Stacking with Combining Diacritics

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We have seen that, with precomposed code points, there is no stacking problem. However, when we have not had a precomposed code points available, and have had to use combining diacritics, the situation changes. In particular, when using the Courier New font (which is one of our three standard fonts for analysis), there is sometimes a problem.

In each case below, the letter is followed by another letter (or two, in the case of two combining marks. (In each case shown, the letters were simply copied, then the font changed.)

We have three types of outcomes.

1. In some cases, the combining mark is right where it should be.
2. In some cases, the combining mark is to the right, but the following letter is an additional space to the right.
3. But in some cases (indicated by an 🡸) the combining mark is over or under the following letter. Thus producing something very different from what was intended.

Ariel Courier New

a̱a a̱a Latin Small Letter A + Combining Macron Below

e̱e e̱e Latin Small Letter E + Combining Macron Below

g̃g g̃g 🡸 Latin Small Letter G + Combining Tilde

i̲i i̲i Latin Small Letter I + Combining Macron Below

m̦m m̦m Latin Small Letter M + Combining Cedilla

n̈n n̈n Latin Small Letter N + Combining Diaeresis

o̧o o̧o Latin Small Letter O + Combining Cedilla

o̱o o̱o Latin Small Letter O + Combining Macron Below

r̃r r̃r 🡸 Latin Small Letter R + Combining Tilde

ɔ̈o ɔ̈o Latin Small Letter Open O + Combining Diaeresis

ɔ̱o ɔ̱o 🡸 Latin Small Letter Open O + Combining Macron Below

ɛ̈e ɛ̈e Latin Small Letter Open E + Combining Diaeresis

ɛ̱e ɛ̱e 🡸 Latin Small Letter Open E + Combining Macron Below

ɛ̱̈ee ɛ̱̈ee 🡸 Latin Small Letter Open E + Combining Diaeresis + Combining Macron

Below

ɨ̃i ɨ̃i 🡸 Latin Small Letter I with Stroke + Combining Tilde

ʉ̃u ʉ̃u 🡸 Latin Small Letter U with Bar + Combining Tilde

ẹ̀e ẹ̀e 🡸 Latin Small Letter E with Dot Below + Combining Grave Accent

ẹ́e ẹ́e 🡸 Latin Small Letter E with Dot Below + Combining Acute Accent

ọ̀o ọ̀o 🡸 Latin Small Letter O with Dot Below + Combining Grave Accent

ọ́o ọ́o 🡸 Latin Small Letter O with Dot Below + Combining Acute Accent

The ideal solution, of course, would be for the Unicode folks to create new pre-composed code points for these problem cases. But I suspect there is little chance of them doing so before our report is due. So we will have to figure out an alternate approach to recommend.