TITLE: A Proposal For Adding Combining Symbols
To Represent the Han Characters

TO: ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2

SOURCE: CHINA

REQUESTED ACTION: CONSIDERATION BY SC2/WG2

BEIJING

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A Proposal For Adding Combining Symbols in BMP To Represent the Han Characters

1. OBJECTIVES

Han characters are usually classified as an ideographically based language compared to alphabetically based languages, such as English and French. However, Han characters can be constructed by a series of symbols that describes both the Han roots that form a character and the relative positions of these Han roots. Thus Han characters can be considered as a two dimensional alphabetically based language. The construction of new Han characters does follow certain rules and symbols to describe such construction is finite. very much like the construction of new English words. Study show that the number of symbols that are used to describe Han characters does not go beyond 2K.Based on these, we propose to put combining symbols, including both the Han roots and the structure symbols to the BMP in UCS so that all Han characters beyond the BMP can be presented. As the current BMP already included a part of Han character Han roots, we only request an additional 2K code points to put the combining symbols.

The rest of the proposal is organized as the following.

Section 2 describes the theoretical basis of Sequential Description of Han character Method. Practices using this method are also given in Section 2. Section 3 gives the justification for using this method and comparison to other languages in BMP. Section 4 is a conclusion.

2. THE COMBINING SYMBOL METHOD AND ITS PRACTICE

Although Han characters are classified as ideographically based language, only Han roots are considered as indivisible symbols. Only a subset of these Han roots can be used alone as Han characters. In general, the majority of Han characters must use more than one Han roots and the arrangement of these Han roots is not one dimensional like English, the relative position of these Han roots in a two dimensional area must also be specified. The following shows a Chinese antithetical phrase:

山石岩下古木枯,此木是柴白水泉边女子好,少女最妙

For any person who understand Han characters, this phrase shows that characters can be formed from Han roots. These Han roots can also be used as characters themselves. For instance,

1

岩=山+石,泉=白+水 枯=木+古,好=女+子 柴=此+木,妙=女+少 In the previous example, the relative positions of different Han roots do not need to be described given as the intrinsic property of two dimensional expression clearly indicates the relative positions of the Han roots. In order to linearize the description of Han characters for modern communication and processing, some methods must be developed. Section 2.1. formally introduces such a method. Section 2.2 describes how this method is already used in practice in the communities where Han characters are used.

2.1 The Method

From studies results of Han character constructions, we have concluded that the Han root symbols and structure symbols used Han character does not go beyond 2,000.

Before we go further with the discussion we first induce formal definitions of some terms used in this proposal.

Definition 1: Combining Graphic Symbol

A combining Graphic Symbol is a combination of two or more graphic symbols at one Han character position.

For example: "昊" is a combination of the two graphic symbols "口" and "天".

Definition 2: Han Root

Han roots are smallest building elements, that are drawn from Han characters according to the patterns of their strokes.

For example: "月" and "生" are two Han roots of Han character "胜". Definition 3: Han Root Symbol

A Han root Symbol is the visual representation of a Han root.

Definition 4: Han Root Block

A Han root block is a combination of one or more Han root symbols, in a plane, according to their relative positions.

Definition 5: Han Character Structure

Han character structure is used to describe the relations between Han root blocks and their relative positions. Including the following building elements:

Definition 5.1: Single Structure

If Han character has only one Han root symbol, its structure is called single structure.

For example: The Han root " \pm " is also the Han character " \pm " . Definition 5.2: Left-right Structure

If a Han character has two Han root blocks, and one of the two Han root blocks is on the left and the other is on the right, its structre is called Left-right structure.

For example: Two Han roots "" and "" can be used by the Left right structure to form the Han character """.

Definition 5.3: Upper-lower Structure

If a Han character has two Han root blocks, and one of the two Han root blocks is on the upper position, while the other is on the lower position, its structure is called Upper-lower structure.

For example: The Han roots "□" and "□" can be used by the Upper-lower structure to form the Han character "邑" which means completely different this than the Han character "□" given the previous example.

Definition 5.4: Enclosing Structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by two or more sides, the structure is called Enclosing structure. Following are seven structures:

Definition 5.4.1: Surroud structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by four sides, this structure is called surroud structure.

For example: Two Han roots " \square " and " $\underline{\pm}$ " can be used by the Surroud structure to form the Han character " $\underline{\Xi}$ ".

Definition 5.4.2: Top-enclosing Structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by left, top and right sides, the structure is called Top-enclosing structure.

For example: Two Han roots " \square " and " \times " can be used by the Top-enclosing structure to form the Han character " \square ".

Definition 5.4.3: Bottom-enclosing Structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by left, bottom and right sides, the structure is called Bottom- enclosing structure.

For example: Two Han roots " \square " and "X" can be used by the Bottom-enclosing structure to form the Han character " \square ".

Definition 5.4.4: Left-enclosing Structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by top, left and bottom sides, the structure is called Left-enclosing structure.

For example: Two Han roots "二" and "斤" can be used by the Left -enclosing structure to form the Han character "匠".

Definition 5.4.5: Top-left-enclosing Structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by top and left sides, the structure is called Top-left-enclosing structure.

For example: Two Han roots "广" and "车" can be used by the Top-left-enclosing structure to form the Han character "库".

Definition 5.4.6: Top-right-enclosing Structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by top and right sides, the structure is called Top-right-enclosing structure.

For example: Two Han roots "门" and "□" can be used by the Top -right-enclosing structure to form the Han character "何".

Definition 5.4.7: Bottom-left-enclosing Structure

If a Han root block encloses another Han root block by left and bottom sides, the structure is called Bottom-left-enclosing structure.

For example: Two Han roots "走" and "干" can be used by the Bottom-left-enclosing structure to form the Han character "赶".

Definition 5.5: Pile Structure

If two Han root blocks pile up, the structure is called Pile structure. This structure is used to represent some special Han characters.

For example: Two Han roots " \square " and "+" pile up, special symbol "+" is combined.

Definition 6: Han Character Structure Symbol

A Han character structure symbol is the visual representation of a Han character structure, called structure symbol. For example:

Upper-lower structure symbol is ⊟ Left-right structure symbol is □

Surroud structure symbol is

Note: A structure symbol is a graphic character.

Definition 7: Stroke

A stroke is an element used to form the shape of Han characters. It is a smallest element of a Han root.

Definition 8: Sequence

Sequences refer to:

Definition 8.1: The sequence of strokes: - | | > Z

Definition 8.2: The sequence of Han root codes: fewer strokes first, more strokes second, if the number of strokes is the same, follow the sequence of strokes.

Definition 8.3: The Sequence of Han Root Blocks

- . The sequence in upper-lower structure: upper first, lower second.
- . The sequence in left-right structure: left first, right second.
- . The sequence in enclosing structure: out first, inner second.
- . The sequence in pile structure: same as the sequence of Han root codes.

Definition 9: Sequential Han Root String (called Han Root String)
A code combination, composed of structure symbol and Han root
symbol according to their sequences, is called a Han root string.

The representation of Han characters using sequential Han root combination method:

One Han character can be represented by using a sequential Han root string. This can be described as:

represent

<a Han character> -----→ <sequential Han root string>

The sequential Han root string is composed of structure symbols and Han roos symbols.

There are three forms:

Form 1: To represent single structure Han character.

The sequential Han root string, used to represent single structure Han character, is composed of a structure symbol and a Han root symbol. In this sequential Han root string, the first symbol is a structure symbol, the second is a Han root symbol. But the structuer symbol can be omitted. This can be described as:

represent

<Sequential Han root string> ——— <structure symbol>
<Han root symbol>

For example: Han character Sequential Han root string

丈

口丈 or 丈 Form 2: To represent a Han character which uses only one structure symbol.

The equential Han roots string, used to represent a Han character which uses only one structure symbol, is composed of a structure symbol and two Han root symbols. The first one must be a structure symbol. The sequence of the two Han root symbols is the same as that of Han root blocks. This can be described as:

represent <Sequential Han root string> → <Han root symbol> <Han root symbol> Han root symbol> For example: Han character Sequential Han root string 好 以方 岩 日山石 国 □丁玉

Form 3: To represent a Han character which uses several structure symbols

The sequential Han roots string, used to represent a Han character which uses several structure symbols, is composed of a structure symbol and two Han root strings. The first symbol must be a structure symbol, and any one of the two Han root strings may be a Han root symbol or a sequential Han root string. A Han root string can be represented again in this way, until its Han root string is a Han root symbol or a Han root string as defined in form 2. This can be described as:

2.2 The Practice

In practice, the method of describing Han characters linearly has be used since the start of the Han character creation. Since the pronunciation itself cannot uniquely identify a Han character, people often resort to the description orally(sequentially) to describe a Han character. The following provides several examples where the combining symbol method are used.

Example 1: Communication

The Technical Standard of Encoding Han Characters on radio paging which drawr up by Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of P.R.C.

has been used in radio systems.

There are 1,500 Han characters that are used at most,759 Han roots, 11 structure symbols,100 bars of short sentences and other symbols in this Technical Standard. Transmitling Han characters by this Technical Standard, one character one code in the 1,500 Han characters that are used at most, and the others are represented by combining the Han roots with the structure symbols. The special advantage of this Standard is able to transmit more than 50,000 Han characters and need short time of holding communication channels (The average each Han character needs less 13 bits).

A part of content see Appendix A.

Example 2: None Standardized Han Characters in Publication Some Han characters described by combining Han roots in Han characters Frequency Table published and Used by People's Republic of China Xinhua Communication Office.Refer to Appendix B.

Example 3: Daily Usage by Common People

Han character '张' and '章 'in Chinese surnames are the same pronunciation and are pronounced 'ZHANG'. When two stranger happen to meet together and introduce themselves each other, they will explain that their surname is Han character '张' combining Han root '弓' with '长', or the Han character '章' combining Han root '立'with '早'.

Example 4: The Computer Systems Adopting Combining Han Roots
There are many computer systems adopting combining Han roots in
China:

- . Mr Zhu Bangfu(Taiwan) can compose more than 50,000 Han character adopting combining Han roots.
- . DF-DOS adopting combining Han roots by Langchao Group., can deal with more than 50,000 Han characters.
- 2.3 Presentation of Han Characters

To present Han character represented in a sequential Han root string, we can use any one of the following way:

Way 1: To present sequential Han root string

Present all the graphic symbols of the structure symbols and the Han root symbols one by one.

Way 2: To present the generated combining graphic symbol Present a generated graphic symbol in one graphic position.

3. JUSTIFICATION and POSSIBILITY

3.1 The Advantages

Advantage 1: Capability of expressing all Han characters.

- . It is capable to express all Han characters beyond of the coded character set.
- . It is easier to represent and display all Han characters in a small system.

Advantage 2: This code is capable to be exchanged as the self-named Han character.

Advantage 3: There are no duplicate codes in all Han characters with using this method.

Advantage 4: It is beneficial to reconize all Han characters with the optics pattern-recognition. Advantage 5: Benefit to make the rule of collating Han characters consistent. Adding a new character by this method, this new character's sequence has been identified.

Advantage 6: Capability of adapting the development of Han characters, because new Han character can be made by using the Han root symbols.

Advantage 7: Only needing a small Han root ROM insteads of using the large ROM in which more than ten thousand Han character have been stored benefit to save the cost of computer system.

3.2 The Disadvantage

The length of every Han character's code is variable. (But it is permitted when using the Extension Level 2.)

The average Han root number of every Han character exceeds 2. Because of this, it can't replace Han characters in BMP.

3.3 Combining Characters have been used in UCS.

For example:

Latin characters

$$\widetilde{a} \rightarrow a + \widetilde{\odot}$$
0061 0303

The following combining characters have been used also in UCS:

.Lndian characters .Hebrew characters .Arabic characters

So adding combining symbols in BMP of UCS to represent the Han characters is possibility.

4. CONCLUSION

In sum, for its series outstanding character, the method of combining Han roots must be considered in ISO/IEC DIS 10646. We propose:

- (1) 2K space can be retained in BMP of UCS to contain Han root symbols and structure symbols.
- (2) these symbols can be put in spare region of A Zone, for their function is just like that of English letters. If there are not enough space in A Zone, they can be put in O Zone.

Technical Standard of Encoding Han Characters
On Radio Paging
无线电寻呼汉字编码技术规范

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of P.R.C 中华人民共和国邮电部

1993.5

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- 1. 主题内容与适用范围
 - 1.1 本技术规范规定了一个寻听系统向汉字显示寻呼机传送信息的 模式。其中包括汉字信息的编码及传输格式,也规定了一般符号、数 字、拉丁字母等字符的编码表示及传输格式。
 - 1.2 本技术规范适用于我国国内公用无线电导呼系统。
 - 2. 引用标准

GB8581.1~85G5.2信息处理文本通信用编码字符集

- 3. 水沿
- 3.1 字报

字根是从汉字中折取的最小组字元素的集合。

3.2 字根符

字根的可视表示。

3.3 字根块

字根符按一定的位置关系在平面上的组合称为字根块。 · 字根符是最小的字根块。

3.4 汉字结构

汉字结构表示汉字中字根块之间的相对位置关系。在本规范中, 将汉字归为11种结构非用相应的结构符表示,见附录A。

3.4.1 独体结构

具有单一字很符的汉字结构称为独体结构。例如:"王"。

3.4.2 左右结构

两字根块在水平方向上左右排列的汉字结构称为左右结构 。 例如:"阳"。

3.4.3 上下结构

两字根块在垂直方向上上下排列的汉字结构称为上下结构。

代码改上的位置 区书 位号	子符	结构符名称		谷	谁
46—01		独体结构符			
46-02		左右结构符			•
46—03		上下结构符			•
46—04	0	金包的结构符	-		
46—05		上包围结构符		•	
46—06		下包围结构符	-		
46—07		左包网结构符			
46—08		左上明结构符			· •
46—09		右上围结构符		•	
46—10		左下III结构符			
46—11		企 加结构符			

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Appendix B

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0002	灌去 旁加乌旁	' 71	177	0052	利加月旁	5	947
0003	世面竹头	! 57	234	0053	「暴加 <u>主旁</u>	5	952
0004	个多加 + 头	51	285	0054	「步加土旁 ;	5	957
0005	第加	48	.333	0055	. 贝上加斌	5	962
0006	1 蒙加犭旁	42	375	0056	- 刀加工旁	5	967
0007	市加日旁	32	407	0057	光加页旁	5	972
0008	!奇加土旁	31	438	0058	. 兹加口旁	4 1	976
0009	: 页加光旁	30	468	0059	器加口旁	4	980
1 0010	【舞加 ? 旁	25	493	0060	布加口旁	4	984
WII	覆去 7 旁石 邓马	24	517	0061	英去大型系	4	968
10012	1 多加木旁	24	541	10062	十四之旁	4	992
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0022	当加口安	1 15	716	0072	・ 帯ムを刷り方	- A	1020
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0024	般下加木	1 13	744	0074	・ 立場 ペラー・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・	4	1040
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0026	设加石旁	1 11	768	0076	安加色寺	4	1048
0027	广内加厶	11	779	0077	百加走券	4	1052
0028	1 私加亻旁	1 11	790	0078	百下加州與加太寺	4	1056
0029	「井加田旁 `	10	800	0079		4	1060
0030	- 燕知女务	i 8	808	0080	音加重音	4	1064
10031	詹加山旁	. 8	816	0081		4	1068
0032	開去贝加关	1 8	824	0082	1 召加火旁	3	1071
0033	· 監加生券	8	832	0083	宛加乌旁	3	1074
0034	雅去~加马旁	8	i 840	0084	公加口旁	3	1077
0035	小加身旁	7	847	0085	堂加口旁	3	1080
0036	茶下 灰贝	! 7	854	0086	异加口旁	3	1083
0037	巫加马沙	. 6	860	0087	暴加辶旁	1 3.	1086
0038	君上加竹	i 6	1 866	0088	1 门内加女	1 3	1089
0039	白下沙田	1 6	872	0089	金上加山		
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