

Preliminary proposal to encode the Pungchen script in Unicode

Anshuman Pandey
pandey@umich.edu

May 25, 2017

1 Introduction

This document provides a draft code chart and a few specimens of the Pungchen script. A formal proposal is forthcoming. Very little information is available on Pungchen. The material presented here is drawn from blogs on Zhang Zhung scripts published by Andrew West:

- Zhang Zhung Scripts
<http://babelstone.blogspot.com/2007/05/zhang-zhung-scripts.html>
- Zhang Zhung Script Tables
<http://www.babelstone.co.uk/ZhangZhung/Table1.html>

2 Background

The ལྷུང་སྤུང་ཆེན་ *sPungs-chen* or ‘Greater sPungs script’ is associated with the Bön religious tradition and was used for writing texts in the Zhang Zhung language. A closely related script is the ལྷུང་སྤུང་ཆུང་ *sPungs-chung* or ‘Lesser sPungs script’ (document forthcoming). Both of these scripts are alphasyllabic and have structures similar to Lantsha / Ranjana. Character glyphs resemble those of Lantsha, and the repertoire and order align with Tibetan. Specimens of the script are provided in the following scholarly works:

- Chaphur Namkha Gyaltsen. 1994. ཡིག་གཟུགས་དུ་མའི་མ་བྱི་གཞོན་ནུ་མཛེས་བའི་ལང་ཚོ [Yig gzugs du ma'i ma phyi gzhon nu mdzes pa'i lang tsho], pp. 3–5. Mutri Tsedpo ZhangBod Research Institute (Bon Monastery, Ochghat).
- Lokesh Chandra. 1982. *Indian scripts in Tibet*. Reproduced by Lokesh Chandra from the collection of Prof. Raghuvira, pp. 59–60. New Delhi: Sharada Rani.

The *sPungs-chen* script will be referred to tentatively as ‘Pungchen’. This normalization follows the convention used for naming the ‘Marchen’ block (U+11C70..11CBF), which contains characters of another Zhang Zhung script called ལྷུང་སྤུང་ཆེན་ *sMar-chen*.

	1E50	1E51	1E52
0	ཀ 1E500	ཁ 1E510	ི 1E520
1	ཀྱ 1E501	ཁྱ 1E511	ྱ 1E521
2	ཀཱ 1E502	ཁཱ 1E512	ཱ 1E522
3	ཀུ 1E503	ཁུ 1E513	ུ 1E523
4	ཀཾ 1E504	ཁཾ 1E514	ཾ 1E524
5	ཀྲ 1E505	ཁྲ 1E515	ྲ 1E525
6	ཀཱཱ 1E506	ཁཱཱ 1E516	ྱཱ 1E526
7	ཀྲཱ 1E507	ཁྲཱ 1E517	
8	ཀྲཱཱ 1E508	ཁྲཱཱ 1E518	
9	ཀྲཱཱཱ 1E509	ཁྲཱཱཱ 1E519	
A	ཀྲཱཱཱཱ 1E50A	ཁྲཱཱཱཱ 1E51A	
B	ཀྲཱཱཱཱཱ 1E50B	ཁྲཱཱཱཱཱ 1E51B	
C	ཀྲཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E50C	ཁྲཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E51C	
D	ཀྲཱཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E50D	ཁྲཱཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E51D	
E	ཀྲཱཱཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E50E	ཀྲཱཱཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E51E	
F	ཀྲཱཱཱཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E50F	ཀྲཱཱཱཱཱཱཱཱཱ 1E51F	

Consonants

1E500	ཀ	PUNGCHEN LETTER KA
1E501	ཁ	PUNGCHEN LETTER KHA
1E502	ཀྱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER GA
1E503	ཁྱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER NGA
1E504	ཀཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER CA
1E505	ཁྱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER CHA
1E506	ཀཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER JA
1E507	ཁཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER NYA
1E508	ཀྲ	PUNGCHEN LETTER TA
1E509	ཁྲ	PUNGCHEN LETTER THA
1E50A	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER DA
1E50B	ཁྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER NA
1E50C	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER PA
1E50D	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER PHA
1E50E	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER BA
1E50F	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER MA
1E510	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER TSA
1E511	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER TSHA
1E512	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER DZA
1E513	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER WA
1E514	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER ZHA
1E515	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER ZA
1E516	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER -A
1E517	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER YA
1E518	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER RA
1E519	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER LA
1E51A	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER SHA
1E51B	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER SA
1E51C	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER HA

Vowel letter

1E51D	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN LETTER A
-------	-----	-------------------

Vowel signs

1E51E	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN I
1E51F	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN U
1E520	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN E
1E521	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN VOWEL SIGN O

Various signs

1E522	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN SIGN CANDRABINDU → 0F83 ཀྲཱ tibetan sign sna ldan
1E523	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN SIGN ANUSVARA → 0F7E ཀྲཱ tibetan sign rjes su nga ro

Head mark

1E524	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN HEAD MARK → 0FD3 ཀྲཱ tibetan mark initial brda rnying yig mgo mdun ma
-------	-----	--

Punctuation

1E525	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN MARK SHAD → 0F0D ཀྲཱ tibetan mark shad
-------	-----	--

Subjoiner

1E526	ཀྲཱ	PUNGCHEN SUBJOINER • used for producing conjuncts
-------	-----	--

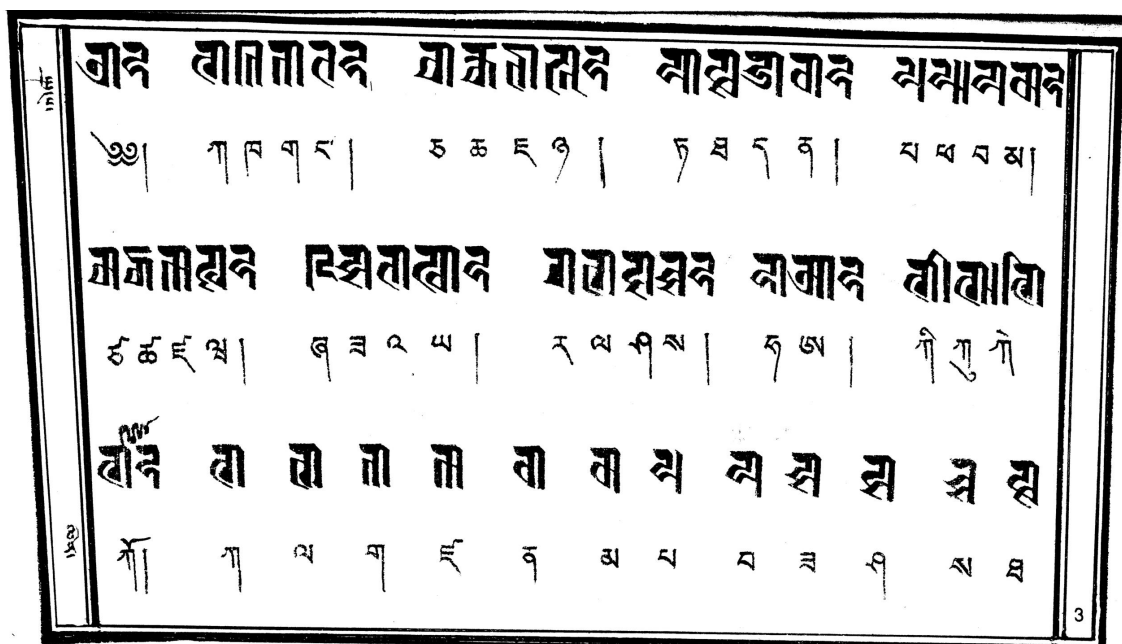


Figure 1: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Chaphur 1994: 3).

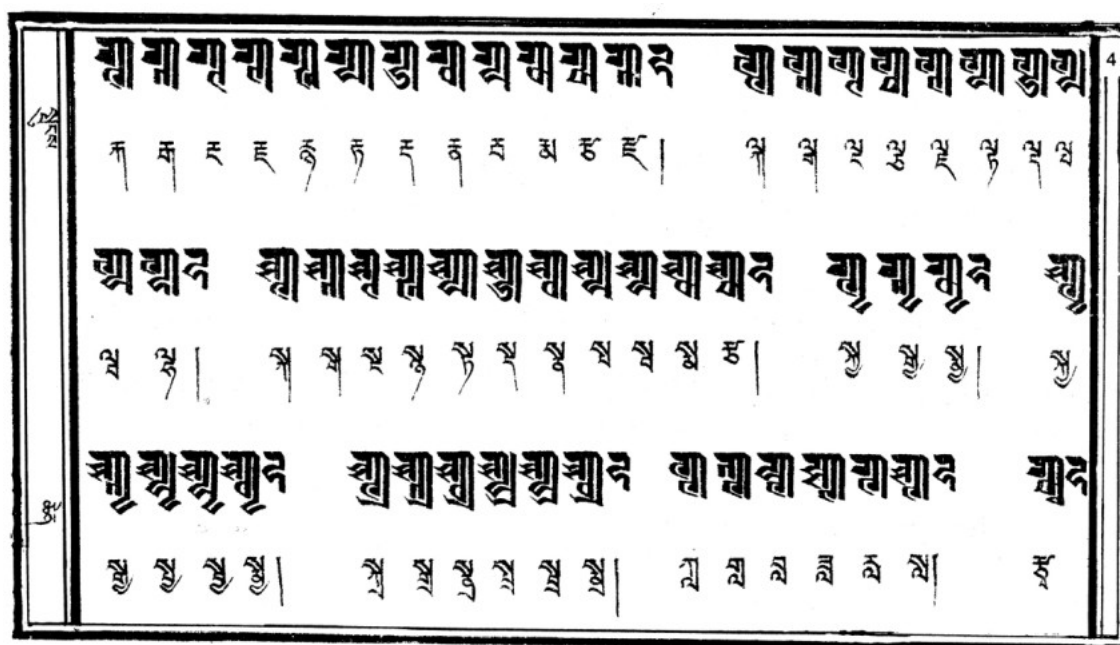


Figure 2: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Chaphur 1994: 4).

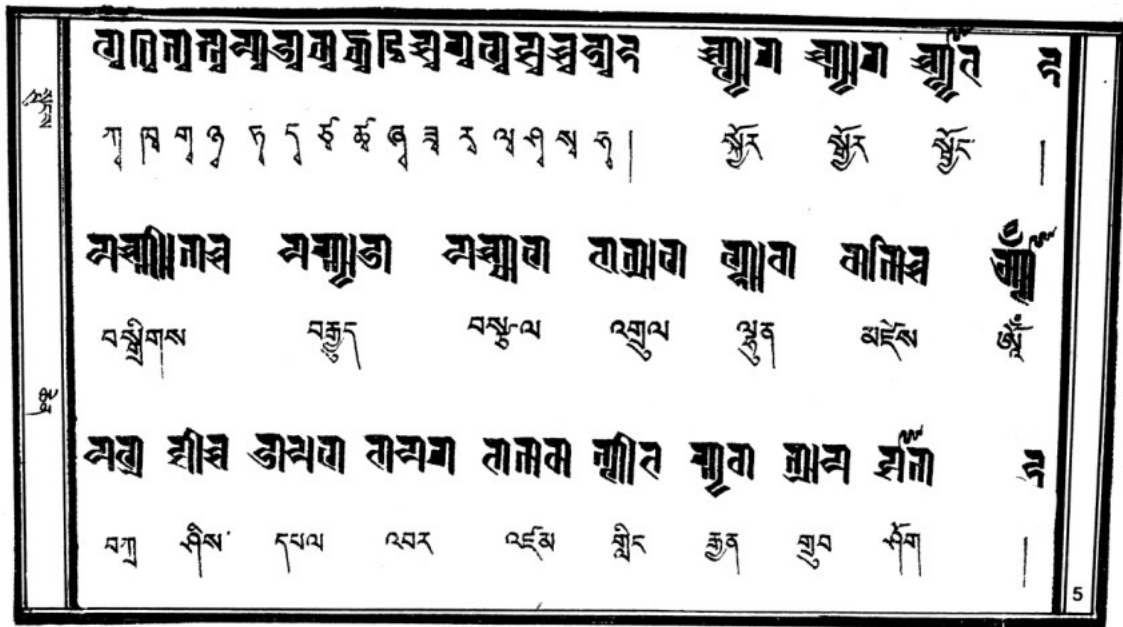


Figure 3: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Chaphur 1994: 5).

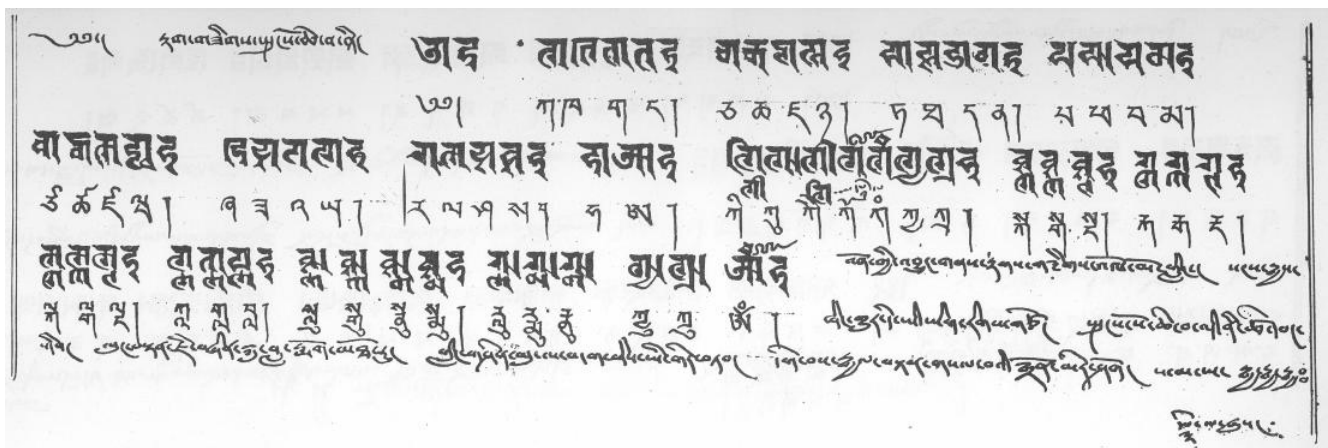


Figure 4: Pungchen with Tibetan transliteration (from Lokesh Chandra 1982: 59).