Revisiting the Shortest SIGBOVIK Paper

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1 Introduction

In 2018, a paper was submitted to the SIGBOVIK conference entitled *Is This the Shortest SIGBOVIK Paper?* (Qiu, 2018) . Although at the time it was considered the shortest paper, further research suggests that this can be shortened by 75% through the use of symbols. This paper is designed to provide a redefinition of the cent symbol, hereafter referred to as ¢, to assist in this endeavor.

2 Background

2.1 2018 Paper

The paper submitted by Dicong Qiu was at the time the shortest SIGBOVIK paper as the title suggests, consisting of four characters (not counting the elements of the header as those are standard for any paper) in the English language (Miller, 1971). At the time of publishing, it was the shortest paper submitted to date.

2.2 2018 Review

In addition the the paper setting a new record as the shortest submission, the review (singular, as there was only one review submitted) also set a record in being the shortest review, consisting of 0 characters in an unknown language.

2.3 Previous use of ¢

In the past, ¢ was used to represent fractions of a dollar, in that 1¢ was equal to \$0.01. However in the day and age of inflation, the use of this symbol has declined to where it is no longer relevant, and as such can be re-purposed.

3 Definition

For the purpose of achieving the shortest SIGBOVIK paper, we will redefine ¢ to mean:

> *What the reader would expect at this point.*

4 Concerns

4.1 Backwards compatibility

Backwards compatibility for the previous definition of ¢ is not as large of a concern due to inflation driving prices well beyond a single dollar. However despite this, the

definition was chosen careful such that in the case of stating a historical price (such as 7¢ for a pack of bubble gum (Wilcke, 1971)), the expectation for the reader would be that of the previous use of the cent symbol (a symbol representing a fraction of a dollar).

4.2 Setting expectations

In order for the definition of "what the reader would expect" to work, proper prep work must be done to set the expectations of the reader. In the case of a SIGBOVIK entry, this consists of the header typically used for a submission.

4.3 Reviewing

As the expectations of readers may be different, a review by one reader may not match the content another reader was expecting. As such, it is strongly recommended to avoid specific reviews and instead use ¢.

4.4 Other concerns

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5 Other considerations

Some may view the use of redefining a symbol as cheating. Although 4.4 should address these, there are other options for achieving a shorter paper that were considered.

5.1 Utilizing other languages

As noted in 2.1, the original paper was written in the English language. By using other languages such as Spanish (*Everybody's Spanish Dictionary*, 1900) or German (Stein, 2013), it is possible to achieve a shorter paper, although with less effective results (in most cases, it is possible to achieve a 25% reduction in length).

5.2 Using 0 characters

Although 0 characters were considered, it was felt that this would not properly address any issues that may come up in a peer review, and as such fail to make the cut. It should be noted this technique can be used as an alternative to ¢ if there is no expectation required (such as in the case of leaving a review to the shortest paper).

References

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