Unicode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🏇️</td>
<td>269A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and comments**

A long nonspacing horizontal bar with a small uprights at the left and right and the center which mark five beats. This symbol occurs in Najock (1975).

See also Greek Musical Pentaseme in the musical section above.

**Example 1**

*Anonyma de musica scripta Bellermanniana, Anonyma de musica scripta Bellermanniana. Section 83*

![Example Image](image)