

Proposal to Add Emoji: Face With One Eyebrow Raised

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Abstract

Currently, there is no emoji encoded in Unicode that shows a face with one raised eyebrow. A raised eyebrow is a widely used facial expression and equally widely recognized as conveying a variety of meanings, centered around scepticism, surprise, disagreement, and being impressed. This proposal presents evidence of high usage of emoticons expressing similar mimics, suggesting a high expected usage level for the suggested emoji. An emoji with the name `FACE WITH ONE EYEBROW RAISED` is proposed to be included in the Unicode standard.

1 Introduction

The author proposes the encoding of a new emoji, depicting a face with one eyebrow raised. A single raised eyebrow is a common form of facial expression. If accompanied by an “neutral mouth” (neither smiling nor frowning), it can be interpreted as a sign of scepticism, disbelief, or disapproval, as a sign of surprise or wonder, or as a silent greeting. Currently, there is no emoji to express these feelings, centering around “mild surprise” and no way to convey this particular facial expression. The proposed emoji would close this “gap of expression”. The author expects high usage if this emoji should be encoded.



(a) Black and White



(b) Colored

Figure 1: Image of the Proposed Emoji. Designed by Maximilian Merz and placed into the Public Domain.

2 Discussion of Emoji Selection Factors

2.1 Factors for Inclusion

2.1.1 Compatibility

In Table 2, two existing emojis that match the proposed one are presented. Image representations of the two emojis have been left out because of copyright infringement concerns, but can be viewed in their animated form under the URLs given in the citation.

System	Emoji Name	Comment	Citation
Skype	Wondering	Animated in Skype	[2]
Yahoo	raised eyebrows	Animated in Yahoo	[1]

Figure 2: Survey of Existing Emojis With One Eyebrow Raised.

The existence of these emojis also underlines the popularity of the facial expression itself and indicates high usage for the proposed emoji.

2.1.2 Expected Usage Level

Frequency It is difficult to determine the expected usage frequency of the proposed emoji, as it is difficult to search for the facial expression itself.

In Table 3, there is an overview over a few websearches conducted with the Google Search Engine. The search terms syntax “emoticon OR emoji” was suggested by the “Advanced Search” features of Google to find pages containing any of the words “emoticon” or “emoji”. It should be noted that these numbers do not seem too trustworthy, given that the results of “raised eyebrow emoticon OR emoji” do not seem to consist of the union of the results for “raised eyebrow emoji” and “raised eyebrow emoticon”.

Further evidence of interest in expressing a raised eyebrow is found in a discussion thread on reddit.com [3], which suggests the various emoticon options noted in Table 4.

To further support the assumption of interest in the proposed emoji, GIF search engine giphy.com produces 1252 GIFs for the search term “eyebrow”, all of which seem to be containing either one or both eyebrows being raised. As a comparison, the search term “roll eyes” produces 1511 GIFs, and thus a comparable number for the already-encoded facial expression *Face With Rolling Eyes* (U+1F644).

Overall, people worldwide are expected to use the proposed emoji frequently.

Multiple usages The proposed does not have any notable metaphorical references or symbolism attached to it, as far as the author is aware.

Search Terms	Google Websearch Results
raised eyebrow emoticon	about 22 200
raised eyebrow emoji	about 23 400
sceptical emoticon OR emoji	about 79 200
scepticism emoticon OR emoji	about 81 900
raised eyebrow emoticon OR emoji	about 3 910 600
laugh emoticon OR emoji	about 24 600 000
shrug emoticon OR emoji	about 475 000
the finger emoticon OR emoji	about 18 600 000

Figure 3: Google Websearch Results for Related Search Terms

', :) δ.ο 2; ^)
 ', :-| ', :) D: , '
 0δ ο.0 ο_0
 (c: ', ', :-/ ', :-)
 ', :|

Figure 4: Raised Eyebrow Emoticon Suggestions from Reddit.com

Emotional Content The author assumes that without context, the proposed emoji would probably not evoke a particular emotional reaction. Depending on the context and embedded in a chat or discourse, however, the emoji may serve a humorous effect, just as raising an eyebrow in an “offline” conversation does sometimes. The main use case of the emoji though is probably not the evocation of feelings, but to offer an appropriate response in discussions or as a commentary on issues where its mix of scepticism and subtlety is desired.

Persistence As the facial expression of raising an eyebrow is not expected to suffer from a loss of popularity in the future, the proposed emoji also seems to fulfill the criteria of persistence.

2.1.3 Image distinctiveness

A face with one eyebrow raised would be a comparably visually distinct emoji.

In the following, all existing emoji for which the argument of similarity could be made are presented and the similarities and differences examined:

- **U+1F609 Winking Face:** Similarity could be argued because the eyebrow of the open eye of the Winking Face is often raised in vendor’s images. Counterargument: Smiling mouth and one eye being closed make the images distinguished enough.
- **U+1F618 Face Throwing a Kiss:** Similarity could be argued because images by Apple and Twitter both include a raised eyebrow. Counterargument: Mouth and/or red heart indicating kiss are most prominent features in most implementor’s images, the raised eyebrow is not prominent.
- **U+1F914 Thinking Face:** Similarity could be argued because reference image also raises one eyebrow. Counterargument: The reference image and Apple’s image both feature a hand at the chin, eyebrow raise not prominent in the image.
- **U+1F610 Neutral Face:** Similarity could be argued because the mouth is in a neutral position. Counterargument: Emoji does not feature eyebrows, eye area of proposed emoji would look very different.
- **U+1F611 Expressionless Face:** See *Neutral Face* above.
- **U+1F60F Smirking Face:** Similarity could be argued because of prominent eyebrows in most implementor’s images. Counterargument: Both eyebrows are at the same height and do not differ from each other. Also, the mouth area is very different from proposed emoji.
- **U+1F62F Hushed Face:** See *Smirking Face* above.
- **U+1F60C Relieved Face:** See *Smirking Face* above.

- **U+1F612 Unamused Face:** See *Smirking Face* above.
- **U+1F61F Worried Face:** See *Smirking Face* above.
- **U+1F627 Anguished Face:** See *Smirking Face* above.
- **U+1F628 Fearful Face:** See *Smirking Face* above. Most implementor’s images also differ in color.
- **U+1F630 Face With Open Mouth and Cold Sweat:** See *Smirking Face* above. Most implementor’s images also show a sweat drop and some differ in color.
- **U+1F633 Flushed Face:** See *Smirking Face* above.

It can be concluded that none of the existing emoji for which similarities could be found is similar in both eye and mouth area. Most emoji are sufficiently dissimilar to the proposed emoji. In the author’s view, the most similar emojis would be *Winking Face* (U+1F609) and *Neutral Face* (U+1F610); even with these two, it is safe to assume that implementor’s can come up with an obvious enough representation of the proposed emoji to make the distinction clear and easy to the user.

2.1.4 Completeness

The author is not aware of any gaps the proposed emoji would close.

2.1.5 Frequently requested

The author is neither aware of any petitions demanding the proposed emoji nor of it being a frequently requested emoji.

2.2 Factors for Exclusion

2.2.1 Overly specific

As the proposed emoji is the representation of a common form of facial expression, the author does not see it as overly specific.

2.2.2 Open-ended

The proposed emoji falls in the category of “face emoji”, of which a lot are already included in Unicode. It is thus without doubt one out of many, but it rather closes a “facial expressions gap” in the existing emoji than introduce a whole new open-ended category. Furthermore, the facial expression on the proposed emoji is arguably less obscure and more useful than many of the already existing “face emoji”.

2.2.3 Already Representable

The prominent concept represented by the proposed emoji would be scepticism, accompanied by the concepts of disapproval and (mild) surprise. For a few existing emoji, a case could be made that they could also be used to express these concepts. In the following, these emojis will be listed and examined.

Neutral Faces

- **U+1F610 Neutral Face:** Could be used and interpreted as expressing “I have no words”, which can be argued to be similar to scepticism. This is, however, not the only meaning this emoji conveys: It can also be interpreted as adopting a neutral position on a topic, especially as it is explicitly named “Neutral Face”. This ambiguity makes it unsuited for cases where users want to express scepticism or disapproval.
- **U+1F611 Expressionless Face:** See *Neutral Face* above. It should be added that this emoji is probably more suited to express disagreement than *Neutral Face*, as it’s eyes are closed in both the reference image and most vendor’s images, thus supporting an interpretation of the emoji as a form of expressing the state of not being capable to properly react to a situation. However, this comes closer to “being fed up” than to the concept of scepticism the proposed emoji would convey.
- **U+1F636 Face Without Mouth:** See *Neutral Face* above. Could also be interpreted similar to *Zipper-mouth Face* (U+1F910).

Faces Expressing Scepticism

- **U+1F644 Face With Rolling Eyes:** It’s conveyed meaning comes closest to that of the proposed emoji: Rolling one’s eyes is also a heavily used facial expression used to convey scepticism and disagreement. The difference in meaning between this and the proposed emoji is that the proposed one represents an expression way more subtle, and that the subtext of being surprised is completely missing from *Face With Rolling Eyes*.

Surprised Faces

- **U+1F62E Face With Open Mouth:** Conveys the feeling of surprise. Could be combined with *Face With Rolling Eyes* to add an expression of scepticism.
- **U+1F62F Hushed Face:** See *Face With Open Mouth* above.
- **U+1F626 Frowning Face With Open Mouth:** See *Face With Open Mouth* above.

- **U+1F627 Anguished Face:** See *Face With Open Mouth* above. It should be noted that this emoji's subtext is already close to that of *Fearful Face* and that the argument against that emoji could also be applied here.
- **U+1F628 Fearful Face:** Conveys the feeling of surprise, similar to *Face With Open Mouth* above. It is important to note that the prominent emotion this emoji is meant to convey is not surprise, but fear. This changes the overall feeling this emoji expresses, even in combined usage with, for example, *Face With Rolling Eyes* (which in itself is already quite "coarse"). The proposed emoji would allow the expression of surprise and scepticism in a much calmer and more tactful way.
- **U+1F633 Flushed Face:** See *Face With Open Mouth* above. The argument of missing subtlety put forward for *Fearful Face* also applies here.
- **U+1F635 Dizzy Face:** See *Face With Open Mouth* and *Flushed Face* above.

Disagreeing Faces

- **U+1F614 Pensive Face:** The downwards-looking eyes and falling eyebrows most vendors use for their images for this emoji give this emoji a resignation not present in it's character name. The current implementation of Android accentuates this even more with a slightly frowning mouth. In praxis, it could therefore be used to express disagreement, though it's name and reference image do not suggest this was intended. This emoji therefore should not be considered when trying to convey the proposed emoji's meaning through existing emojis.
- **U+1F615 Confused Face:** Could be used together with *Face With Rolling Eyes* to further strengthen the disagreement. This emoji does not convey the subtle form of scepticism the proposed emoji would.
- **U+1F616 Confounded Face:** Could be used to express strong disagreement. The proposed emoji would offer a much more subtle form of criticism than this emoji can.
- **U+1F643 Upside-down Face:** Could be interpreted to mean carefree confusion. The carelessness expressed by this emoji is in stark contrast with the sobriety the proposed emoji could convey.
- **U+1F632 Astonished Face:** See *Confounded Face* above.
- **U+1F61E Disappointed Face:** Mainly conveys strong forms of disappointment and resignation, and not the subtle form of scepticism the proposed emoji would.
- **U+1F61F Worried Face:** See *Confounded Face* above.

- **U+1F624 Face With Look of Triumph:** The air coming out of the nose of the emoji can also be interpreted as a disagreeing snort. In praxis, it could therefore be used to express disagreement, though it's name and reference image do not suggest this was intended. This emoji therefore should not be considered when trying to convey the proposed emoji's meaning through existing emojis.

2.2.4 Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The proposed emoji does not show a company logo, a brand, a UI icon, a specific person, or a deity.

3 Character Properties

The proposed character properties follow the character properties of the emoji *Grinning Face* (U+1F600), aside from code point and name, of course.

Code point The author suggests to place the proposed character in the *Supplemental Symbols and Pictographs* block (with range from 1F900 to 1F9FF).

Name The suggested name for the proposed emoji is `FACE WITH ONE EYEBROW RAISED`. This descriptive name seems better than a interpretation-driven name, as for example `SCEPTICAL FACE`, as it leaves room for more intended meanings that can also be expressed by this facial expression.

If it is deemed necessary, two characters named `FACE WITH LEFT EYEBROW RAISED` and `FACE WITH RIGHT EYEBROW RAISED` could be encoded. The author does not think that this differentiation is needed as there seems to be no difference in conveyed meaning and expressed emotions between the two.

Other Character Properties The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So
Canonical Combining Class: 0
Bidirectional Class: ON
Decomposition Type:
Decomposition Mapping:
Numeric Type:
Numeric Value:
Bidirectional Mirrored: N
Unicode 1 Name:
ISO Comment:
Simple Uppercase Mapping:
Simple Lowercase Mapping:
Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Line-breaking The suggested line-breaking characteristics are proposed to follow the characteristics for other emoji characters depicting faces, for which the rule seems to be ID (*Ideographic (B/A)*).

4 Emoji Ordering

The author suggests to sort the proposed emoji around *Face With Rolling Eyes* (U+1F644) in the Emoji Ordering, as both emojis have similarities in their meaning.

5 Summary and Conclusion

The author proposes the encoding of a new emoji, depicting a face with one eyebrow raised. This facial expression is commonly known to represent mild surprise, disagreement, or disappointment. Evidence has been shown for a high expected usage and no other currently encoded emoji can express these feelings. Overall the conclusion can be drawn that the proposed emoji would be a useful addition to the currently existing emoji.

References

- [1] Emoticons – yahoo messenger. <https://messenger.yahoo.com/features/emoticons>.

- [2] What is the full list of emoticons? <https://support.skype.com/en/faq/FA12330/what-is-the-full-list-of-emoticons>.
- [3] Why hasn't this emoticon existed before? https://www.reddit.com/r/funny/comments/19wacq/why_hasnt_this_emoticon_existed_before/, March 2013.

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html>.

See also <http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title: *Proposal to Add Emoji: Face With One Eyebrow Raised*

2. Requester's name: *Maximilian Merz*

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): *Individual Contribution*

4. Submission date: *05. November 2015*

5. Requester's reference (if applicable):

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal: *yes*

(or) More information will be provided later:

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): *no*

Proposed name of script:

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: *yes*

Name of the existing block: *Supplemental Symbols and Pictographs*

2. Number of characters in proposal: *1*

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary B.1-Specialized (small collection) B.2-Specialized (large collection)

C-Major extinct D-Attested extinct E-Minor extinct

F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols *yes*

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? *yes*

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document? *Ann. L unavail*

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? *yes*

5. Fonts related:

a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? *Maximilian Merz, Unicode@mxmerz.de*

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): *Maximilian Merz, Unicode@mxmerz.de*

6. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? *yes*

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? *no*

7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? *yes*

Character should behave like other emojis

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (<http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/>) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

¹ Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	<i>no</i>
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	<i>no</i>
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	<i>yes</i> <i>Proposal, section 2.1.2</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	<i>common</i> <i>See proposal, section 2.1.2</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	<i>Yes</i> <i>See proposal, section 2.1.1</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	<i>n/a</i>
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	<i>No</i>
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	<i>no</i>
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:	<i>no</i>



