Unicode request for letters of the RFE phonetic alphabet

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The Spanish phonetic alphabet devised by the *Revista de Filología Española* (RFE) is widely used for transcription and linguistic work in Hispanophone countries, notably Spain and Mexico. It was designed principally to transcribe the phonetic details of Spanish. The RFE alphabet has been reproduced many times over the past century, including in 2020 by Alexander Iribar of the phonetics laboratory at the University of Deusto in the Spanish Basque country. The majority of letters are supported by Unicode, but a few letters for lax and reduced sounds remain. They are used *i.a.* in the *Atlas lingüístico de la la Península Ibérica* (ALPI), the premier dialect atlas of the Romance languages of the Iberian Peninsula.

Characters

RFE letters

ɺ   1DF57 LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED R WITH MID-HEIGHT LEFT HOOK. Figure 1.

ɔ   1DF58 LATIN SMALL LETTER SPLIT O. Figure 2 *ff.*

ʊ   1DF59 LATIN SMALL LETTER SPLIT U. Figure 3 *ff.*

Modifier RFE letters

ɺ   1DFCD LATIN SUPERSCRIPT SMALL LETTER TURNED R WITH MID-HEIGHT LEFT HOOK. Figure 9.

ɔ   1DFCE LATIN SUPERSCRIPT SMALL LETTER SPLIT O. Figure 11 *ff.*

ʊ   1DFCF LATIN SUPERSCRIPT SMALL LETTER SPLIT U. Figure 13.

Properties

1DF57;LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED R WITH MID-HEIGHT LEFT HOOK;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1DF58;LATIN SMALL LETTER SPLIT O;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1DF59;LATIN SMALL LETTER SPLIT U;Ll;0;L;;;;;N;;;;;
1DFCD;LATIN SUPERSCRIPT SMALL LETTER TURNED R WITH MID-HEIGHT LEFT HOOK;
      Lm;0;L;<super> 1DF57;;;;N;;;;;
1DFCE;LATIN SUPERSCRIPT SMALL LETTER SPLIT O;Lm;0;L;<super> 1DF58;;;;N;;;;;
1DFCF;LATIN SUPERSCRIPT SMALL LETTER SPLIT U;Lm;0;L;<super> 1DF59;;;;N;;;;;

Annotations

1DF57 LATIN SMALL LETTER TURNED R WITH MID-HEIGHT LEFT HOOK
    → 1DF28 r with mid-height left hook
1DF58 LATIN SMALL LETTER SPLIT O
    → 1D16 top half o
    → 1D17 bottom half o

References

Llorente & Salvador Alvar (1975) *Textos andaluces en transcripción fonética.*

William Cressey (1978) *Spanish Phonology and Morphology.* Georgetown University Press.

Pilar García Mouton & Francisco Moreno Fernández (2003) *Atlas Lingüístico (y etnográfico) de Castilla – La Mancha.* https://alecman.web.uah.es/

Tomás Navarro Tomás (1962) *Atlas lingüístico de la la Península Ibérica* (ALPI), vol. 1 *Fonética.* Consejo superior de investigaciones científicas, Madrid. http://alpi.csic.es/en/

Maria Vaquero de Ramirez (1996) El español de América. vol I: Pronunciación.

Chart

	1DF0	1DF1	1DF2	1DF3	1DF4	1DF5	1DF6	1DF7	1DF8	1DF9	1DFA	1DFB	1DFC	1DFD	1DFE	1DFF
0	ffŋ	ʞ	ʤ	ɢ	A	ɟ								ɣ	ʣ	ʓ
1	ᶓ	ł	ʥ	ɤ	a	Ʌ								ᴘ	ʤ	ᶮ
2	ɔ	ʣ	ƚ	ħ	ə	ʌ								ƀ	ʃ	ꝥ
3	ʞ	ɉ	ƭ	ɸ	ᴇ	ɷ								đ	ʃ	ψ
4	ʇ	ŋ	tθ	q	ɛ	χ								g	ł	ω
5	ʒ	ɟ	ʼd	ʀ	ᶢ	ʏ								ł	ʧ	ɖ
6	ꭓ	ʃ	ɫ	ĸ	ħ	ʔ								ł	ʒ	ɦ
7	ɑ	ʧ	ɳ	ç	ɦ	ɹ								ɹ	ʒ	ŋ
8	ɬ	ʒ	ɤ	ʦ	ᴋ	ɔ								ᵾ	ᴅ	ʂ
9	ʄ	ʤ	ʂ	ɣ	ᴋ	ü								ᵿ	ᴀ	ʒ
A	!	ɨ	t	ʃ	ᴍ									ᵿ	ᴇ	ƈ
B	ƒ	ᶐ	ʤ	ß	ɱ									ʍ	ı	ƙ
C	ʄ	ʧ	ʧ	θ	ɱ									ɥ	ɪ	ƥ
D	ʒ	ç	ɟ	ꭓ	N							ɹ	ɾ	ɥ	ᶁ
E	ʒ	ʂ	ʣ	ɥ	ɳ							ɔ	ꝯ	ɥ	ɬ
F	ɕ	ꭦ	ɠ	w	ŋ							ü	ꝓ	ɖ	ʄ

Figures

Figure 1. Mouton & Fernández (2003). ⟨ɹ⟩ as a lax alveolar trill. RFE letters may appear above others as combining superscripts, as in the last example here. However, the position of the superscript letter (above, offset to the right, or spacing) depends on whether the base letter has an ascender, and there does not appear to be a semantic difference between combining and spacing modifiers in RFE.

Figure 2. Mouton & Fernández (2003). ⟨ɔ⟩ as a lax [o].

Figure 3. Cressey (1978: 22). The 'relaxed' vowels are ⟨ɐ ə ɪ ɔ ʊ⟩.

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| ɔ | vocal posterior media labializada relajada; es la castellana de *palo*. como el de abierta (ǫ), cerrada (ǫ), nasal (ɔ̃), sorda (o̥), etc. |

| u̵ | vocal posterior labializada relajada de abertura mínima; cast. *círculo*. como el de abierta (u̵̞), nasal (ũ̵), sorda (u̵̥), mixta (ü̵), etc. |

Figure 4. Navarro Tomás (1962: 5–6). Explanations of ⟨ɔ⟩ and ⟨u̵⟩.

Figure 5. Alvar, Llorente & Salvador (1975: 53). Final ⟨ɔ⟩.

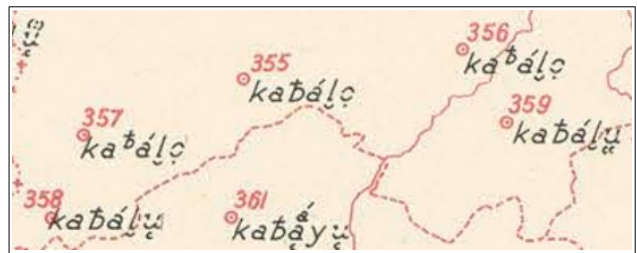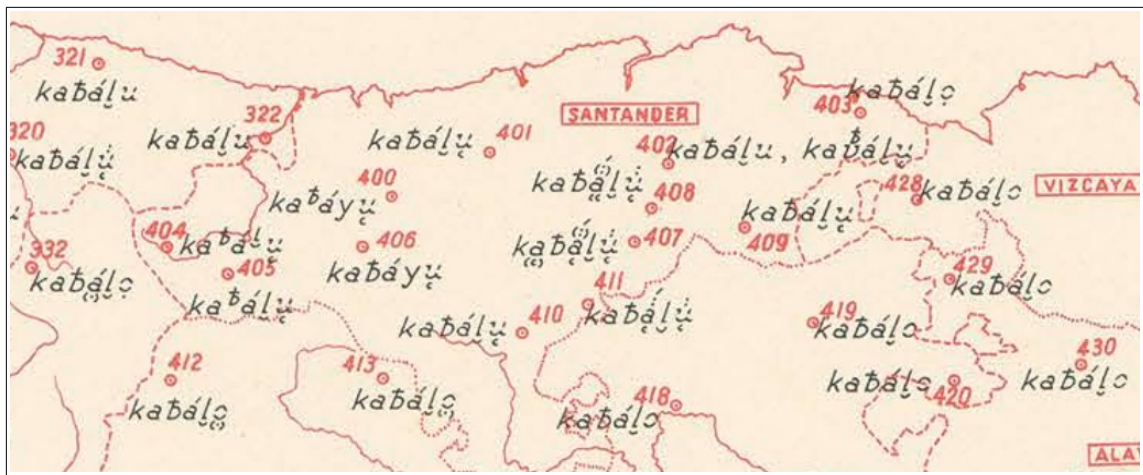Figure 6. Mouton & Fernández (2003: maps 968, 975). Final ⟨ɔ⟩.

Figure 7. Navarro Tomás (1962: 43). ⟨ɔ⟩ and ⟨u̞⟩. Modifier ƀ was approved with L2/24-234.
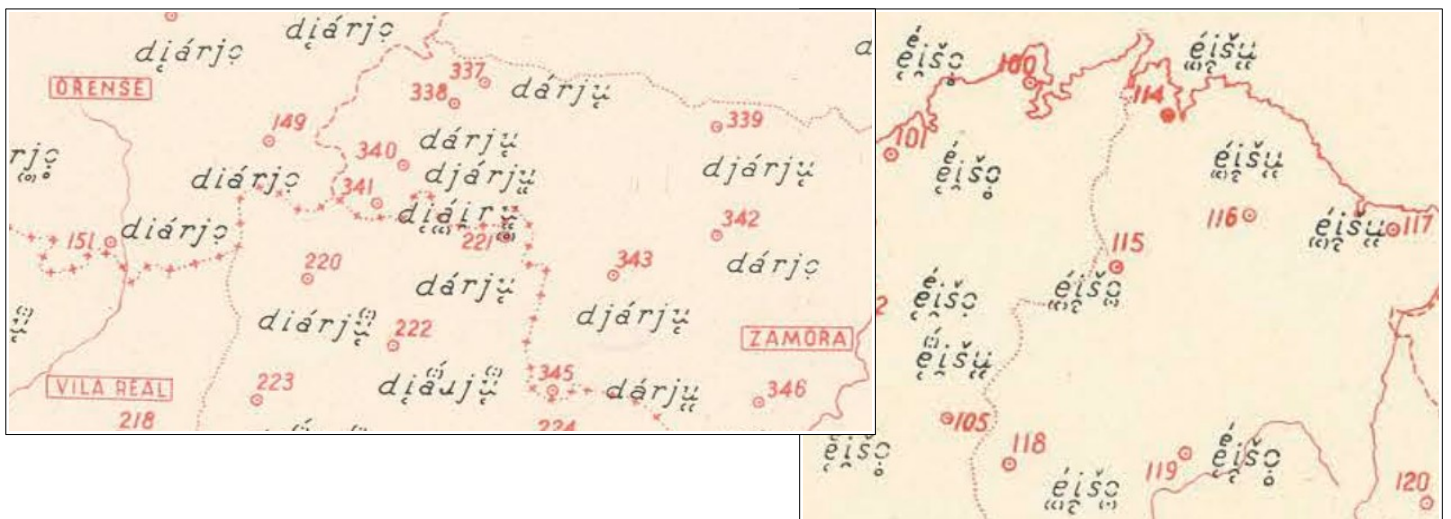

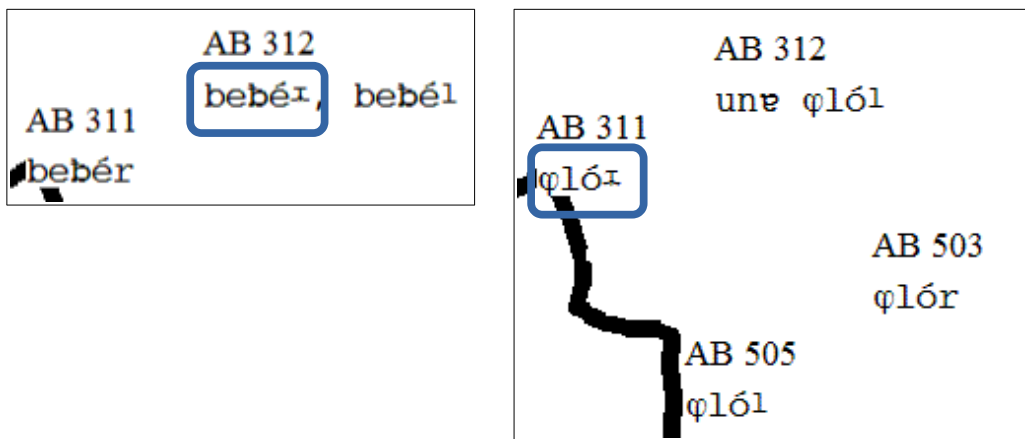Figure 8. Navarro Tomás (1962, map 68, 75). ⟨ɔ⟩ and ⟨u̞⟩.

Figure 9. Mouton & Fernández (2003: maps 126, 257). Modifier ⟨ɹ⟩ in Spanish *beber, flor.*

	(1) Vocal relajada	(2) Vocal debilitada	(3) Vocal indiferenciada	(4) Vocal elidida
todos:	[tódᵒs]	[tódᵒs]	[tódᵛs]	[tód-s]
éstos:	[és̺tᵒs]	[és̺tᵒs]	[és̺tᵛs]	[és̺t-s]

Figure 10. Ramirez (1996: 14). Modifier ⟨ɔ⟩.

3ª El debilitamiento es más frecuente ante pausa; será, por lo tanto, más probable el debilitamiento extremo de la vocal átona de *todos* en el segundo de los siguientes ejemplos:

Vinieron *todᵒs* los amigos.
Vinieron *todᵒs*

4ª El debilitamiento puede afectar a los diptongos, como en el caso ya citado de [p's] por *pues*, con soluciones intermedias como [pᵒs] [pᵊs]. En este caso estaría [grásᵊs] por *gracias*, [estuˑðᵒs] por *estudios*, o, en fonética sintáctica, [nᵒ stá] por *no está*. La r agrupada con consonante puede acabar desapareciendo, arrastrada también por el debilitamiento de la vocal correspondiente, como en [pᵊsisamén̪te] *precisamente*, [apᵒsimãðamén̪te] *aproximadamente*. (Lope Blanch, 1963-64).

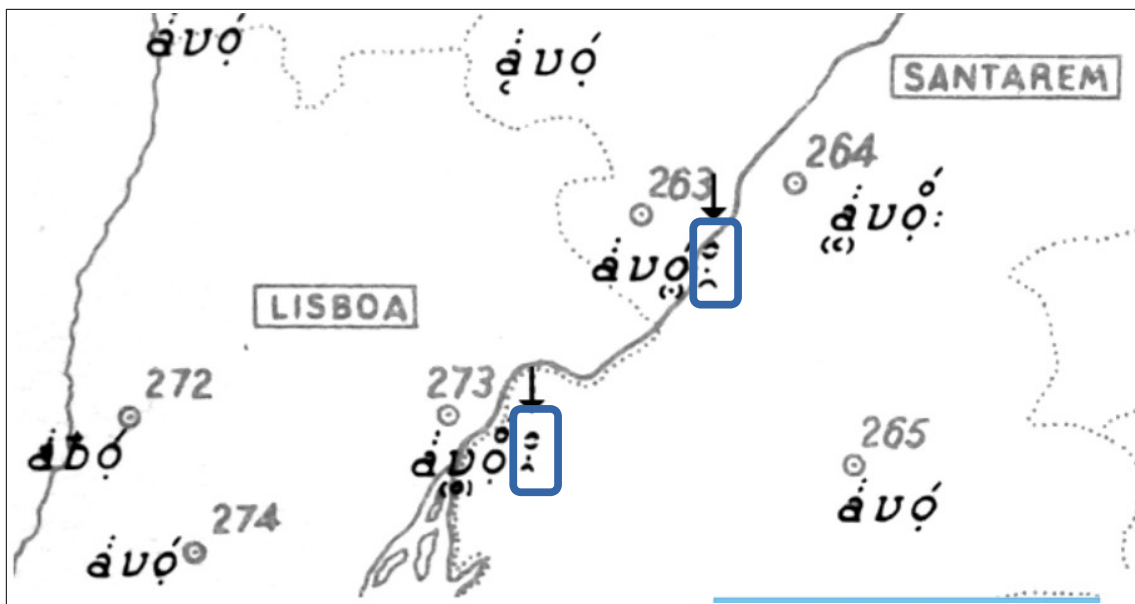Figure 11. Ramirez (1996: 15). Modifier ⟨ɔ⟩ and other lax vowels..

Figure 12. Navarro Tomás (1962: map 8). Modifier ⟨ɔ⟩. Modifier ɡ was approved with L2/24-234.

Figure 13. Navarro Tomás (1962: map 2). Modifier ⟨ʊ⟩. Modifier ɐ ə ! (the other lax vowels) are already supported by Unicode.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646[1]
Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.
Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html **for guidelines and details before filling this form.**
Please ensure you are using the latest Form from http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html **.**
See also http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html **for latest** *Roadmaps***.**

A. Administrative

1. **Title:** *Letters from the RFE and other national phonetic alphabets*

2. Requester's name: *Kirk Miller*

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *individual*

4. Submission date: *2024 November 15*

5. Requester's reference (if applicable):

6. Choose one of the following:
This is a complete proposal: *x*
(or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):
Proposed name of script:
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *yes*
Name of the existing block: *Latin Extended-G*

2. Number of characters in proposal: *6*

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):
A-Contemporary *x*   B.1-Specialized (small collection)   B.2-Specialized (large collection)
C-Major extinct   D-Attested extinct   E-Minor extinct
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic   G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? *yes*
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" *yes*
in Annex L of P&P document?
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? *yes*

5. Fonts related:
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?
Kirk Miller
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):
SIL (Gentium Release)

6. References:
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? *yes*
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources)
of proposed characters attached? *yes*

7. Special encoding issues:
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)? *yes*

8. Additional Information:

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/reports/tr44/) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

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[1] Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _ _

    If YES explain _

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body,

    user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? _ _ _ *yes* _ _ _ _

        If YES, with whom? _ _ _ _ _ *The author is a member of the user community.* _ _ _

        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? _ _ _ _ _ _

    Reference: _

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

    Reference: _

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

    If YES, where? Reference: _ _ _ _ _ _ *see illustrations* _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely

    in the BMP? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _ _

        If YES, is a rationale provided? _ _ _ _ _ _ _

          If YES, reference: _

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? _ _ *no* _ _

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing

    character or character sequence? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _

        If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? _ _ _ _ _ _ _

        If YES, reference: _

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either

    existing characters or other proposed characters? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _

        If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? _ _ _ _ _ _ _

        If YES, reference: _

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function)

    to**,** or could be confused with, an existing character? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _

        If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? _ _ _ _ _ _ _

        If YES, reference: _

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _

    If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? _ _ _ _ _ _ _

        If YES, reference: _

    Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? _ _ *no*

        If YES, reference: _

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as

    control function or similar semantics? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _

        If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

_ _

_ _

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? _ _ _ *no* _ _ _

    If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? _ _ _ _ _ _ _

        If YES, reference: _