

Metrical Signs Proposal for Unicode.  
TLG.

Chart

	xxx0
0	⸏⸏
1	⸏
2	⸏⸏
3	×
4	⸏⸏
5	=
6	⸏⸏
7	⸏⸏⸏
8	≡
9	⸏
A	⸏
B	⸏
C	⸏
D	⸏

xxx00	METRICAL TWO SHORTS OVER LONG
xxx01	METRICAL LONG OVER SHORT
xxx02	METRICAL SHORT OVER LONG
xxx03	METRICAL ANCEPS
xxx04	METRICAL LONG OVER TWO SHORTS
xxx05	METRICAL LONG OVER LONG
xxx06	METRICAL SHORT OVER SHORT
xxx07	METRICAL TRIPLE SHORT
xxx08	METRICAL TRIPLE LONG
xxx09	METRICAL TWO SHORTS JOINED

xxx0a	METRICAL BREVE IN LONGO
xxx0b	METRICAL SHORT-LONG TRISEME
xxx0c	METRICAL LONG-SHORT TRISEME
xxx0d	METRICAL TETRASEME

Notes:

Metrical Anceps is arguably simply a reuse of 00d7. The diacritic version's glyph already exists in Unicode as 033d COMBINING X ABOVE.

Metrical Long over Long may be decomposed as U+02c9 U+0304. Metrical Short over Short may be decomposed as U+02d8 U+0306. Both are assigned separate codepoints to preserve analogy with triply stacked glyphs, different order-stacked glyphs, and so on.

The combinations of glyphs possible is open; Unicode should only encode commonly encountered combinations.

Glyphs that are clearly reuses of glyphs from other contexts need not be assigned special codepoints, just as they have not been so treated in typography to date. The same holds for glyphs which may be straightforwardly represented as combinations of extant glyphs. Unicode, it should be recalled, is not intended as a substitute for markup. This may be claimed to be the case for the following glyphs from West (1982):

Long syllable in anceps positions: METRICAL ANCEPS + 0304 (COMBINING MACRON) or 00d7 0304 (MULTIPLICATION SIGN + COMBINING MACRON).

Contracted biceps: 02c9 0308 (MODIFIER LETTER MACRON + COMBINING DIAERESIS)

Two positions of which at least one must be long: 00b0 00b0 (DEGREE SIGN) or 2218 2218 (RING OPERATOR)

Word end: 007c (VERTICAL LINE)

Bridge: 2040 (CHARACTER TIE)

Dovetailing: 0283 (LATIN SMALL LETTER ESH) or 222b (INTEGRAL)

Period end: 007c 007c (VERTICAL LINE) or 2016 (DOUBLE VERTICAL LINE)

Strophe end: 007c 007c 007c (VERTICAL LINE)

Beginning or end of composition: 2297 (CIRCLED TIMES)

Change of speaker: 003a 003a (COLON)

In Responsion With: 007e (TILDE)

Anacclasis: 00a8 (DIAERESIS)

Catalexis: 0020 032d (SPACE + COMBINING CIRCUMFLEX ACCENT BELOW)

Position Resolved: Superscript METRICAL TWO SHORTS JOINED

In addition, metrical symbols appear in diagrams of some complexity, involving stacking, alternatives, superscripts, and so on. These are of course the domain of typesetting and markup, not of Unicode glyphs by themselves.

References:

West, M. 1982. *Greek Metre*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.