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Overview

- History of computer/network text encoding
 - ASCII
 - Limitations of the ASCII character set
- Unicode
 - Incorporation of all known human character sets
 - Code points
- Unicode Encoding and Decoding
 - UTF-8, UTF-16, UTF-32, etc.
- Unicode examples and Python 3 support

Early Computer Data Transmission

- Created for plain English letter/number focus
- Each letter, number, capital letters, etc., were encoded by assigned binary codes
- American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII)
- Since early computer data transmission was often to peripherals, ASCII also included control character assignments

ASCII

- American Standards Association (now American National Standards Institute, (ANSI)) standard starting in 1960 and first published in 1963 (last update 1986).
- 7-bit codewords in 0-127 range, e.g., "T": 84;
 "t": 116; space: 32.
- 33 non-printing control characters. These affect how text and spaces are processed.
- Now properly referred to as US-ASCII.

ASCII TABLE

0 0 0 [NULL] 48 30 110000 60 0 96 60 1100000 140 1 1 1 1 1 [START OF HEADING] 49 31 110001 61 1 97 61 1100001 141 2 2 10 2 [START OF TEXT] 50 32 110010 62 2 98 62 1100010 142 3 3 11 3 [END OF TEXT] 51 33 110011 63 3 99 63 1100011 143 4 4 100 4 [END OF TRANSMISSION] 52 34 110100 64 4 100 64 1100100 144 5 5 101 5 [ENQUIRY] 53 35 110101 65 5 101 65 1100101 145 6 6 110 6 [ACKNOWLEDGE] 54 36 110110 66 6 102 66 1100111 147 8 8 100	a b c d e f g h i j k I m
1 1 1 1 [START OF HEADING] 49 31 110001 61 1 97 61 1100001 141 2 2 10 2 [START OF TEXT] 50 32 110010 62 2 98 62 1100010 142 3 3 11 3 [END OF TEXT] 51 33 110011 63 3 99 63 1100011 143 4 4 100 4 [END OF TRANSMISSION] 52 34 110100 64 4 100 64 1100100 144 5 5 101 5 [ENQUIRY] 53 35 110101 65 5 101 65 1100101 145 6 6 110 6 [ACKNOWLEDGE] 54 36 110110 66 6 102 66 1100110 146 7 7 111 7 [BELL] 55 37 110111 67 7 103 67 1100111 147 8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56	b c d e f g h i j k I
2 2 10 2 [START OF TEXT] 50 32 110010 62 2 98 62 1100010 142 3 3 11 3 [END OF TEXT] 51 33 110011 63 3 99 63 1100011 143 4 4 100 4 [END OF TRANSMISSION] 52 34 110100 64 4 100 64 1100100 144 5 5 101 5 [ENQUIRY] 53 35 110101 65 5 101 65 1100101 145 6 6 110 6 [ACKNOWLEDGE] 54 36 110110 66 6 102 66 1100110 146 7 7 111 7 [BELL] 55 37 110111 67 7 103 67 1100111 147 8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56 38 111000 70 8 104 68 1101000 150 <td>b c d e f g h i j k I</td>	b c d e f g h i j k I
3 3 11 3 [END OF TEXT] 51 33 110011 63 3 99 63 1100011 143 4 4 100 4 [END OF TRANSMISSION] 52 34 110100 64 4 100 64 1100100 144 5 5 101 5 [ENQUIRY] 53 35 110101 65 5 1100101 145 6 6 110 6 [ACKNOWLEDGE] 54 36 110110 66 6 102 66 1100110 146 7 7 111 7 [BELL] 55 37 110111 67 7 103 67 1100111 147 8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56 38 111000 70 8 104 68 1101000 150	d e f g h i j k I
4 4 100 4 [END OF TRANSMISSION] 52 34 110100 64 4 100 64 1100100 144 5 5 101 5 [ENQUIRY] 53 35 110101 65 5 101 65 1100101 145 6 6 110 6 [ACKNOWLEDGE] 54 36 110110 66 6 102 66 1100110 146 7 7 111 7 [BELL] 55 37 110111 67 7 103 67 1100111 147 8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56 38 111000 70 8 104 68 1101000 150	d e f g h i j k I
5 5 101 5 [ENQUIRY] 53 35 110101 65 101 65 1100101 145 6 6 110 6 [ACKNOWLEDGE] 54 36 110110 66 6 102 66 1100110 146 7 7 111 7 [BELL] 55 37 110111 67 7 103 67 1100111 147 8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56 38 111000 70 8 104 68 1101000 150	f g h i j k
6 6 110 6 [ACKNOWLEDGE] 54 36 110110 66 6 102 66 1100110 146 7 7 111 7 [BELL] 55 37 110111 67 7 103 67 1100111 147 8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56 38 111000 70 8 104 68 1101000 150	f g h i j k
7 7 111 7 [BELL] 55 37 110111 67 7 103 67 1100111 147 8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56 38 111000 70 8 104 68 1101000 150	g h i j k
8 8 1000 10 [BACKSPACE] 56 38 111000 70 8 104 68 1101000 150	h i j k
	i j k I
	I
10 A 1010 12 [LINE FEED] 58 3A 111010 72 : 106 6A 1101010 152	I
11 B 1011 13 [VERTICAL TAB] 59 3B 111011 73 ; 107 6B 1101011 153	I
12 C 1100 14 [FORM FEED] 60 3C 111100 74 < 108 6C 1101100 154	m
13 D 1101 15 [CARRIAGE RETURN] 61 3D 111101 75 = 109 6D 1101101 155	
14 E 1110 16 [SHIFT OUT] 62 3E 111110 76 > 110 6E 1101110 156	n
15 F 1111 17 [SHIFT IN] 63 3 F 111111 77 ? 111 6 F 1101111 157	0
16 10 10000 20 [DATA LINK ESCAPE] 64 40 1000000 100 @ 112 70 1110000 160	р
17 11 10001 21 [DEVICE CONTROL 1] 65 41 1000001 101 A 113 71 1110001 161	q
18 12 10010 22 [DEVICE CONTROL 2] 66 42 1000010 102 B 114 72 1110010 162	r
19 13 10011 23 [DEVICE CONTROL 3] 67 43 1000011 103 C 115 73 1110011 163	S
	t
21 15 10101 25 [NEGATIVE ACKNOWLEDGE] 69 45 1000101 105 E 117 75 1110101 165	u
22 1 6 10110 26 [SYNCHRONOUS IDLE] 70 4 6 1000110 106 F 118 76 1110110 166	v
23 17 10111 27 [ENG OF TRANS. BLOCK] 71 47 1000111 107 G 119 77 1110111 167	w
	X
	у
26 1A 11010 32 [SUBSTITUTE] 74 4A 1001010 112 J 122 7A 1111010 172	Z
27 1B 11011 33 [ESCAPE] 75 4B 1001011 113 K 123 7B 1111011 173	{
28 1C 11100 34 [FILE SEPARATOR] 76 4C 1001100 114 L 124 7C 1111100 174	Ĺ
29 1D 11101 35 [GROUP SEPARATOR] 77 4D 1001101 115 M 125 7D 1111101 175	}
30 1 E 11110 36 [RECORD SEPARATOR] 78 4 E 1001110 116 N 126 7 E 1111110 176	~
	[DEL]
32 20 100000 40 [SPACE] 80 50 1010000 120 P	
33 21 100001 41 ! 81 51 1010001 121 Q	
34 22 100010 42 " 82 52 1010010 122 R	
35 23 100011 43 # 83 53 1010011 123 S	
36 24 100100 44 \$ 84 54 1010100 124 T	
37 25 100101 45 % 85 55 1010101 125 U	
38 26 100110 46 & 86 56 1010110 126 V	
39 27 100111 47 ' 87 57 1010111 127 W	
40 28 101000 50 (88 58 1011000 130 X	
41 29 101001 51) 89 59 1011001 131 Y	
42 2A 101010 52 * 90 5A 1011010 132 Z	
43 2B 101011 53 + 91 5B 1011011 133 [
44 2C 101100 54 , 92 5C 1011100 134 \	
45 2D 101101 55 - 93 5D 1011101 135]	
46 2E 101110 56 . 94 5E 1011110 136 ^	
47 2 F 101111 57 / 95 5 F 1011111 137 _	

What about the 8th Bit?

- Many computers were based on 8-bit data words (bytes)
- ASCII left half of the available codes undefined i.e., 128-255.
- Sometimes used as a parity bit
- The spare codewords started to be assigned in non-standard ways, e.g., some industry proprietary, some assigned in non-English speaking countries. This created an interoperability mess.

Text Encoding Example

- Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code (EBCDIC) devised by IBM (1963/1964) for peripheral communications. 8-bit code.
- EDBDIC defined different "code pages" to extend encoding to accommodate different languages.
- A code page is a table of values that describes the character set used for encoding
- Various "double byte" character sets were used to encode (mainly) Eastern languages.
- There are many other text encodings, e.g.,

ISO-8859-1 (Latin-1)

- Upward compatible ASCII extension that uses all 8 bits and adds 96 additional characters. Many Western European languages are completely covered:
- Afrikaans, Albanian, Basque, Breton, Corsican, Danish[a], English, Faroese, Galician, German, Icelandic, Irish, Indonesian, Italian, Kurdish, Leonese, Luxembourgish, Malay, Manx, Norwegian, Occitan, Portuguese, Rhaeto-Romanic, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Walloon
- About 7% of web sites used this encoding in 2016.
- ISO-8859-1 is the first 256 code points in Unicode

Other Language Encodings

- Windows-1252 adds 27 more characters
- Latin-2, Latin-3, ..., Latin-9, (i.e., ISO-8859-2, ISO-8859-3,..., ISO-8859-9) target other (mainly Western European) languages.
- Many other languages are missing!
- How to accommodate all world-wide languages?

The Unicode Standard

- Intended to be the final world-wide standard text representation mechanism, e.g., enables standard world-wide data communications.
- All the major living scripts are included.
- Defines "abstract characters" for all languages.,
 i.e., basic units of textual information.
- Gives a name and a unique binary "code point" identifier to each abstract character.
- Code points are not intended for data communication.

Emojis have been recently added, e.g.,



For a complete list, go to:

https://unicode.org/emoji/charts/full-emoji-list.html

Unicode Example

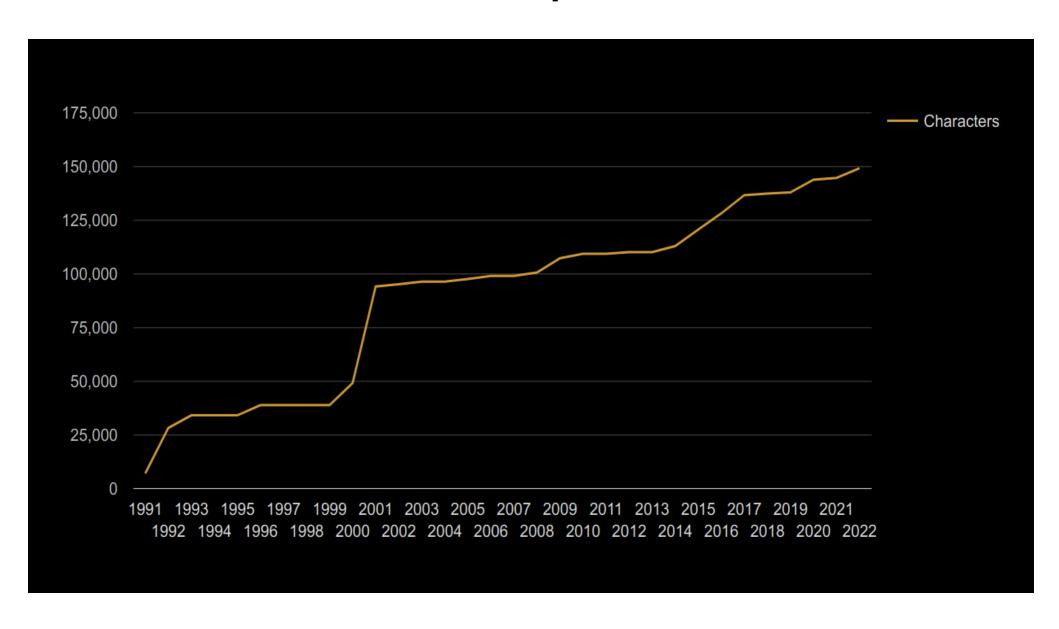
- Character: M
- Name: LATIN CAPITAL LETTER M
- Categories: uppercase letter, Left-to-Right
- Codepoint: U+004D
- i.e., "M" (Latin Capital Letter M) is assigned unicode code point of 004D, written as U+004D, i.e., a 16 bit word.
- Legal Unicode code point values: U+0000 to U+10FFFF (over 1 million characters). Only about 10% have have been assigned.

- Prior approaches involve assigning a given character to a unique binary word that is used for transmission, e.g., ASCII assigns "a" to 97, i.e., transmitted as 01100001.
- Unicode instead assigns each symbol in an alphabet to a unique binary "code point". Code points are not intended for communication.

- Example: "M" (Latin Capital Letter M) is assigned unicode code point of 004D, written as U+004D, i.e., a 16 bit word.
- Code points are multi-byte words. To transmit them, we would need to be careful about byte ordering, e.g., The word "cat" consists of the unicode sequence: U+0063 U+0061 U+0074
- Big-endian: 0063 0061 0074
- Little-endian: 0074 0061 0063
- Would probably need to include a byte order mark (BOM) in transmitted data.

- Latest version of Unicode contains 149,813 characters that cover over 135 modern and historical scripts, as well as multiple symbol sets.
- Rules for things such as text normalization, composition, decomposition, collation, and bidirectional display order.
- Latest version is Unicode 15.1.0, maintained by the Unicode Consortium.

Unicode Codepoint Growth



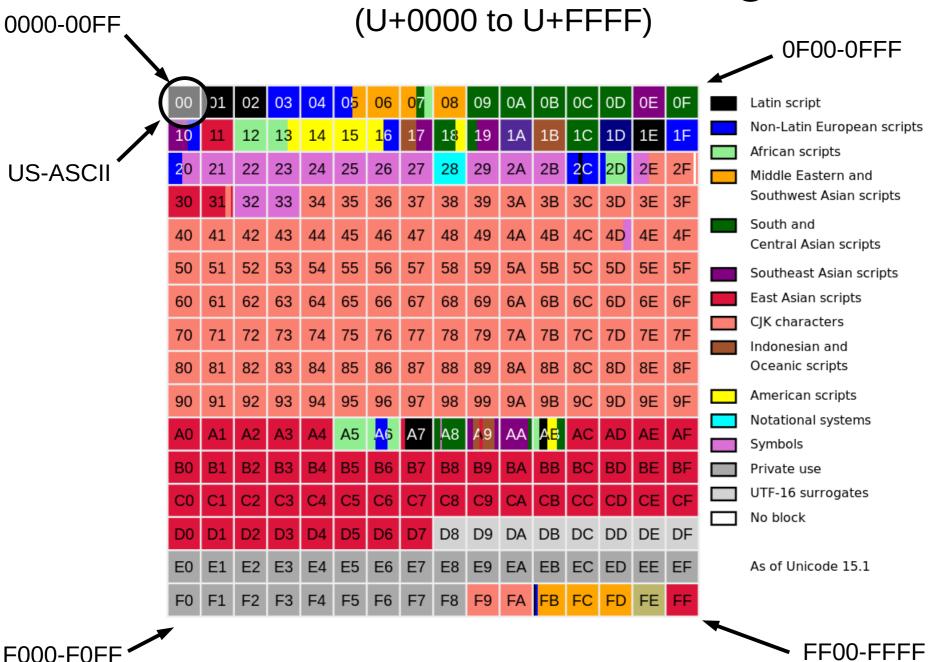
Unicode Character Map

- Contains code planes of 64K (FFFF) code points each. Planes currently defined:
 - 0000 : Basic Multilingual Plane (BMP)
 - 0001 : Supplementary Multilingual Plane (SMP)
 - 0002 : Supplementary Ideographic Plane (SIP)
 - 0003: Tertiary Ideographic Plane (TIP)
 - 000E: Supplementary Special-purpose Plane (SSP)
 - 000F: Private Use Plane (PUP)
 - 0010 : Private Use Plane (PUP)

Unicode Code Plane Geometry

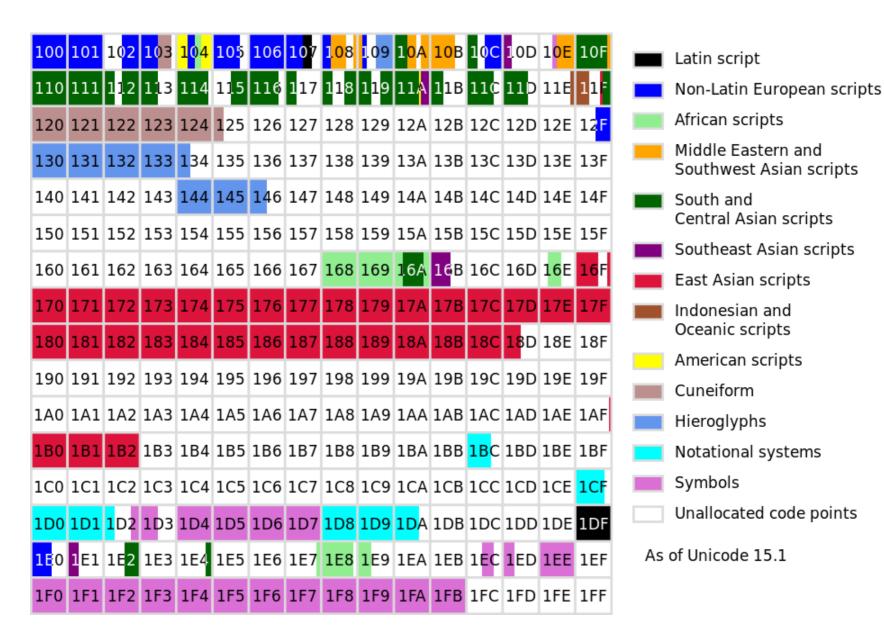
- Each small block: $2^8 = 256$ code points
- Each row: 16 (2⁴) small blocks = 2⁴ x 2⁸ = 2¹² = 4K (4096) code points
- Each plane: 16 (24) rows = $2^4 \times 2^{12} = 2^{16} = 64K$ (65536) code points

Plane 0: Basic Multilingual



Plane 1: Supplementary Multilingual

(U+10000 to U+1FFFF)



Plane 2: Supplementary Ideographic

(U+20000 to U+2FFFF)

200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	20A	20B	20C	20D	20E	20F
210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	21A	21B	21C	21D	21E	21F
220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	22A	22B	22C	22D	22E	22F
230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	23A	23B	23C	23D	23E	23F
240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	24A	24B	24C	24D	24E	24F
250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	25A	25B	25C	25D	25E	25F
260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	26A	26B	26C	26D	26E	26F
270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	27A	27B	27C	27D	27E	27F
280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	28A	28B	28C	28D	28E	28F
290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	29A	29B	29C	29D	29E	29F
2A0	2A1	2A2	2A3	2A4	2A5	2A6	2A7	2A8	2A9	2AA	2AB	2AC	2AD	2AE	2AF
2B0	2B1	2B2	2B3	2B4	2B5	2B6	2B7	2B8	2B9	2BA	2BB	2BC	2BD	2BE	2BF
2C0	2C1	2C2	2C3	2C4	2C5	2C6	2C7	2C8	2C9	2CA	2CB	2CC	2CD	2CE	2CF
2D0	2D1	2D2	2D3	2D4	2D5	2D6	2D7	2D8	2D9	2DA	2DB	2DC	2DD	2DE	2DF
2E0	2E1	2E2	2E3	2E4	2E5	2E6	2E7	2E8	2E9	2EA	2EB	2EC	2ED	2EE	2EF
2F0	2F1	2F2	2F3	2F4	2F5	2F6	2F7	2F8	2F9	2FA	2FB	2FC	2FD	2FE	2FF

CJK characters
Unallocated code points

As of Unicode 15.1

Plane 3: Tertiary Ideographic

(U+30000 to U+3FFFF)

300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	30A	30B	30C	30D	30E	30F
310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	31A	31B	31C	31D	31E	31F
320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	32A	32B	32C	32D	32E	32F
330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	33A	33B	33C	33D	33E	33F
340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	34A	34B	34C	34D	34E	34F
350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	35A	35B	35C	35D	35E	35F
360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	36A	36B	36C	36D	36E	36F
370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	37A	37B	37C	37D	37E	37F
380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	38A	38B	38C	38D	38E	38F
390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	39A	39B	39C	39D	39E	39F
3A0	3A1	3A2	3A3	3A4	3A5	3A6	3A7	3A8	3A9	ЗАА	ЗАВ	ЗАС	ЗAD	зае	3AF
3B0	3B1	3B2	3B3	3B4	3B5	3B6	3B7	3B8	3B9	зва	звв	звс	3BD	зве	3BF
3C0	3C1	3C2	3C3	3C4	3C5	3C6	3C7	3C8	3C9	ЗСА	зсв	зсс	3CD	зсЕ	3CF
3D0	3D1	3D2	3D3	3D4	3D5	3D6	3D7	3D8	3D9	3DA	3DB	3DC	3DD	3DE	3DF
3E0	3E1	3E2	3E3	3E4	3E5	3E6	3E7	3E8	3E9	ЗЕА	3EB	3EC	3ED	3EE	3EF
3F0	3F1	3F2	3F3	3F4	3F5	3F6	3F7	3F8	3F9	3FA	3FB	3FC	3FD	3FE	3FF

CJK characters
Unallocated code points

As of Unicode 15.1

Planes 4 to 13: Unused

(U+40000 to U+DFFFF)

Plane 14: Supplementary Specialpurpose

(U+E0000 to U+EFFFF)

Tags

As of Unicode 15.1

Variation Selectors

Unallocated code points

E0 0	E01	E02	E03	E04	E05	E06	E07	E08	E09	E0A	E0B	E0C	E0D	E0E	EOF
E10	E11	E12	E13	E14	E15	E16	E17	E18	E19	E1A	E1B	E1C	E1D	E1E	E1F
E20	E21	E22	E23	E24	E25	E26	E27	E28	E29	E2A	E2B	E2C	E2D	E2E	E2F
E30	E31	E32	E33	E34	E35	E36	E37	E38	E39	ЕЗА	ЕЗВ	ЕЗС	E3D	ЕЗЕ	E3F
E40	E41	E42	E43	E44	E45	E46	E47	E48	E49	E4A	E4B	E4C	E4D	E4E	E4F
E50	E51	E52	E53	E54	E55	E56	E57	E58	E59	E5A	E5B	E5C	E5D	E5E	E5F
E60	E61	E62	E63	E64	E65	E66	E67	E68	E69	E6A	E6B	E6C	E6D	E6E	E6F
E70	E71	E72	E73	E74	E75	E76	E77	E78	E79	E7A	E7B	E7C	E7D	E7E	E7F
E80	E81	E82	E83	E84	E85	E86	E87	E88	E89	E8A	E8B	E8C	E8D	E8E	E8F
E90	E91	E92	E93	E94	E95	E96	E97	E98	E99	E9A	E9B	E9C	E9D	E9E	E9F
EA0	EA1	EA2	ЕАЗ	EA4	EA5	EA6	EA7	EA8	EA9	EAA	EAB	EAC	EAD	EAE	EAF
EB0	EB1	EB2	ЕВЗ	EB4	EB5	EB6	EB7	EB8	EB9	EBA	EBB	EBC	EBD	EBE	EBF
EC0	EC1	EC2	EC3	EC4	EC5	EC6	EC7	EC8	EC9	ECA	ECB	ECC	ECD	ECE	ECF
ED0	ED1	ED2	ED3	ED4	ED5	ED6	ED7	ED8	ED9	EDA	EDB	EDC	EDD	EDE	EDF
EE0	EE1	EE2	EE3	EE4	EE5	EE6	EE7	EE8	EE9	EEA	EEB	EEC	EED	EEE	EEF
EF0	EF1	EF2	EF3	EF4	EF5	EF6	EF7	EF8	EF9	EFA	EFB	EFC	EFD	EFE	EFF

Planes 15/16: Supplementary Private Use

(U+F0000 to U+10FFFF)

To see the Unicode character definitions, go to:

http://unicode.org/charts/

Unicode Support

Привет мир Γειά σου Κόσμε 你好,世界 Bonjour le monde Hallo Welt Helló Világ שלום עולם مرحبا بالعالم こんにちは世界 Ahoj světe Selam Dünya

Unicode Encodings

Unicode Encodings

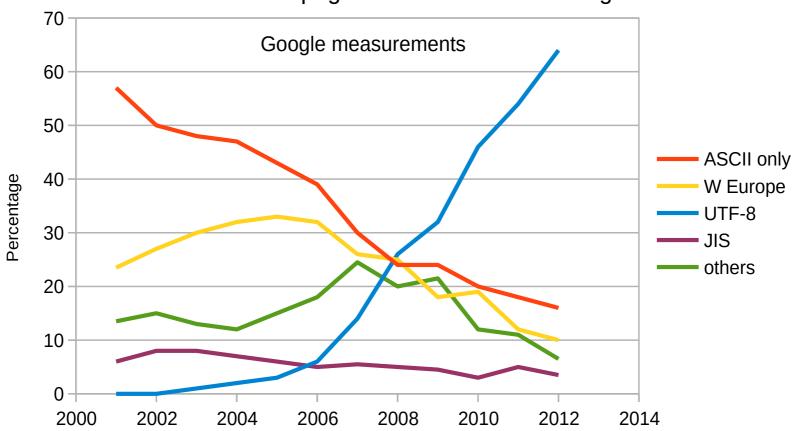
- Instead of transmitting unicode code points, unicode defines different "encodings" that can be applied prior to transmission.
- Unicode Transformation Format (UTF)
 - UTF defines mappings of Unicode code points to a unique byte sequence.
 - The UTF mappings are reversible in that a given character is uniquely defined by both its unicode code point and its UTF encodings.
 - Most text in documents and webpages is encoded using some of the various UTF encodings

Unicode Encodings

- Unicode Transformation Format (UTF)
 - The conversions between all UTF encodings are algorithmically based, fast and lossless
 - Makes it easy to support data input or output in multiple formats, while using a particular UTF for internal storage or processing
 - Common encodings:
 - UTF-8
 - UTF-16
 - UTF-32.

Web Page Encoding Usage





(By Chris55 (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0)], via Wikimedia Commons)

As of 2024, over 98% of web pages use UTF-8 encoding. The second is ISO-8859-1 with about 1.3%.

UTF-8 Encoding

7 bits
11 bits
16 bits

21 bits

Code Point	Byte 1	Byte 2	Byte 3	Byte 4
0000-007F	0xxxxxxx			
0080-07FF	110xxxxx			
0800-D7FF	1110xxxx	10xxxxxx		
E000-FFFF	1110XXXX	TOXXXXX	10xxxxxx	
10000-10FFFF	11110xxx			10xxxxx

- Variable length (1 to 4 bytes). Sent as a sequence of bytes, i.e., no byte order issues.
- Note that the number of leading ones tells the number of bytes in the UTF-8 encoding (except for the 1-byte case).
- "continuation bytes" all start with 10.

UTF-8 Encoding

	Code Point	Byte 1	Byte 2	Byte 3	Byte 4
7 bits	0000-007F	0xxxxxxx			
11 bits	0080-07FF	110xxxxx			
16 bits	0800-D7FF	1110xxxx	10xxxxxx		
16 bits	E000-FFFF	1110	10//////	10xxxxxx	
21 bits	10000-10FFFF	11110xxx			10xxxxxx

Example: Ω : Greek Capital Letter Omega

Unicode: U+03A9 (0000 0011 1010 1001)



UTF-8: 110 01110 10 101001 (CEA9 hex)

 Note that Unicode code points for US-ASCII characters is their US-ASCII encoding and also their UTF-8 encoding.

UTF-16 Encoding

16 bits

16 bits

20 bits

Code Point	16 bit word 1	16 bit word 2
0000-D7FF	xxxxxxxxxxxxx	
E000-FFFF		
10000-10FFFF	110110xxxxxxxxxx	110111xxxxxxxxxx

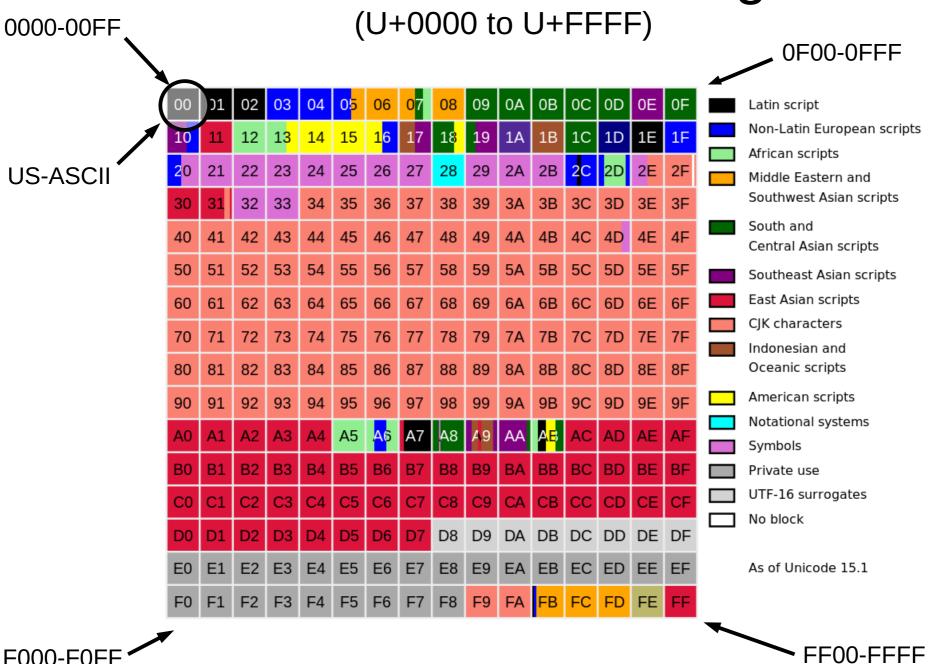
- Variable length (1 or 2 16-bit words). Sent as a sequence of sixteen bit words, i.e., byte order issues, i.e., UTF-16BE and UTF-16LE.
- Encoding uses gaps in code point assignment:

110110xxxxxxxxxx = D800 - DBFF

110111xxxxxxxxxx = DC00 - DFFF

i.e., code points in the above ranges would start with 110110 or 110111 which interfere with the 6-bit UTF-16 preambles so those code points have been reserved, never to be assigned a Unicode character.

Plane 0: Basic Multilingual



UTF-32 Encoding

- Fixed length (one 32 bit word). Need to deal with byte order, i.e., UTF-32BE and UTF-32LE.
- Very simple but lots of overhead.
- Its main use is in internal APIs where the data is single code points or glyphs, rather than strings of characters.

Python 3 Unicode Support

- Python 3 has full support for Unicode.
- str type is stored as Unicode characters. Unicode chars can be entered as literals using name or code point, e.g.,

```
d = "\N{GREEK CAPITAL LETTER OMEGA}"
e = "\u0394"
```

• chr(i) returns the string representing a character whose Unicode code point is the integer i. Valid range for the argument is from 0 through 1,114,111 (0x10FFFF hex).

See chr_examples.py.

 ord(c): Given a string representing one Unicode character, return an integer representing the Unicode code point of that character.

ord(c) and chr(i) are inverses.

See ord_examples.py

Python3 Unicode Support

- Encode/decode functions convert between unicode and unicode encodings, e.g.,
- str.encode(): returns a bytes object representation of the Unicode string, encoded in the requested encoding.
- bytes.decode(): returns a Unicode string, decoded using the requested decoding.
- In our network transmissions of text we encode prior to transmission and decode after reception.

Python Unicode Support

 Python3 encode/decode functions convert between unicode and unicode encodings, e.g.,

```
str_1 = "hello"
str_1_utf8 = str_1.encode('utf-8')
```

 This creates a "bytes" object with UTF-8 encoding. To decode we can

```
str_1_decode = str_1.decode('utf-8')
```

- See encodedecode_examples.py.
- See print_encodings.py