# Unicode and its \_ 📆 s: normalisation, Han unification and more

2017

https://github.com/gyng/book/tree/master/slides/unicode

- 1. Some background
- 2. Unicode and UTF-x
- 3. Programmer pitfalls

```
> 1 + 1;
← 2

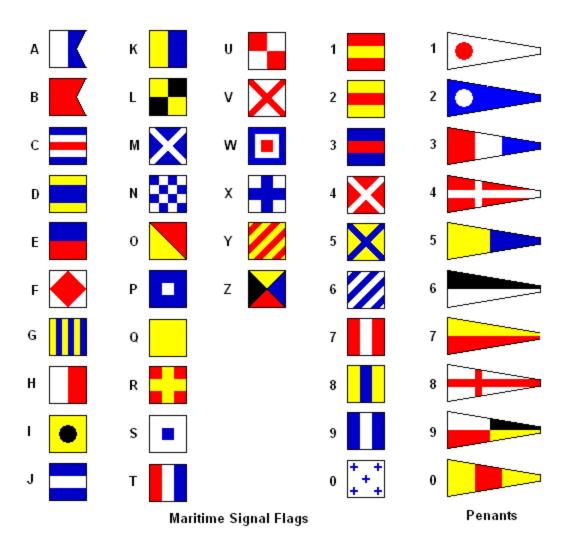
> 1 + 1;
← SyntaxError: illegal character  <a href="#">★</a>
```

# **Encodings**

not encryption

# **Braille**

# "Ancient" encodings



# "Ancient" encodings — Morse

- Three letters:  $\{\_,.,EOW\}$
- Variable-width letters

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# "Ancient" encodings — Chinese telegraph code

- Same characters, different encodings, different lengths
- The *code point* (電 = 7193) is not the *encoding* (morse)

#### **ASCII**

```
Dec Hex
           Dec Hex
                       Dec Hex
                                 Dec Hex
                                           Dec Hex
                                                     Dec Hex
                                                                Dec
                                            64 40 @
    00 NUL
             16 10 DLE
                         32 20
                                  48 30 0
                                                      80 50 P
                                                                 96
    01 SOH
               11 DC1
                         33 21 !
                                  49 31 1
                                            65 41 A
                                                      81 51 Q
                                                                 97
    02 STX
               12 DC2
                         34 22
                                   50 32 2
                                            66 42 B
                                                      82 52 R
                                                                 98
             18
  3 03 ETX
             19 13 DC3
                         35 23 #
                                  51 33 3
                                                                 99
                                            67 43 C
                                                      83 53 S
                         36 24 $
                                  52 34 4
                                                      84 54
    04 EOT
             20 14 DC4
                                            68 44 D
                                                                100
  5 05 ENO
            21 15 NAK
                         37 25 %
                                  53 35 5
                                            69 45 E
                                                      85 55 U
                                                                101
    06 ACK
             22 16 SYN
                         38 26 &
                                  54 36 6
                                            70 46 F
                                                      86 56 V
                                                                102
    07 BEL
             23 17 ETB
                         39 27
                                   55 37 7
                                            71 47 G
                                                      87 57 W
                                                                103
                           28
    08 BS
             24 18 CAN
                         40
                                  56 38 8
                                            72 48 H
                                                      88 58 X
                                                                104
                                                      89 59 Y
    09 HT
             25 19 EM
                         41 29 )
                                  57 39 9
                                            73 49 I
                                                                105
 10 0A LF
             26 1A SUB
                         42 2A *
                                  58 3A :
                                            74 4A J
                                                      90 5A Z
                                                                106
 11 0B VT
             27 1B ESC
                         43 2B +
                                   59 3B ;
                                            75 4B K
                                                      91 5B [
                                                                107
             28 1C FS
                         44 2C ,
                                  60 3C <
                                            76 4C L
 12 0C FF
                                                      92 5C
                                                                108
 13 0D
             29 1D GS
                         45 2D -
                                  61 \ 3D =
                                            77 4D M
                                                      93 5D
       CR
                                                                109
            30 1E RS
 14 ØE SO
                         46 2E .
                                  62 3E >
                                            78 4E N
                                                      94 5E
                                                                110
 15 OF SI
             31 1F US
                         47 2F /
                                  63 3F ?
                                            79 4F 0
                                                      95 5F
                                                                111
```

http://www.catb.org/esr/faqs/things-every-hacker-once-knew/

```
osnesting was to be a stype has joined. The second of the 
      imariaj tis good ir tis sond we were at first emulating a BBS until smj reminds ir bigolo] If this is going out to a teletype, I'd better type more carefully, it smj yep, there is a fine line (but a line) between retro and authentic pimental where will be the video, smj? I would love to see that online. If the smj twitter com/sdf pubnix -> another photo u if 4-Jul-13 19:33] guest30 on ttyp? has joined.
   L guest30 has become marla ] trbigelo] BBL Not feeling well. Going for a nap. [14-Jul-13 19:35] guest28 on ttypb has left.
    [pimenta] May we paste ASCII art?
  LSmj] the 37s do not auto-wrap (yet)
 [SMJ] the camera is rolling, everyone say hi!
Lpimenta] Hi MOM!
[handyc] Hello camera!
[marla] good morning
[zeptar] hi
[smj] hold on, I'll type an Owho on the 37.
        Into 15 a previous incarnation of the SDF Public Access UNIX Syste
         Please visit the current SDF --> http://sdf.org
                                                 Location
                                                                                                         On Since
                                                                                                                                                                                                         Job
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              Description
  suest10
                                        + console
                                                                                                          Jul 14 16:44
                                                                                                                                                                                               17299
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              AT&T 605
    Suest 10
                                                                                                          Jul 14 16:45
                                                                                                                                                                                                       606
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              DMD TTY5620
                                                                                                          Jul 14 17:00
                                                                                                                                                                                               17302
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              Teletype 37
                                                                                                           Jul 14 18:15
                                                                                                                                                                                                    2532
                                                                                                            Jul 14 18:15
                                                                                                                                                                                                    2675
                                                                                                            Jul 14 18:15
                                                                                                                                                                                                    2688
```

https://youtu.be/MikoF6KZjm0?t=289

#### **ASCII**

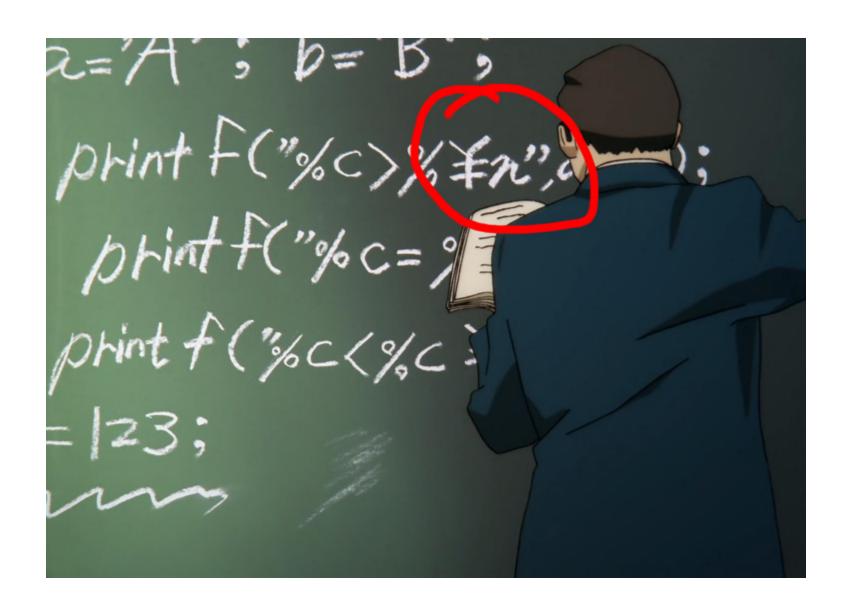
- 1963
- American Standard Code for Information Interchange
- 7-bit (8<sup>th</sup> bit used for parity)
- ullet  $2^7=128$  possible values

#### **ASCII**

- 0–31 are control characters NUL CR LF DEL etc.
- 32–126 are punctuation, numerals and letters
- ullet in binary: 0100000 =32
- ullet A in binary: 1000001 =65
- ullet a in binary: 1100001 =65+32=97
- Alternative: IBM's EBCDIC (also 1963)

#### **Modified ASCII**

- Extended ASCII (8-bit, has more characters Ç ü ∰ ¶ æ)
- Modified 7-bit ASCII exist
  - # → £ on UK teletypes
  - \ → ¥ in Japan (Shift-JIS)
  - \ → ₩ in Korea (EUC-KR)



# **ASCII Highlights**

#### **Control characters**

- cr Moves the print head to the left margin
- LF Scrolls down one line
- DEL Backspace and delete
- BEL Rings the (physical) bell

```
sleep 3 && echo $'\a'
```

#### **Problems with ASCII**

- Latin-centric
- Everybody else came up with their own encodings
- Alternative ASCII sets cause problems with interchange
  - moji bake
- Mojibake (文字化け): JIS, Shift-JIS, EUC, and Unicode
- No emoji, only emoticons :-(

# Dark ages

- ???
- ???
- ???
- ???
- ???
- Xerox Character Code Standard (XCCS), 1980

Early telecommunications	ASCII · ISO/IEC 646 · ISO/IEC 6937 · I.61 · BCDIC · Baudot code · Morse code (Telegraph code Wabun code) · Special telegraphy codes: Non-Latin, Chinese, Cyrillic · Needle telegraph codes						
ISO/IEC 8859	-1 · -2 · -3 · -4 · -5 · -6 · -7 · -8 · -9 · -10 · -11 · -12 · -13 · -14 · -15 · -16						
Bibliographic use	ANSEL · ISO 5426 / 5426-2 / 5427 / 5428 / 6438 / 6861 / 6862 / 10585 / 10586 / 10754 / 11822 · MARC-8						
National standards	ArmSCII · BraSCII · CNS 11643 · ELOT 927 · GOST 10859 · GB 18030 · HKSCS · ISCII · JIS X 0201 · JIS X 0208 · JIS X 0212 · JIS X 0213 · KOI-7 · KPS 9566 · KS X 1001 · PASCII · SI 960 · TIS-620 · TSCII · VISCII · YUSCII						
EUC	CN · JP · KR · TW						
ISO/IEC 2022	CN · JP · KR · CCCII						
MacOS code pages ("scripts")	Arabic · Celtic · CentEuro · ChineseSimp / EUC-CN · ChineseTrad / Big5 · Croatian · Cyrillic · Devanagari · Dingbats · Esperanto · Farsi · Gaelic · Greek · Gujarati · Gurmukhi · Hebrew · Iceland · Japanese / ShiftJIS · Korean / EUC-KR · Latin-1 · Roman · Romanian · Sámi · Symbol · Thai / TIS-620 · Turkish · Ukrainian						
DOS code pages	100 · 111 · 112 · 113 · 151 · 152 · 161 · 162 · 163 · 164 · 165 · 166 · 210 · 220 · 301 · 437 · 449 · 489 · 620 · 667 · 668 · 707 · 708 · 709 · 710 · 711 · 714 · 715 · 720 · 721 · 737 · 768 · 770 · 771 · 772 · 773 · 774 · 775 · 776 · 777 · 778 · 790 · 850 · 851 · 852 · 853 · 854 · 855/872 · 856 · 857 · 858 · 859 · 860 · 861 · 862 · 863 · 864/17248 · 865 · 866/808 · 867 · 868 · 869 · 874/1161/1162 · 876 · 877 · 878 · 881 · 882 · 883 · 884 · 885 · 891 · 895 · 896 · 897 · 898 · 899 · 900 · 903 · 904 · 906 · 907 · 909 · 910 · 911 · 926 · 927 · 928 · 929 · 932 · 934 · 936 · 938 · 941 · 942 · 943 · 944 · 946 · 947 · 948 · 949 · 950/1370 · 951 · 966 · 991 · 1034 · 1039 · 1040 · 1041 · 1042 · 1043 · 1044 · 1046 · 1086 · 1088 · 1092 · 1093 · 1098 · 1108 · 1109 · 1114 · 1115 · 1116 · 1117 · 1118 · 1119 · 1125/848 · 1126 · 1127 · 1131/849 · 1139 · 1167 · 1168 · 1300 · 1351 · 1361 · 1362 · 1363 · 1372 · 1373 · 1374 · 1375 · 1380 · 1381 · 1385 · 1386 · 1391 · 1392 · 1393 · 1394 · Kamenický · Mazovia · CWI-2 · KOI8 · MIK · Iran System						
IBM AIX code pages	367 · 371 · 806 · 813 · 819 · 895 · 896 · 912 · 913 · 914 · 915 · 916 · 919 · 920 · 921/901 · 922/902 · 923 · 952 · 953 · 954 · 955 · 956 · 957 · 958 · 959 · 960 · 961 · 963 · 964 · 965 · 970 · 971 · 1004 · 1006 · 1008 · 1009 · 1010 · 1011 · 1012 · 1013 · 1014 · 1015 · 1016 · 1017 · 1018 · 1019 · 1029 · 1036 · 1089 · 1111 · 1124 · 1129/1163 · 1133 · 1350 · 1382 · 1383						
IBM Apple MacIntosh Emulations	1275 • 1280 • 1281 • 1282 • 1283 • 1284 • 1285 • 1286						
IBM Adobe Emulations	1038 • 1276 • 1277						
IBM DEC Emulations	1020 · 1021 · 1023 · 1090 · 1100 · 1101 · 1102 · 1103 · 1104 · 1105 · 1106 · 1107 · 1287 · 1288						
IBM HP Emulations	1050 • 1051 • 1052 • 1053 • 1054 • 1055 • 1056 • 1057 • 1058						
Windows code pages	CER-GS • 874/1162 (TIS-620) • 932/943 (Shift JIS) • 936/1386 (GBK) • 950/1370 (Big5) • 949/1363 (EUC-KR) • 1169 • 1174 • Extended Latin-8 • 1200 (UTF-16LE) • 1201 (UTF-16BE) • 1250 • 1251 • 1252 • 1253 • 1254 • 1255 • 1256 • 1257 • 1258 • 1259 • 1261 • 1270 • 54936 (GB18030)						
EBCDIC code pages	1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9 · 10 · 11 · 12 · 13 · 14 · 15 · 16 · 17 · 18 · 19 · 20 · 21 · 22 · 23 · 24 · 25 · 26 · 27 · 28 · 29 · 30 · 31 · 32 · 33 · 34 · 35 · 36 · 37/1140 · 38 · 39 · 40 · 251 · 252 · 254 · 256 · 257 · 258 · 259 · 260 · 264 · 273/1141 · 274 · 275 · 276 · 277/1142 · 278/1143 · 279 · 280/1144 · 281 · 282 · 283 · 284/1145 · 285/1146 · 286 · 287 · 288 · 289 · 290 · 293 · 297/1147 · 298 · 300 · 310 · 320 · 321 · 322 · 330 · 351 · 352 · 353 · 355 · 357 · 358 · 359 · 360 · 361 · 363 · 382 · 383 · 384 · 385 · 386 · 387 · 388 · 389 · 390 · 391 · 392 · 393 · 394 · 395 · 410 · 420/16804 · 421 · 423 · 424/8616/12712 · 425 · 435 · 500/1148 · 803 · 829 · 833 · 834 · 835 · 836 · 837 · 838/838 · 839 · 870/1110/1153 · 871/1149 · 875/4971/9067 · 880 · 881 · 882 · 883 · 884 · 885 · 886 · 887 · 888 · 889 · 890 · 892 · 893 · 905 · 918 · 924 · 930/1390 · 931 · 933/1364 · 935/1388 · 937/1371 · 939/1399 · 1001 · 1002 · 1003 · 1005 · 1007 · 1024 · 1025/1154 · 1026/1155 · 1027 · 1028 · 1030 · 1031 · 1032 · 1033 · 1037 · 1047 · 1068 · 1069 · 1070 · 1071 · 1073 · 1074 · 1075 · 1076 · 1077 · 1078 · 1079 · 1080 · 1081 · 1082 · 1083 · 1084 · 1085 · 1087 · 1091 · 1097 · 1112/1156 · 1113 · 1122/1157 · 1123/1158 · 1130/1164 · 1132 · 1136 · 1137 · 1150 · 1151 · 1152 · 1159 · 1165 · 1166 · 1278 · 1279 · 1303 · 1364 · 1376 · 1377 · JEF · KEIS						
Platform specific	Acorn · Adobe Standard · ATASCII · Atari ST · BICS · Casio calculators · CDC · CPC · DEC Radix-50 · DEC MCS/NRCS · DG International · ELWRO-Junior · FIELDATA · GEM · GEOS · GSM 03.38 · HP Roman Extension · HP Roman-8 · HP Roman-9 · HP calculators · LICS · LMBCS · NEC APC · NeXT · PETSCII · Sharp calculators · TI calculators · Ventura International · Ventura Symbol · WISCII · XCCS · ZX80 · ZX81 · ZX Spectrum						
Unicode / ISO/IEC 10646	UTF-1 · UTF-7 · UTF-8 · UTF-16 (UTF-16LE/UTF-16BE) / UCS-2 · UTF-32 (UTF-32LE/UTF-32BE) / UCS-4 · UTF-EBCDIC · GB 18030 · BOCU-1 · CESU-8 · SCSU						
Miscellaneous code pages	ABICOMP • APL • Cork • HZ • Johab • SEASCII • TACE16 • TRON • UTF-5 • UTF-6 • WTF-8						
Related topics	Code page · Control character (C0 C1) · CCSID · Character encodings in HTML · Charset detection · Han unification · Hardware · ISO 6429/IEC 6429/ANSI X3.64 · Mojibake						

# Unicode

#### **Timeline of Unicode**

- 1985, Sapporo, 🔏
- KanjiTalk, localised
- Shift-JIS is a 🙈
- Bunch of 🕾 start working on Unicode specs
- 1988, submitted to ISO
- 1991, Han Unification accepted 🚱
- 1992, Niss Your ASCII Goodbye in PC Magazine
- 1995, 🖱 Java 1.0 launches with Unicode support

http://www.unicode.org/history/earlyyears.html



The first Unicode TV interview (1991) http://www.unicode.org/history/unicodeMOV.mov



Unicode: the Movie (2000)

#### Unicode features\*

- A common representation for all characters
- ullet  $\simeq$  Compatible with ASCII for English (  ${f A}=65$ )
- Efficient encoding
- Uniform width encoding
- Han unification (CJK languages share glyphs)

## Unicode 10.0 (2017 June 20)

Unicode 10.0 adds 8,518 characters, for a total of 136,690 characters

http://www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode10.0.0/

56 emoji (2,666 total)

http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr51/tr51-12.html#Emoji\_Counts

Bitcoin sign

...and more

# Unicode terminology

- Scalar value € U+20AC EURO SIGN
- Range U+0000..U+FFFF
- Sequence É < U+0045 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER E, U+0301 COMBINING ACUTE ACCENT >
- Code points are not encoding
- Unicode is not an encoding, but a standard

# Unicode planes

- U+0000..U+FFFF is Plane 0, Basic Multilingual Plane (BMP)
- ullet Each plane encodes up to  $2^{16}=65536$  code points
- Commonly used characters
- Language "detection"

- Early UTF-16 was fixed-width (UCS-2)
- 2 or 4 bytes per character
- 2 bytes for characters in BMP
  - Can be more efficient than UTF-8 for CJK (2B vs 3B)
- Surrogate pairs have to be handled for code points outside BMP
  - Byte-order matters

- 32 bits ought to be enough for anybody
- Problem solved?

A now takes up 4 bytes

#### **SCSU**

But wait! There's more!

Standard Compression Scheme for Unicode

http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr6/

#### **SCSU**

```
♪リンゴ可愛いや可愛いやリンゴ。半世紀も前に流行した「リンゴの歌」がぴったりするかもしれない。
米アップルコンピュータ社のパソコン「マック (マッキントッシュ)」を、こよなく愛する人たちのことだ。「アップル信者」なんて言い方まである。
```

```
= not compressible 18/12 = 1.5

= 3000 - 307F static window 7 12/11 = 1.1

= 3040 - 309F dynamic window 5 45/14 = 4.2

= 30A0 - 30FF dynamic window 6 38/8 = 4.75

= FF00 - FF7F dynamic window 7 2/2 = 1.00

= 2600-267F 1/1 = 1.00
```

• Do not use it\*

- Variable-width
- 1100XXXX 10XXXXXX
- 1110XXXX 10XXXXXX 10XXXXXX
- 1111110X 10XXXXXXX 10XXXXXXX 10XXXXXXX 10XXXXXXX
- First byte specifies number of continuation bytes

## Reserved space

- U+nFFFE, U+nFFFF: reserved space for developers
- Suggested for internal use
  - data processing
  - artificial scripts
  - ancient scripts
- □ U+F8FF (û ~ k)
- Ubuntu has U+E0FF and U+F200

U+E0FF: **③**U+F200: **ubuntu**<sup>®</sup>

# **Combining characters**

Modify other characters

- Precomposed é
   é U+00E9 LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH ACUTE
- Modifiers come after base character

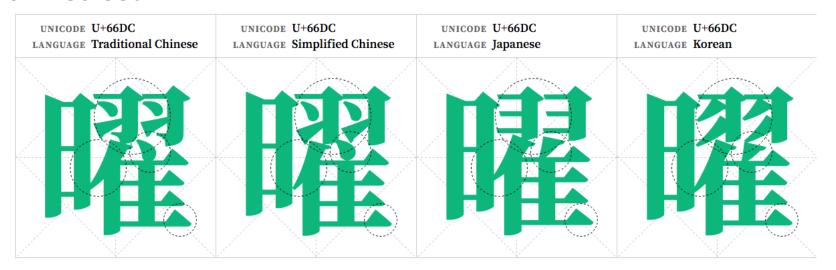
#### Unicode normalisation

- Some combined characters are sort of the same
- Equivalence criteria
  - canonical (NF)
  - compatibility (NFK)
- ffi U+FB03 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE FFI VS f f i
  - not equivalent under canonical (NF)
  - equivalent under NFK compatiability (NFK)
- NF is used to canonicalise combining characters

#### Unicode normalisation

- NFD Normalization Form Canonical Decomposition
- NFC Normalization Form Canonical Composition
- NFKD Normalization Form Compatibility Decomposition
- NFKC Normalization Form Compatibility Composition

 Maps common Chinese, Japanese, Korean (CJK) characters into unified set



• Different countries have different standards

Variants can be significant (names)

ashi

芦 Ashi·da, given name vs Ashi·ya, old place name

芦田さんは芦屋のお嬢様だ

- Educational software
- People get over the differences

CJK Extension F contains mostly rare characters, but also includes a number of personal and placename characters important for government specifications in Japan, in particular.

CJK Extension F was added in Unicode 10.0 (2017)

- Lose round-trip conversion compatibility with character sets which have variants
- Can use Unicode variation selectors

```
U+E0101 VARIATION-SELECTOR-18

>>> "刃\ufe04"

← "刃"

>>> "刃\uDB40\uDD01"

← "刃"
```

http://www.unicode.org/ivd/ http://unicode.org/reports/tr37/

## Control sequences and vertical text

- Vertical text
- RTL mark



Unicode Bidirectional Algorithm @ http://unicode.org/reports/tr9/ Unicode Vertical Text Layout @ http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr50/

## Ligatures

Unicode maintains that ligaturing is a presentation issue rather than a character definition issue

But! There are some predefined ligatures

```
ffl U+FB04 LATIN SMALL LIGATURE FFL
AV U+A738 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER AV
æ U+00E6 LATIN SMALL LETTER AE
```

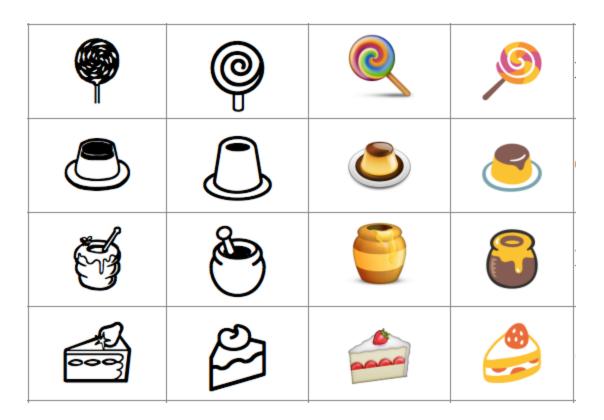
• Similar issue with subscript and superscript

## Emoji

- 絵 (e ≅ picture) + 文字 (moji ≅ written character)
- Early emoji were created by Japanese telcos
- 2008: Gmail, iPhone
- 2010: Unicode 6
- 禁 室 合 満 有 月 申 割 営 NG OK 可 コ サ & �� 🎬

http://unicode.org/reports/tr51/

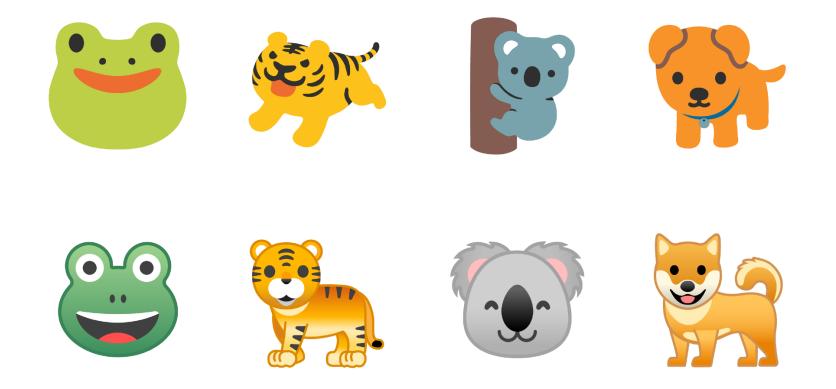
## Can be represented differently



• This is a problem







## Combining emoji



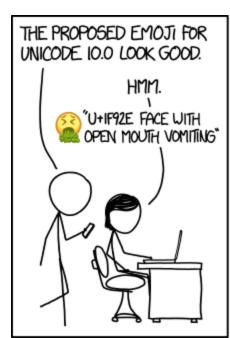


U+1F46A vs combined character

$$s + g = sg$$

$$g + g = gs$$

s < U+1F1F8 REGIONAL INDICATOR SYMBOL LETTER S > G < U+1F1EC REGIONAL INDICATOR SYMBOL LETTER G >

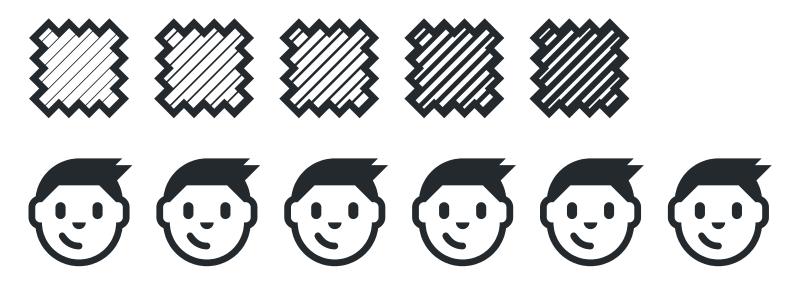






https://xkcd.com/1813/

#### **Variation selectors**



http://unicode.org/faq/vs.html



http://www.unicode.org/history/EarthwebCommercial.avi



## **Necessary**

# but not necessarily sufficient programmer knowledge



## Recognise garbled text as mojibake

- You might be able to recover the content be changing the character set
- UTF-8 seen using KOI8-R, a Cyrillic character set

```
п я─п╟п╨п╬п╥я ▮п╠я─я■
```

UTF-8

Библиотека

#### Use UTF-8 for all source code

- Configure your text editor
- Magic comments for some languages

## $\bigcirc$ Ruby $\leq$ 1.9.x

```
# encoding: UTF-8
```

## h 2 Python 2

```
# -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
```



```
/* Dear future programmer: Good Luck ≜ */
```

## Text processing

- Treat input as bytes
- Treat text as strings (and not byte arrays)
- Use UTF-8 wherever possible
  - unless you know what you are doing
- Decide what to do with invalid bytes
  - o discard or substitute?
- Do not self-roll your own text encoding library

## Read in text with the right encoding

Especially when parsing HTML or XML

```
# Nokogiri
doc = Nokogiri.XML(html, nil, 'EUC-JP')
```

```
# Beautiful Soup
soup = BeautifulSoup(html, fromEncoding='Shift_JIS')
```

## Set HTML charset

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
    <head>
        <meta charset="UTF-8">
        </head>
        </html>
```

## Use lang in HTML as needed

U+5203	刃	刃	刃	刃	刃	knife edge

• What is the uppercase form of i?

- What is the uppercase form of i? I
- In Turkish?

- What is the uppercase form of i?
- In Turkish?

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathtt{l} & \to & \mathtt{I} \\ \vdots & \to & \dot{\mathtt{l}} \end{array}$$

- What is the uppercase form of i?
- In Turkish?

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rightarrow & I \\ i & \rightarrow & \dot{I} \end{bmatrix}$$

• In Turkish/English mixed text?

- Harder than you think
- What is the uppercase form of

ß U+00DF LATIN SMALL LETTER SHARP S?

- DE German
- ß upcases to ss

- ß upcases to ss
- ...or U+1E9E ß LATIN CAPITAL LETTER SHARP S

http://unicode.org/faq/casemap\_charprop.html

In 2016, the Council for German Orthography proposed the introduction of optional use of ß in its ruleset (i.e. variants STRASSE vs. STRAßE would be accepted as equally valid).[9] The rule was officially adopted in 2017.[10]

```
>> 'ß'.toLocaleUpperCase('de-DE');
'ß'
```

JavaScript (Chrome 59)

```
>> 'ß'.toLocaleUpperCase('de-DE');
'SS'
```

## **尚**<sup>2</sup> Python 2

```
>>> u'ß'.upper()
u'\xdf' # ß
```

## ්රීත<sup>3</sup> Python 3

```
>>> 'ß'.upper()
'SS'
```

## **♥** Ruby 2.3

```
> "\u{00df}".upcase
=> "ß"
```

### **♥** Ruby 2.4

```
> "\u{00df}".upcase
=> "SS"
```

#### Java

```
public class UppercaseThis {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        System.out.println("\u00df".toUpperCase());
    }
}
```

#### Rust

```
fn main() { println!("{}", "ß".to_uppercase()); }
SS
```

#### Use variation selectors as needed

U+E0101 VARIATION-SELECTOR-18

```
>>> "刃\ufe04"
← "刃"
>>> "刃\uDB40\uDD01"
← "刃"
```

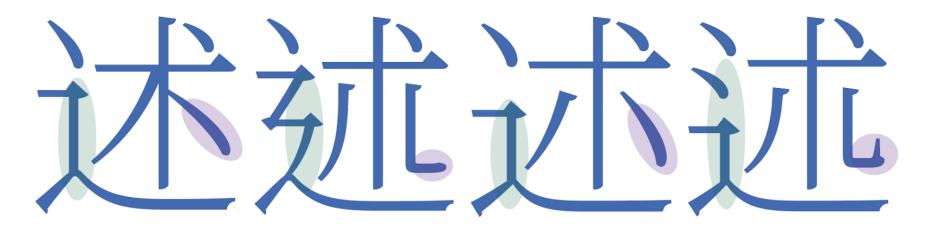
# Use a correct font for the language outside HTML

- Google's Noto/Noto CJK has great support
- Similarly, Adobe's Source Han

https://www.google.com/get/noto/help/cjk/https://source.typekit.com/source-han-serif

# Use a correct font for the language outside HTML

## **Glyph variations**



述 U+8FF0 in S. Chinese, T. Chinese, Japanese and Korean Noto Serif CJK

# Use a correct font for the language outside HTML

#### **Vertical text**

セイリッシュ語族は太平洋岸北西部(カナダのブリティッシュコロンビア州、およびアメリカ合衆国のワシントン州、オレゴン州、アイダホ州、モンタナ州)で用いられている言語群である。セイリッシュ語族の分類に関しては、まず Boas & Haeberlin (1927)で20種類の言語が「方言」として内陸語派

は、 で20種類 語族 の言語が お の分類に関 モンタナ州

Noto Serif CJK

How can I display (CJK/my own) characters not encoded in Unicode?





UTC-01312

biáng, from biángbiáng i, a noodle dish from Shaanxi, China

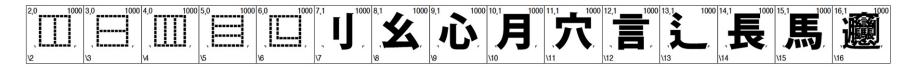
Coming to a Unicode version soon?

- Use an image
- Use Ideographic Description Sequences

- Use fonts which have the unencoded glyph either
  - o as an existing character (Wingdings 🖠 😡 😂 🕒
  - in Private Use Area
  - as a combined sequence

- Source Han and Noto have glyphs for biáng!
- Uses Unicode and font features to combine existing glyphs
  - Ideographic Description Characters
  - OpenType's ccmp (Glyph Composition/Decomposition)
  - Ligatures liga

https://blogs.adobe.com/CCJKType/2014/03/ids-opentype.html



```
□ 辶□穴□月□□□□幺長□言馬□幺長刂心 (traditional)
□ 辶□穴□月□□□□幺长□言马□幺长刂心 (simplified)
```



What □辶□穴Ⅲ月□Ⅲ幺言幺Ⅲ長馬長刂心□辶□穴Ⅲ月□Ⅲ幺言幺Ⅲ長馬長刂心面 looks like

# **String sorting**

• Sorting strings is hard!

```
>> 'é' > 'f'
true
```

# **String sorting**

• A-ha! Can we use normalisation for this?

```
>> 'café'.normalize('NFKD')
'cafe '
```

# String sorting

Sometimes

```
>> '한국어'.normalize('NFKD')
"ㅎ ㅏ ㄴ ㄱ ㅜ ㄱ ㅇ ㅓ"
```

spaces manually added

MDN: String.prototype.normalize()

## String sorting and equality

Use a locale-aware comparison

```
>> ['Aa', 'Äa', 'Äb', 'Ab'].sort();
  ['Aa', 'Ab', 'Äa', 'Äb']

>> ['Aa', 'Äa', 'Äb', 'Ab']
>> .sort(a, b => a.localeCompare(b, 'de'));
  ['Aa', 'Äa', 'Ab', 'Äb']
```

MDN: String.prototype.localeCompare()

# String searching

• How do I search for café by typing cafe, or cafe ?

## String searching

- Not easy!
- Locale-aware comparisons
- Unicode-aware regex
- Read Unicode Demystified: A Practical Programmer's Guide to the Encoding Standard by Richard Gillam

# String length

Problems arise when your string contains

- combining marks
- surrogate pairs (UTF-16)

# String length — combined characters

What's the length of café?

## String length — combined characters

```
>> 'café'.length
5

>> 'café'.normalize().length
4
```

Should generally work for combined characters 🦫

# String length — surrogate pairs

What's the length of U+1F4A9 PILE OF POO?

• UTF-8 F0 9F 92 A9

Surrogate pairs (UTF-16)
 D83D DCA9

## Does your favourite programming language work?

# JavaScript

```
>> '&'.length
2
>> [...'&'].length
1
```

## ්තී<sup>2</sup> Python 2

```
>>> len(u' 🚵 ')
2
```

## ්තී<sup>3</sup> Python 3

```
>>> len('<u>&</u>')
```

## Does your favourite programming language work?

# Ruby

```
>> '&'.length
1
```

## Java

```
System.out.println("&".length());
// 2

// use java.text.BreakIterator
```

## Rust

```
println!("{}", "".len());
// 4

println!("{}", "".chars().count());
// 1
```

## Regex

- What if you want to match e and é?
- What about all the different whitespace characters?
- What if I want to match one character  $/^.\$/$  but my character is combined? é  $\neq$  e +  $\stackrel{\frown}{}$
- What about matching non-Latin characters?

## Regex

- Use Regex right
- Use a good-enough Regex engine
- Make sure \w \d \s are Unicode-aware
- Make sure your Regex engine does case-folding
- Match by Unicode (Perl)
  - \N{} Named or numbered (Unicode) char or sequence
  - \o{} Octal escape sequence.

## Regex

- In Perl, you can use \x
  - \x Unicode "extended grapheme cluster". Not in [].
- You can use Regex ranges with code points
- You might be able to match by Regex classes (Perl, Rust)

```
let re = Regex::new(r"[\p{Greek}]+").unwrap();
```

# Emoji

- Combinations or new emoji might not be supported
  - □ U+1F92E FACE VOMITTING (Emoji 5.0, 2017)
  - □♂ <U+1F937 SHRUG, U+2642 MALE> (Emoji 4.0, 2016)
  - ∰ Ninja Cat riding T-Rex (Windows 10 only)





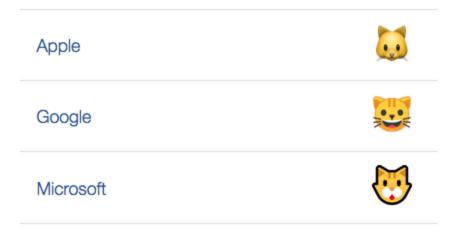






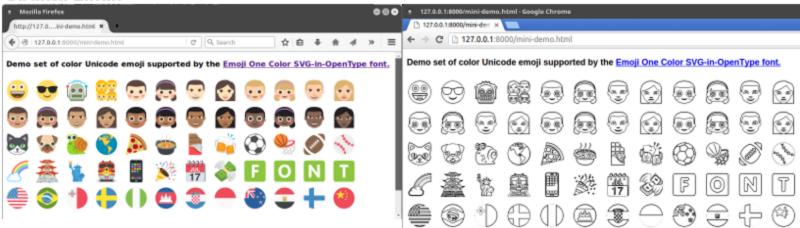
# Emoji

Let it be



- Replace emoji with images (GitHub, Twitter)
  - https://github.com/twitter/twemoji
- Use (coloured) emoji fonts
  - https://github.com/eosrei/emojione-color-font
  - https://github.com/googlei18n/noto-emoji

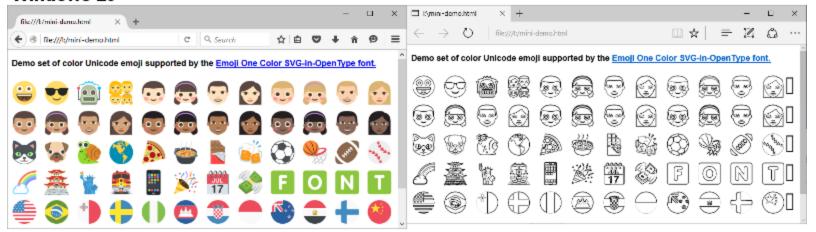
#### **Ubuntu Linux**



#### OS X 10.10



#### Windows 10



## **Developing for Unicode**

If you ever need to develop Unicode parsing and processing, use the CLDR database:

#### http://cldr.unicode.org/

```
* Locale-specific patterns for formatting and parsing: dates, t
* Translations of names: languages, scripts, countries and regi
* Language & script information: characters used; plural cases;
* Country information: language usage, currency information, ca
* Other: ISO & BCP 47 code support (cross mappings, etc.), keyb
```



Read Unicode Security Considerations

@ http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr36/

## Restrict passwords and user names to ASCII

- For logistical reasons (customer support)
- Unicode normalisation of passwords can cause problems
- Equivalent characters

$$e + ' \neq e$$

• Basic authentication can fail in different browsers

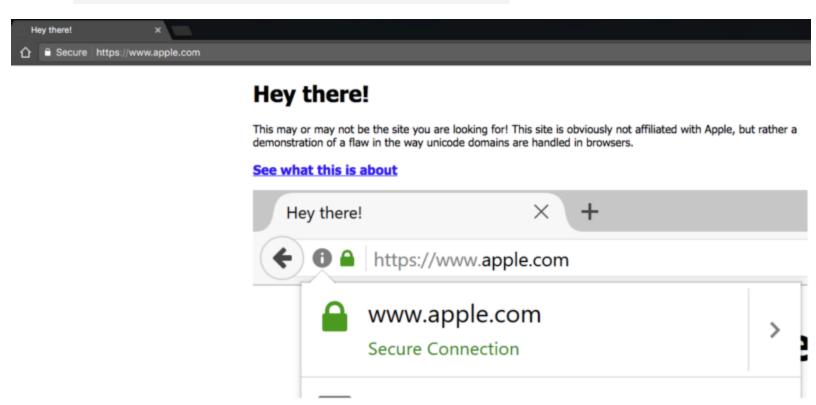
## Sanitise text input

- Difficult problem
- "Unicode injection": RTL, combining characters, wide characters
- is one (1!) character بِيْدِ مِرْاللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَزِ ٱلرَّحِيدِ مِ U+FDFD ARABIC LIGATURE BISMILLAH AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHEEM
- ZA'LGO!
   25 different whitespace characters

https://github.com/minimaxir/big-list-of-naughty-strings

### Unicode in URLs

Visit <a href="https://www.xn--80ak6aa92e.com/">https://www.xn--80ak6aa92e.com/</a> in your browser



#### Unicode in URLs

Handing legit Unicode in URLs

```
http://Bücher.de

→ http://xn--bcher-kva.de

→ http://bücher.de
```

 Punycode, ASCII representation for Unicode domain names (IDN)

http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr46/

## Free pizza!

```
Title: Free Pizza Fridays!
From: HR
To: You

Happy Friday!

Visit https://tech.gov.sg/free.pizza to claim a FREE [>]!

FYNAP
- HR
```

This message could be a scam. [Report] [Ignore]

## Unicode in URLs

```
/ U+29F8 BIG SOLIDUS

Visit https://tech.gov.sg/free.pizza to claim a FREE !

sg/free.pizza
```

## Unicode in URLs

Solution: Use Punycode

```
Visit https://tech.gov.xn--sgfree-jx4d.pizza to claim a FREE <a>♠</a>!
```

### Click here for one neat trick to ruin bad software!

• MySQL UTF-8

What happens when you insert valid UTF-8 into a VARCHAR CHARACTER SET utf8 column?



# Ill-formed sequences and encoding mismatches

• MySQL < 5.5.3 (2010) UTF-8

```
Incorrect string value: '\xF0\x9F\x91\xBD...' for column 'dat
```

In MySQL, use utfmb4 ( $\geq$  5.5.3, 2010)

https://mathiasbynens.be/notes/mysql-utf8mb4

## III-formed sequences and encoding mismatches

Can crash your program

• Python 2

```
>>> '\x81'.decode('utf-8')
# UnicodeDecodeError: 'utf8' codec can't decode byte
# 0x81 in position 0: unexpected code byte
```

• 🕏 Ruby 1.9

```
'ü'.encode('ISO-8859-1') + 'ü'
# incompatible character encodings: ISO-8859-1 and
# UTF-8 (Encoding::CompatibilityError)
# or sometimes: invalid multibyte char (US-ASCII)
```

Solution: use languages/libraries which handle Unicode strings right

### **Buffer overflows**

• Do not assume Unicode strings are of fixed-length

```
Fluß → FLUSS → fluss

>> '\omega'.length
1

>> '\omega'.normalize('NFKC').length
18
```

Solution: use languages/libraries which handle Unicode strings right

; U+037E GREEK QUESTION MARK

A list of similar characters

#### Resources

- Unicode publications
- Unicode technical reports
- Unicode data files
- Unicode public files
- Emoji charts
- Emoji slides
- Unicode character inspector
- UTF-8 decoder
- Big List of Naughty Strings
- Personal names around the world
- Falsehoods Programmers Believe About Phone Numbers
- Unicode Demystified: A Practical Programmer's Guide to the Encoding Standard by Richard Gillam