Proposal to encode Geomantic Figures

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1 Introduction

Unicode currently contains characters encoded for several combinatorial divinatory systems including those of the 太玄經 Tài Xuán Jīng (87 characters in the Tai Xuan Jing Symbols block), the 易經 Yì Jīng or I Ching (64 characters in the Yijing Hexagram Symbols block), and the 八卦 Bā Guà (2+4+8 characters in the Miscellaneous Symbols block). It does not yet contain figures for the geomantic tradition, which have been used in many places around the world.

Geomancy is the name under which this form of divination is referred to in English.* These geomantic symbols are used in the علم الرمل *ilm al-raml* of Arabic and Persian sources, the Sikidy of the Malagasy, the Gara of the Sara,[1] and the Ifá of the Yoruba—where they are used in pairs, and the production and interpretation of the symbols differs significantly.[2] This list is not exhaustive.

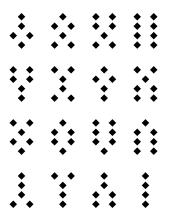


Figure 1: The sixteen geomantic figures, in a dotted style.

There are sixteen geomantic symbols. Each consists of four markers of parity (even or odd) stacked one atop the other.[†] In the Arabic/European traditions the correspondence is that odd parity is represented by a single dot and even parity by two dots. In Ifá and related systems the correspondence is the opposite.[2, p. 8] In handwritten sources the two dots are often drawn instead as a horizontal line, and sometimes the single dot is presented as a vertical line (see Figure 2). In printed sources the marks are most commonly presented as separate dots, and this is invariably the case in European texts. There are also

[†]The symbols are always arranged vertically in traditional divinatory sources. The only places I know of that use a horizontal presentation are some 19th-century editions of "Napoleon's Oraculum", where the oracle is presented as a parlor game. See Figure 20.

*"Geomancy" here should not be confused with "geomancy" in the Chinese tradition (i.e. Feng Shui), which is of a different form and not related to the systems discussed here. "occulted" variations of the symbols which obscure the underlying construction, which will be presented below; these variations are purely stylistic and do not require separate encoding.

2 Suitability for inclusion

These symbols are characters according to the definition in the Glossary. As far as I could find, they do not appear in the Archive of Notices of Non-Approval, nor in the Unicode Pipeline Table.

These symbols appear in many pre-computer documents describing the divinatory practice—both handwritten and printed—, and they are distinct from the symbols used for other forms of divination.[‡] Therefore, it would be useful to encode these characters for the transcription of existing works, and to enable textual search of such characters.

It would also benefit current practitioners of these systems of divination ("geomancers") if they were able to use the symbols online; below I have collected evidence of people representing these symbols through combinations of other encoded symbols, with various degrees of success.

3 Evidence of use

3.1 In running text

Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 show evidence of use of these figures in running text. These examples were obtained with only a couple of hours' search, so with dedicated work many more examples would be able to be sourced.

3.2 In tables or aside from text

It is easy to find examples of the use of these symbols adjacent to text discussing them, or in tables or diagrams. See figures 7, 8. This method is often used in printed books, where due to the lack of pre-cast figures, symbols were also assembled out of asterisks (Figure 9), the letter 'o' (Figure 10), or simply replaced by numeric representations (Figure 11).

3.3 In art or on objects

In figures 12 and 13 are depictions of geomantic symbols on objects. Figure 14 shows a figure in a work of Islamic art, alongside its description.

4 Evidence of want

I have recently collected two examples from Twitter of users using alternate characters to represent geomantic figures in online text; see Figure 15. On other websites asterisks have been (attempted) to be used to construct the figures (Figure 16). In most cases, website authors must currently fall back to using images as a substitute.

[‡]An isomorphism can be described between the Tai Xuan Jing Symbols and the geomantic figures, but the geomantic figures are always distinct in form from them, and can be written with many unusual variants which would never be used for the TXJ characters.

5 Character properties

These characters should have the same basic properties as already-encoded divinatory characters:

- · General Category: Other Symbol
- · Canonical Combining Class: o
- BIDI: Other Neutral
- · Bidi Mirrored: N

Directionality In the production of a geomantic ('shield') chart the figures are "read" in a right-to-left order (Figure 2 also shows a full chart written in linearized form in a single right-to-left line with Hebrew text). In Ifá the characters are always used in pairs, which are "read" in right-to-left order (the name of the right figure coming before the name of the left figure). The Ifá pairs are also constructed in right-to-left order in Ifá, but they are "written" during a divination by moving across both characters: the first row on both is entered before the second row of both, etc.[2, p. 41] Despite this preference for a right-to-left ordering, I think that to impose this ordering strictly would only serve to confuse users of Latin scripts, and they should be considered to be standalone figures the same as other divinatory symbols which match the ordering of the surrounding text. European practitioners do not have any concept that the figures would be read right-to-left when placed in linear sequence.

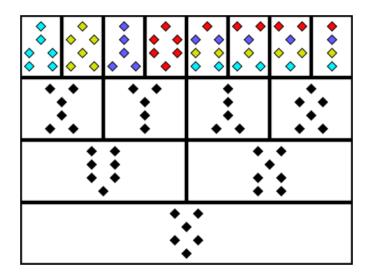


Figure 17: A geomantic 'shield' chart with colour-coding to show how the four 'mothers' (top-right) are read in a right-to-left order to produce the 'daughters' (top-left).

Naming I would suggest using the Latin names for the characters as these have been stable for a long time and are still currently used by practitioners. Using names from Arabic or other non-Latin scripts would face the usual issues of transliteration, and the names used in Ifá differ according to school and region.

Ordering There is no standard ordering for the geomantic figures. In European geomancy none is used. In Ifá divination an ordering is used, but there are at least two different systems, and possibly as many as twenty-one.[2, p. 48] Thus, I suggest a "mathematical" structural arrangement where they are ordered according to their binary value, where two dots is treated as 0 and one as 1 (assuming the least-significant bit at the bottom).[§]

According to the proceeding arguments, the following data for the characters is given, assuming that the characters will begin at U+1CEE0 within the new Miscellaneous Symbols Supplement block:

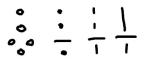
```
1CEE0;GEOMANTIC FIGURE POPULUS;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE1;GEOMANTIC FIGURE TRISTITIA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE2;GEOMANTIC FIGURE ALBUS;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE4;GEOMANTIC FIGURE RUBEUS;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE5;GEOMANTIC FIGURE ACQUISITIO;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE6;GEOMANTIC FIGURE CONJUNCTIO;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE7;GEOMANTIC FIGURE CAPUT DRACONIS;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE8;GEOMANTIC FIGURE LAETITIA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEE9;GEOMANTIC FIGURE CARCER;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEEA;GEOMANTIC FIGURE AMISSIO;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEEB;GEOMANTIC FIGURE PUELLA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEEC;GEOMANTIC FIGURE FORTUNA MINOR;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEED;GEOMANTIC FIGURE PUER;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEEE;GEOMANTIC FIGURE CAUDA DRACONIS;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
1CEEF;GEOMANTIC FIGURE VIA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;
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6 Form of the characters

In Table 1, I include as representative glyphs examples of the figures as shown in "Alphabet of the Genii" (ALPHGENI.TTF), a freeware font created in 2000 by one "FuzzyPeg",[3] as well as the freeware¹ font "NI Occult Symbols" (NIOCS_____.TTF) produced by the Nu Isis Working Group.[4] Both of these fonts are encoded in a "Wingdings" style where letters and punctuation are replaced with the special characters.

Finally, I include a font that I created for this proposal named "Geomantic" which contains glyphs which are encoded at the codepoints suggested above. The glyphs in this table are presented in the codepoint order as suggested above.

Forms of the figures other than those shown in the images referenced so far are also used; Agrippa in particular presents some interesting graphical variations on the characters (Figure 18). Later examples which are based on Agrippa's versions show further differences (Figure 19). Fonts may therefore make different choices about how the geomantic figures should be presented.



Four ways to write Puer: dots (common in printed or European sources), dots and strokes (seen in Arabic and Persian sources, e.g. Figure 3), strokes (see Figure 2), and joined strokes (seen in [2]).

[§]Note that this parity correspondence matches the Arabic/European traditions but is the opposite of the Ifárelated traditions; I have chosen this version as it may also facilitate easy programmatic manipulation of the figures, as the bit-wise exclusive-or (XOR) operation based upon the parity is used in the production of a full geomantic reading — see the chart on the previous page. This combining operation is not used in Ifá.

[¶]And I quote: "All these TrueType fonts are freeware; they may be redistributed provided no charge is made and the information in the font headers is left intact; they may be used in any document commercial or otherwise without payment. These fonts are provided "as is" and no warranty or claim of usefulness for any particular purpose is made or should be understood. Nu Isis Working group and the individual creators of these fonts accept no responsibility for any consequences soever including but not limited to loss of data damage to computer hardware demonic possession entrapment in the Tunnels being torn limb from limb by Choronzon the return of the Great Old Ones or the immanentization of the Eschaton arising out of the use abuse misuse or disuse of these fonts in any way shape or form. Your co-operation is appreciated."

Name	Genii	Nu Isis	Geomantic
Populus			
Tristitia	÷	Ų	ų
Albus	÷	X	X
Fortuna Major	÷	¥	÷
Rubeus	÷	X	X
Acquisitio	÷	×	×
Conjunctio	X	X	X
Caput Draconis	÷	ï	ï
Laetitia	÷	i	÷
Carcer	÷	\$	÷
Amissio	:	*	ż
Puella	÷	÷	÷
Fortuna Minor	÷	÷	Å
Puer	÷	÷	÷
Cauda Draconis		:	:
Via	:	:	:

Table 1: Example glyphs as given by the AlphabetGenii and NI Occult Symbols fonts, alongside proposed representative glyphs.

7 Existing characters

As noted in the footnote on page 2 some of the existing Tai Xuan Jing Symbols could be used as substitues for the geomantic figures, but as a whole they are not suitable for this purpose.

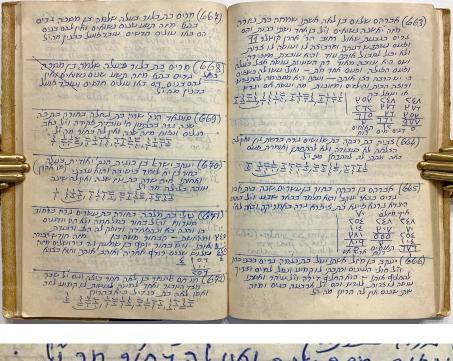
Confusable characters could include much of the Braille block (depending on the font), as most of the characters are similar to two different Braille patterns. Some examples are shown in Table 2.

References

- SMITH, Marion B. The Nature of Islamic Geomancy with a Critique of a Structuralist's Approach. *Studia Islamica*. 1979, no. 49, p. 5. ISSN 05855292. Available from DOI: 10. 2307/1595314.
- 2. BASCOM, William. *Ifa Divination: Communication between gods and men in West Africa*. London: Indiana University Press, 1969. Available also from: https://archive. org/details/ifadivinationcom0000basc.
- 3. FUZZYPEG. *Alphabets Magical* [online]. [visited on 2001-04-06]. Available from: https: //web.archive.org/web/20010406105501/http://www.geocities. com/SoHo/Lofts/2763/witchy/alphabets.html.
- 4. NU ISIS WORKING GROUP. Magical Scripts and other fonts to download [online]. [visited on 2008-12-19]. Available from: https://web.archive.org/web/ 20081219211820/http://www.geocities.com/nu_isis/fonts.html.

Codepoint	Glyph	Name	Geomantic Name	Figure
U+2847	:	BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-1237	Via	:
U+28B8	:	BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-4568	Via	:
U+28C7		BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-12378	Cauda Draconis	
U+28F8	.:	BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-45678	Cauda Draconis	
U+2867		BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-12367	Puer	÷
U+28BC		BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-34568	Puer	*
U+28E7		BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-123678	Fortuna Minor	÷
U+28FC	.:	BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-345678	Fortuna Minor	*
:		:	:	
U+287F		BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-1234567	Tristitia	ų
U+28BF		BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-1234568	Tristitia	ų
U+28FF		BRAILLE PATTERN DOTS-1234567	Populus	
U+205E	:	VERTICAL FOUR DOTS	Via	:
U+1D2F0	≐	MAYAN NUMERAL SIXTEEN	Laetitia	÷
U+1F070	÷	DOMINO TILE VERTICAL-06-01	Laetitia	i
U+1F08E		DOMINO TILE VERTICAL-06-01	Tristitia	ų

Table 2: Some potential confusables.



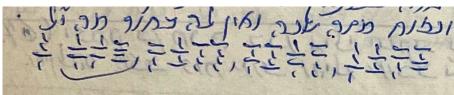


Figure 2: This manuscript by Rabbi Yitzchak Kaduri (dated 1973) includes records of geomantic divinations below many entries. Image from *@*incunabula on Twitter, used with permission.

يدلعلوا لاجنا دفي لاصدقا والرط والاسلاوالفرجون المروا والوال يخت ويتحله شكلاو تأخذما كانحن ارحد وتجعله شكله وتولد وقماش وفرح وسرور وطيبة القلب أنكان متوسطا لى ل والكان هذي المجفوكان قدقطع م وانكان خرج هذى فحالاول وفالتاسع هذ لاروهوا يفودوا ودكوروا معانت ماءو فراد فجرانات وسيتم يبتادع مكالمت فصراذاردهان تعلمالذكرمن الانتى وا ب الكلي عشريد لعليب القال جعوب لعليالنف والراح كالته ين الشَّق الصَّارة من الكاذب الصَّيق ال 319 الطبعا تكاالاور وممدحكم الأوروسيتى بيت الطالباب الترابع عنهم معرار وورصف ما موروستان البياني المستاني المستاني يتدل معامد العالم بستا لملط وجعل حكاما الزماد المستاني و العاقبة الستاد مستخش بد العالم بستاني التماد المدوهو هي ستادا المانية ويستحش بد العالم بستاني المداني المحدود هو هو بنجنس او ۲۰ شکر و بن ۶ و ۲۰ شکر و ۲۰ ومن اربعه و ۲۰٬۴۶۶ خداد وسط و الاربع واهل علیه ماند بینید الطارب وان شنت ط بيت ألطا شرفصرا مكاح كحصراه لأداجع لاالبعه وحمد والظرالعاقبه فعلواهر تولدس ردو ومن ارجار خلرونولدمن الشكل بنكل و ماكان من تذكير وتانيت ودني وشريف عمن روسهما واستلهما وماجري فمافا غبرها فالق مفوطاصل والافلا وقصل لأجراعا فتية المرديف فجرا اوسته 219 ونما يد واهدى مراك كوف لاجرى ويد الرفي وقع والاول و فحشح الداروس كالحاوة تخده وهقحتاج المالة التنادي النمن وثاني عنبرا محصف الرسال في عوت و (نقد كلامناالحصل شرح الدارغا لتربع وصدودي في الموصيدة الانتحالية من معاد معاد معاد معاد معاد معاد معارية والخاصة اللغي والعالية عنهم معاد مواد معاد وعاد معادية والمال العرب والعادية معام معاد وموادة وعاد معادية ولا فه وضع لام المناب عادية اوع وسجعه مسعد وعنه ودو سروكتر الغرب وتنظوا لمال بعوال تعاد معان عاد خان معاد ومدال مدين ما تذخذ وصار غلامة معاد وما لغال المعاد الغرال الد التسادس معرفت كفهن الذكورولادنات وانتقله فيستله ومعرقت سارها فيخاليد وعدده وكوخافى اووزنعاف اربعد ففرغ المولود مكل عنمولودهوى ابيامه فانظرال 1:1 وحنارجه فحسن والآفلا فصل فالصديق وباطنط انظرا لحالا والرابع فالنكانت سعود آفا لتصن البيه لبرط ال لايو والخامس والحارية فارتصورة معرفه العديد ومنهم سعد فهوموافق والافلاه مداعة فاست وصدة استزام الطرياغة بربريد لأسرالاول والغلب والخامس والتسابيح وتشوت وفد ب فتحلأ داخلة وانكان الزابع خارجًا والمحا شرداخلًا 914 :1 01 11

Figure 3: Page from the *Kitāb al-nujūm* (Book of Stars), published some time between 1700–1800. Image from the Library of Congress.

הלהי ונשוא האים ב לשכל האש בתה וביוצא יוצא לרוסב שמל כאש ב כבוב יוצא ב מוהור כהם לבן הם נעד היב כביב המתפטם כבל שנה 3222A היכור כבור נבושה מכיוצא כר הלחיי אאון מן הכד שטוב ננהש ניב המתלות הוק נב הס ננואי קהלה המהמכנים דרך משל כי עלה כהיותו שמלי הנה וכלף שטותב כלשון טובי בודלה י אחיאןי טופה הוא מתמם ואם כפומי מקרר וכ אבש ל באכלה יבאק י יורק י פרק כאל י חומיה. אנכים עוצה ל באלה י שוקלה יאבריאלי עוצה אתרוב שהס לרך : וקהלב ומותה וחיכור לא יפפרו מצורפס לשם אתר לבן נבתולקו לד ראכלה י שבבה כאלה ינקי ש כד יקאכן ש ראכלי והמתלות הנה שומרות ולא מכתכבות וקם ל היכדות : grates הנולצו שהם כבי בא נהל נהי הנק יבובקיי שרמות יב העולגב בלשין הקוהש ושבי ינלה חעל כל נקורות הנאבש כל פכיטוומיו בי שאני הכתים שור כופי כאומים בוזה י פרין באראין י ארה הל הכאים אתפיהם נה פמופים והל הכאים אתרי אמר . בפולה פונבלה י אותנים איתאן . שקפב שקצ התמופים נקראו נוכנים קשב בוא נה נה ידל דלגוי ירים חופי ונחקוף לענין ג כי הכית הא המהאם לצמות-ישרמות א כוכבי לב שכבי אותל . ער שועפרו المعالدة مماري ومدهر المعاملة حمد ورالح אארים ארך י שאש שאפי בונה תהרא י האדם אן כנים שאדם ישוש ששבן בבבט טאוכנופל בוכב ביצארר . לבנה קאת . ראשתל נק בונתף את נק הביב הבומתם הראשונה נבורא כיש החיים של אנכ כל רנכי 326 T-S k1. 12 Copyright/@ Canabridge/University/Library יוצא ב ארוסב שמו ראש ב כבור יוצאב لقرم مد الد TRUN

Figure 4: Manuscript T-S K1.12 from the Cairo Genizah shows geomantic figures in running text (Hebrew & Judæo-Arabic). Image from Cambridge University Library.





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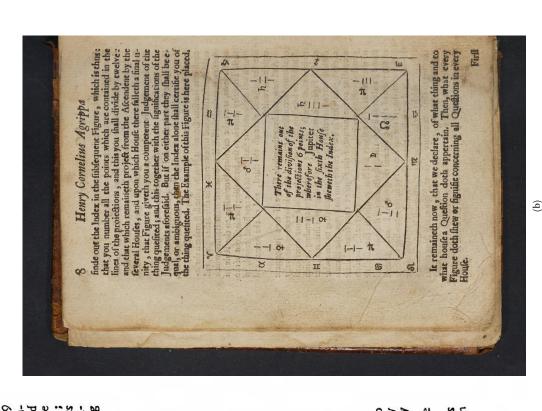
-19 4554 · S. 13. ·10, " 511 100 4 13 200 -÷ li ler: 1 زان مقام = ان عاد

Figure 6: A page from *Miṣdāq al-raml* (Persian, 1886) showing geomantic figures in running text. Image from the Library of Congress.

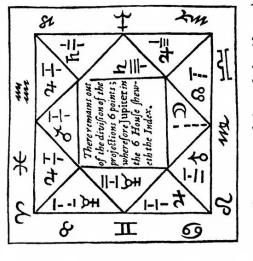
וכל בול נובר בעל אין לבקים אשת או להארס ואה ושל הפעשה או אבאנים ושנבים ושל שולווה נקישקים קנופש לחול הרכל וההרה כלב אכר ניורה ני ומנוחה ומשל נישם מומיר ומיש בוב בניבק וע טל נשוכב אכיבה וגובה לאורה נה באבל ל ער וריח נכאים וקעול כא ליכו כנבר מושאם וכהות אחד מן קרבפיב המפרם קורם ללי כאורב נטבו או ישאש כפור הוק הכקהו או כשביש שלכת באשר פוכה לך ביב השלף וביב אבואה או עם אכינה או גניכה או הוב העתקה והוא מוכי של קתב כיוציאולא איה שכבלה להוצי מיטר והוא כע ל כבבו לבנה ומילו פרון ביב בן ילא פשוב האככה והניכה ולהעהק מש בב לאפור כעולתולה בנונים נחחרת כלה כב בר הרדו כבכו עק שאלא שני בוני אקבות שאו ניור מעו קנשים ושל קרשים ושל קבתולא לינייה ועם אתנה ועש שייפור ושי ארך לוקנה וש וכלפים ועל כנכים ועל דכר נאכו בחו כהח או שבתק קם בנעים כשרק ועים ככישוב וחלולים اجواره والما والم والما معلام الم הנכוחים ועם אחר שה ועם אוקירות נובס ועם なんくくくくくくくくく ושא מלחמום נהנאתנה נינו מהנה נפוא אופר כל כאיש נעול כל העק על איש נטא איולוור נבוחים ועש עד נבוא ועש מני פה ועש קנין בהטוה נגוע ונחלות נשש קבין מבדם נעש יציאר כבור והחורוב נטל כבוב היכורם ועלאי חור בכבים ועל בבוונה וקרק כות וכוש באיפור עושה כרי וכוש כל הייייול כא ליפו כשל האום הטך כים או כהיוף או גבופים וביל אתכם איש או אישה נוגיל האוכות נפי مرور مر addice-T.5. KI. 7 K1.7 Copyright © Cambridge University Library הטלב הנה נקלב כב או כהמות אכני או קליפה כ וכול ניצוח הלהחה ונוש השקי מכתר והשואל כא ליתו במחנה אז ישל כבור מרסה ודכבים שלינה והיא עם אמון נהון ועושר ומיול וכבור נבובו ועם נשנת כבוניב טלא אר וכן יכבו טל חולה אולי חיק ו מאופיעת ועול פחוק מה תים מחנו ועם בישופה או ולחולה ולרחות ולכי כביב יורה שים של 31410 הלכה נינפה של כישורה כבא שיו כישטחה או פח וממון וטושר והון ונכולה נכש מה שפשל תשינהו שיי מתפה נהאכירה והנניכה בשוב נהוא כט ופבשר כבים אוב ומאש אוב ולא העוב מה ולקטבבה נלכל מא שמצבת לתוציאו כייש כואמור ככר שבנצה לבנשוב בוושה שבוכך מוב וטאור של קתכופת ולא כול הקוצאה ולחולה כבוניב כבוב לבנה אילו פרע בינו כבי וינצא פומנו כם ניפכה עתפה כל כן אל ינובניהיה ובה טלאדנוב וטל גנש בישאר וט ממוך ירצאים כפבו ער וטאונה שולופיים ציור הפות ושל כל כתות ובתב מצנייר ושי 575 אירכעוב ונוש מכפים ועוש צרב נכן ועול ושים האנכים נעש כבייראו العدو مرو رود رود اود مرود دو ותושא נארן ושול בנוב ובלכקים ובכאים ומטוינוב *** וכול הטוכנה וכול האילנות וכול היאורים וכול ונים . האר שאים ובגם נעול פבים ניטל אוקרב ממון ועהכת ועול כילי ועים ברה כיל כבר נעל קות ועיש אבירות ועיש עניכב קדע ניצארב inn מתק אים ועול נישאים: ועול בצוב ועול אטונה וכול אכור אלוויכים ואוקיים נישל הספר כנים נלים ושול בישוניות יוכות ועל בתבים ועל חולה ועל העוכה ואקור ועל היאר ועל צרח ב נעבוד ועל עמון כל הילהעה נעול מיבעה שבפק או עבולה antha T-5, KI. 7. Copyright © Cambridge University Eibraty

Figure 7: Manuscript T-S K1.7 from the Cairo Genizah shows figures in two different styles, 'dotted' and 'stroked', adjacent to text discussing them (Hebrew). Image from Cambridge University Library.

Proposal to encode Geomantic Figures



of Geomancie. 9 and this you fhall divide by twelve : and that which remaineth projech from the Afcendent by the feveral Houles , and upon which Houle there falleth a final unity , that Figure giveth you a competent Judgement of the Judgements and this rogether with the figuifications of the Judgements aforefaid. But if on either part they fhall be equal , or ambiguous, then the Index alone fhall certifie you of the thing quefited. The Example of this Figure is here placed.



It remaineth now, that we declare, of what thing and to what Houle a Quefition doth appertain. Then, what every Figure doth fhew or fignific concerning all Quefitions in every Houle.

First therefore we fhall handle the fignifications of the

Houles ; which are the fe. The firft Houle fleweth the perion of the Querent , as often Figure 8: The same diagram from two different editions of Robert Turner's translation of Agrippa's fourth book of De Occulta Philosophia (1655 & 1665). Here the geomantic figures are presented on an equal standing to the alchemical-planetary and zodiac symbols. (The later edition has an error in the lunar figure.)

(a)

13

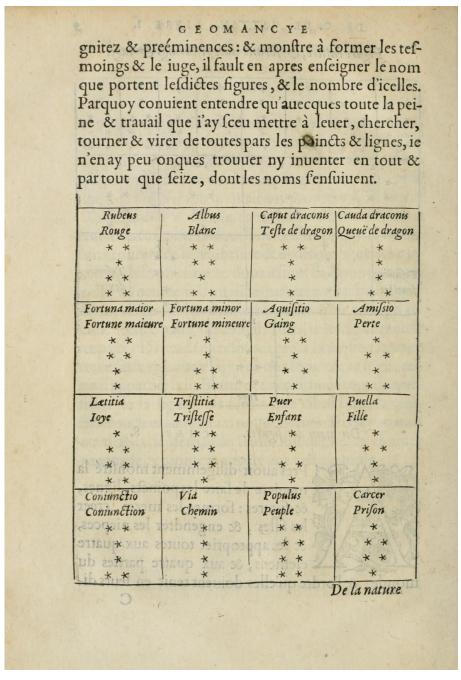


Figure 9: Geomantic figures assembled out of asterisks, *La geomance dv Seigneur Chriftofe de Cattan, gentilhomme Geneuoys* (French, 1558). Image from Internet Archive.

Robert. Flud. L. 2. C. I. 36 Septima, Albus, Octava, Rubeus, 00 0 Nona, Puer, 00 0000 Decima, Puella, Undecima, Major 00000 fortuna, Duodecima, Minor 00 fortuna, 00 8 0000 Decimatertia, Po-0000 pulus, Decima 0000 quarta, Via, Decima quinta, Conjunctio, C Decima lexta, Carcer, Refe-

Figure 10: Geomantic figures assembled out of the letter 'o', second edition of Robert Fludd's *Fasciculus Geomanticus* (Latin, 1687). Image from Internet Archive.

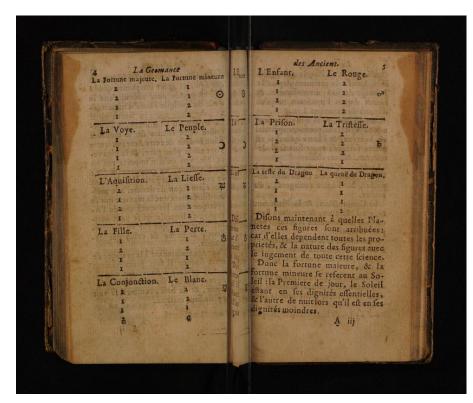


Figure 11: Numbers used to represent geomantic figures, *La geomancie et nomancie des anciens* (French, 1704). Image from Internet Archive.



Figure 12: Geomantic figures on a board from EKPA divination school, Benin. Image © 2017 Carsten ten Brink, used under 0



Figure 13: Divinatory device made in Syria (1241–2). Image © The Trustees of the British Museum, used under ©?

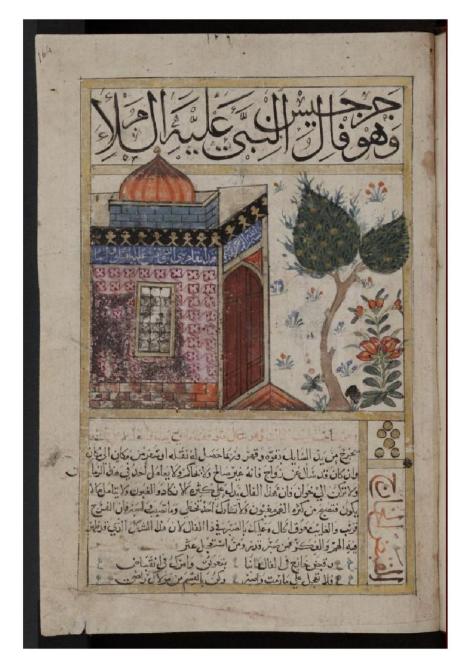


Figure 14: A geomantic figure (Amissio) in the Kitāb al-Bulhān (Book of Wonders, c. 1390). Image from Internet Archive.

Dr. auraturatus (he:him)	@gldrdragon
6	È

Me, giving the geomantic figures nicknames

Planet (p 54, 1591) ERROR Mars R/ Sun R

Leo

Tau

Sign G.C

Sign Cattan

Mars D

Sco Agu

Gem

Sat Xir

I

Xir

Libra

Caud Dr Mer R

<u>Xir</u> Ari

	Figure	Name	Triplicity	Planet
				1608, p 54
	• :	Fortuna	Fire	Sun R
	:		i	:
		Amissio	Fire	Mar R
	:•	Rubeus	Fire	Mar D
	::			
		Cauda	Fire	Caud
	•:	Draconis		ŋ
	:•	Conjunctio	Air	Ven R
MimiIl	*	ed		
		Buer	Air	Mar R
Carev • •	:•			
2	•:	Laetitia	Air	Jup R
	::			
	:•	Acquisitio	Air	D QUUL
	:•			
Amy • •	÷ •	Puella	Water	Ven D
Connie ••	:	Populus	Water	Moon
	:			۵
		Via	Water	Moon
	•			æ
	::	Albus	Water	Ven D
III.	•:	white		
Ruby •	:•	Caput	Earth	Caput.
	•	Draconis		D
	::	Fortuna	Earth	Sun D
	•	Major		
	•:	Carcer	Earth	Sat D
	:•			
	::	Tristitia	Earth	Sat R
	:•			
(a) Twitter user @gldrdragon uses U+2022 BULLET and U+007C VERTICAL LINE to construct geomantic figures.	(b) Twitte Operator	(b) Twitter user @edwardW2 uses Unicode Operators block to approximate geomant	ardW2 uses proximate	Unicode
۵۵-	1	•		'n

 $(b) \ Twitter user @edwardW2 uses Unicode characters from the Mathematical Operators block to approximate geomantic figures.$

Figure 15: People trying to work around the lack of geomantic figures in Unicode.

Proposal to encode Geomantic Figures

Jupiter R

Sar

Pis Lib

Ari Lib

I

Ari Tau

Venus D, R Jupiter D

Moon D Moon R

Tau

Cap

Saturn D Saturn R

Aqu

Pis

Ari

Aqu

Cap

Sco

Caput Dracnis Sun D

Gem

Vir

Mer D

Pis

Cuc

Leo Cuc

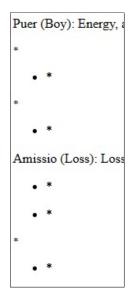


Figure 16: A website author valiantly attempts to use U+002A ASTERISK to construct their figures, but they are thwarted by their website publishing software, which turns some lines into bulleted lists.

Proposal to encode Geomantic Figures

2.6 AXXXXX X AX dd CXCV. 内山火会文卤次兴冬岛 Figure 18: Variations on the geomantic figures, from Agrippa's *De Occulta Philosophia* book 3 (published 1533). L I B E R S E C V N D V S. CHARACTERES VENERIS. CHARACTERES IOVIS. 12 -)+ CHAR ACTERES SATVRNI. **A**AAA\$ CHARCTERES MARTIS. CHARACTERES SOLIS. (q) Characteres capitis Dracenta. 0 A A O Charafferes caude Dr 4con is. A 0* A A A 太大主 4444 主大去岛鱼 今卡 ~ ~ ~ 6 AFA6 X D X + -0 T H -> Ab amifice Ab acquist-tione. A fortuna minore. A trifitia A pucka A fortuna maiore. A carcere. Aribeo A puero Alstitide ftat. At quis modo animā dabit imagini, & uiuificabit lapidē, aut metallum, aut heroica, aut anima ftica, aut demoniaca uel angelica uirtus infit, aut adfi aut lignű, aut cerárates, ex lapidibus fuscitabit filios Abrahær Certeno pene Haracteres etia habent communitatem fua ex radiis cœleftium, fe cundum certum numerum in feinuicen peculiari quadam propri etate coniectis, que quidem cœleftia, ficut in diuerfis radiorum fuo tes:fic ctiā characteres, iuxta dinerfas ciufmodi radiog concurlus aliter atos ficaciores, gphyficalium commixtionum proprietates. V eri autem charache tes cœlorum, ipfa eft feriptura angelorum, quæ apud Hebræos uocatur feri-Habet aŭt nemo, nifi qui i a cohibitis elementis, ui ĉta natura, fuperatis cœlis, progreffus angelos, ad ipfum archetypũ ufq; tranfcendit, cuius tũc coopera ptura Malachim, per quam in cœlo funt deferipta & fignificata omna, cuiibet fcienti legere. Sed de his in posterioribus. Iam uero etiam characteres ex Geomanticis figuris fabricant, uario modo fingularů puncta inter fe col ligantes, & iuxta carundem figurationum rationem ex quibus formati fuerint, planetis atq; fignis illis attribuentes , horumq; fabricam fequens tabutrat hoc arcanŭ ad artificë duræ ceruicis:nec dare poterit illa, qui non habet, rum ictibus inter fe aliter atq; aliter incidentibus, diuerfas confpirant uirtualiter protracti, diuerías fubito nancifeŭtur operationes: lepe etiã multo efnemá; fabricati funr, & quomodo ex Geomanticis figu De characteribus qui ad cœlestium normam imitatiotor effectus, porceft omnia, ficur de hoc dicemus in fequentibus. DE OCCVLTA PHILOSOPHIA, ris deducuntur cum corundem tabula. \oplus CHARACTERES MERCVRIL R CHARACTERES LVNAB. H Caput LI. D (+) (a) 7+ HE EE 0000 la exponet. A counction CXCIIII A populo. Ab uia. Ab dia

21

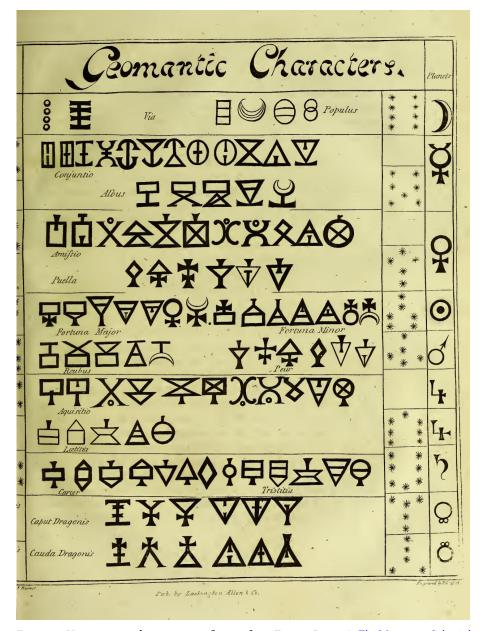


Figure 19: Variations on the geomantic figures, from Francis Barrett's *The Magus, or Celestial Intelligencer* (published 1801).

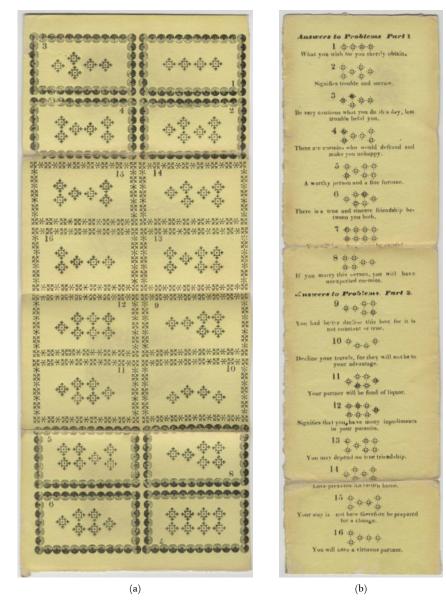


Figure 20: Cards and instructions from *The Oraculum, or Futurity's Mirror* (c. 1825), showing rare horizontal presentation of figures. Images from the Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia.